

Federal Register – January 2025

[ED Program Integrity and Institutional Quality: Distance Education and Return of Title IV, HEA Funds, 90 Federal Register 470, January 3, 2025](#)

FINAL RULE: The Secretary amends the Student Assistance General Provisions regulations governing participation in the student financial assistance programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), to promote program integrity and institutional quality. These regulations clarify, update, and consolidate certain provisions that apply to distance education and the return of title IV, HEA funds. They also make technical changes to the TRIO program regulations to reflect the current status of the Republic of Palau as a member of the Freely Associated States. This document provides notice that the Department fully closes out the Program Integrity and Institutional Quality: Distance Education and Return of Title IV, HEA Funds notice of proposed rulemaking. That is, we will not be finalizing the remainder of the Federal TRIO program provisions but may promulgate through future rulemaking efforts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

[DOE Update and Relocation of the Department of Energy Technology Investment Agreement Regulations, 90 Federal Register 189, January 3, 2025](#)

INTERIM FINAL RULE: The Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) is issuing this interim final rule (IFR) to update, streamline, and relocate the policies, procedures, and provisions that are applicable to the award and administration of certain other transaction (OT) agreements awarded under DOE's OT authority provided in the Energy Policy Act of 2005's amendments to the Department of Energy Organization Act. DOE expects that the simplification of the implementing regulations will enable improved use OT Agreements beyond the Technology Investment Agreements (TIAs) contemplated in the original regulations. This IFR will promote more uniform application of this authority and the policies and provisions for the award and administration of it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 3, 2026

[FCC Spectrum Rules and Policies for the Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems, 90 Federal Register 1380, January 8, 2025](#)

FINAL RULE: the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) enables Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS) operators to access dedicated spectrum for control-related communications. Specifically, this document adopts service rules under new rule part 88 that provide operators the ability to obtain direct frequency assignments in a portion of the 5030-5091 MHz band for non-networked operation. Under these rules, one or more dynamic frequency management systems (DFMSs) will manage and coordinate access to the spectrum and enable its safe and efficient use, by providing requesting operators with temporary frequency assignments to support UAS control link communications with a level of reliability suitable for operations in controlled airspace and other safety-critical circumstances. To address concerns regarding the impact of these aeronautical operations on adjacent services, this document locates these operations, for now, in the central part

	<p>of the band, with substantial separation from the bands adjacent to the 5030-5091 MHz band.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: February 7, 2025</p>
<p>DOJ Preventing Access to U.S. Sensitive Personal Data and Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern or Covered Persons, 90 Federal Register 1636, January 8, 2025</p>	<p>RULE: The rule complements these statutory and regulatory authorities. It prescribes forward-looking, categorical rules that prevent U.S. persons from providing countries of concern or covered persons access to government-related data or Americans' bulk U.S. sensitive personal data through commercial data-brokerage transactions. The rule also imposes security requirements on other kinds of commercial transactions, such as investment, employment, and vendor agreements, that involve government-related data or Americans' bulk U.S. sensitive personal data to mitigate the risk that a country of concern could access such data. The rule addresses risks to government-related data or Americans' bulk U.S. sensitive personal data that current authorities leave vulnerable to access and exploitation by countries of concern and provide predictability and regulatory certainty by prescribing categorical rules regulating certain kinds of data transactions that could give countries of concern or covered persons access to government-related data or Americans' bulk U.S. sensitive personal data.</p>
<p>Notice of Availability of Security Requirements for Restricted Transactions Under Executive Order 14117, 90 Federal Register 1528, January 8, 2025</p>	<p>NOTICE: CISA is announcing publication of finalized security requirements for restricted transactions pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 14117, "Preventing Access to Americans' Bulk Sensitive Personal Data and United States Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern." In October 2024, CISA published proposed security requirements for restricted transactions which would apply to classes of restricted transactions identified in regulations issued by the Department of Justice (DOJ). CISA solicited comment on those proposed security requirements and considered that public feedback when developing the final security requirements. This notice also provides CISA's responses to the public comments received.</p>
<p>NSF Research Infrastructure Guide, 90 Federal Register 1550, January 8, 2025</p>	<p>NOTICE: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is providing opportunity for public comment on revisions to the NSF Research Infrastructure Guide (RIG).</p> <p>COMMENTS DUE: March 10, 2025</p>
<p>Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Annual Adjustments for 2025, 90 Federal Register 1854, January 10, 2025</p>	<p>RULE: The U.S. Department of Labor (Department)/ETA/OSHA/Office of Workers Compensation/Wage and Hour Division are publishing this final rule to adjust for inflation the civil monetary penalties assessed or enforced by the Department, pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 as amended by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Inflation Adjustment Act). The Inflation Adjustment Act requires the Department to annually adjust its civil money penalty levels for inflation no later than January 15 of each year. The Inflation Adjustment Act provides that agencies shall adjust civil monetary penalties notwithstanding section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Additionally, the Inflation Adjustment Act provides a cost-of-living formula for adjustment of the civil penalties. Accordingly, this final rule sets forth the</p>

	<p>Department's 2025 annual adjustments for inflation to its civil monetary penalties.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: January 15, 2025</p>
<p>IRS Classification of Digital Content Transactions and Cloud Transactions, 90 Federal Register 2977, January 14, 2025</p>	<p>FINAL REGULATION: This document contains final regulations modifying the rules for classifying transactions involving computer programs, including by applying the rules to transfers of digital content. These final regulations also provide rules for the classification of cloud transactions. These rules apply for purposes of the international provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and generally affect taxpayers engaging in transactions involving digital content or cloud transactions.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: January 14, 2025</p>
<p>Framework for Artificial Intelligence Diffusion, 90 Federal Register 4544, January 15, 2025</p>	<p>INTERIM FINAL RULE: With this interim final rule, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) revises the Export Administration Regulations' (EAR) controls on advanced computing integrated circuits (ICs) and adds a new control on artificial intelligence (AI) model weights for certain advanced closed-weight dual-use AI models. In conjunction with the expansion of these controls, which BIS has determined are necessary to protect U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, BIS is adding new license exceptions and updating the Data Center Validated End User authorization to facilitate the export, reexport, and transfer (in-country) of advanced computing (ICs) to end users in destinations that do not raise national security or foreign policy concerns. Together, these changes will cultivate secure ecosystems for the responsible diffusion and use of AI and advanced computing ICs.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: January 13, 2025</p>
<p>Application of the Revised Version of the Uniform Guidance to Department Grants, 90 Federal Register 4727, January 16, 2025</p>	<p>NOTICE: The Secretary announces updates to awardees' Grant Award Notices (GANs) to apply the 2024 revision of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, And Audit Requirements for Federal Awards the Uniform Guidance to all Department grants that are subject to the Uniform Guidance. This final rule, effective as of October 1, 2024, provided new flexibilities and due process protections to grantees, and also clarified several grant requirements.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE OF CHANGE: January 16, 2025</p>
<p>Controls on Certain Laboratory Equipment and Related Technology To Address Dual Use Concerns About Biotechnology, 90 Federal Register 4612, January 16, 2025</p>	<p>INTEIM FINAL RULE: To address national security concerns, this IFR establishes new controls narrowly focused on a subset of biotechnology equipment. This IFR creates specific Export Control Classification Numbers (ECCNs) for high-parameter flow cytometers and certain mass spectrometry equipment. These items generate high-quality, high-content biological data including that which is suitable for use to facilitate the development of AI and biological design tools. The new ECCNs facilitate identification of the items being controlled and will provide more transparency in trade flows for this equipment. Moreover, these controls will only apply to destinations that present a concern of potential misuse or diversion to activities of national security concern.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: January 16, 2025</p>
<p>ED Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation, 90 Federal Register 6806, January 21, 2025</p>	<p>FINAL RULE: The Department of Education (Department) issues these final regulations to adjust the Department's civil monetary</p>

	<p>penalties (CMPs) for inflation. This adjustment is required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (2015 Act), which amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Inflation Adjustment Act). These final regulations provide the 2025 annual inflation adjustments being made to the penalty amounts in the Department's final regulations published in the Federal Register on January 25, 2024 (2024 final rule).</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: January 21, 2025</p>
<p>Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions, 90 Federal Register 8237, January 28, 2025</p>	<p>To commence the policies that will make our Nation united, fair, safe, and prosperous again, it is the policy of the United States to restore common sense to the Federal Government and unleash the potential of the American citizen. The revocations within this order will be the first of many steps the United States Federal Government will take to repair our institutions and our economy.</p>
<p>Executive Order: Restoring Freedom of Speech and Ending Federal Censorship, 90 Federal Register 8243, January 28, 2025</p>	<p>The First Amendment to the United States Constitution, an amendment essential to the success of our Republic, enshrines the right of the American people to speak freely in the public square without Government interference. Over the last 4 years, the previous administration trampled free speech rights by censoring Americans' speech on online platforms, often by exerting substantial coercive pressure on third parties, such as social media companies, to moderate, deplatform, or otherwise suppress speech that the Federal Government did not approve. Under the guise of combatting “misinformation,” “disinformation,” and “malinformation,” the Federal Government infringed on the constitutionally protected speech rights of American citizens across the United States in a manner that advanced the Government's preferred narrative about significant matters of public debate. Government censorship of speech is intolerable in a free society.</p>
<p>Regulatory Freeze Pending Review, 90 Federal Register 8249, January 28, 2025</p>	
<p>Notice of Finding of Mass Influx of Aliens, 90 Federal Register 8399, January 28, 2025</p>	
<p>Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing, 90 Federal Register 8339, January 29 2025</p>	
<p>Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing, 90 Federal Register 8339, January 29 2025</p>	
<p>Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, 90 Federal Register 8633, January 31, 2025</p>	
<p>Executive Order 14179 -Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence, 90 Federal Register 8741, January 31, 2025</p>	
<p>Executive Order 14178 - Strengthening American Leadership in Digital Financial Technology, 90 Federal Register 8647, January 31, 2025</p>	
<p>Virginia Register – January 2025</p>	
<p>No items of relevance</p>	

