the IORR and IOER was associated with an increase in the target range for the federal funds rate, from a target range of ¼ to ½ percent to a target range of ½ to ¾ percent, announced by the FOMC on December 14, 2016 with an effective date of December 15, 2016. The FOMC’s press release on the same day as the announcement noted that:

Information received since the Federal Open Market Committee met in November indicates that the labor market has continued to strengthen and that economic activity has been expanding at a moderate pace since mid-year. Job gains have been solid in recent months and the unemployment rate has declined. Household spending has been rising moderately but business fixed investment has remained soft. Inflation has increased since earlier this year but is still below the Committee’s 2 percent longer-run objective, partly reflecting earlier declines in energy prices and in prices of non-energy imports. Market-based measures of inflation compensation have moved up considerably but still are low; most survey-based measures of longer-term inflation expectations are little changed, on balance, in recent months.

Consistent with its statutory mandate, the Committee seeks to foster maximum employment and price stability. The Committee expects that, with gradual adjustments in the stance of monetary policy, economic activity will expand at a moderate pace and labor market conditions will strengthen somewhat further. Inflation is expected to rise to 2 percent over the medium term as the transitory effects of past declines in energy and import prices dissipate and the labor market strengthens further. Near-term risks to the economic outlook appear roughly balanced. The Committee continues to closely monitor inflation indicators and global economic and financial developments.

In view of realized and expected labor market conditions and inflation, the Committee decided to raise the target range for the federal funds rate to ¼ to ½ percent. The stance of monetary policy remains accommodative, thereby supporting some further strengthening in labor market conditions and a return to 2 percent inflation.

A Federal Reserve Implementation note released simultaneously with the announcement stated that:

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System voted unanimously to raise the interest rate paid on required and excess reserve balances to 0.75 percent, effective December 15, 2016.

As a result, the Board is amending § 204.10(b)(5) of Regulation D to change IORR to 0.75 percent and IOER to 0.75 percent.

III. Administrative Procedure Act

In general, the Administrative Procedure Act (12 U.S.C. 551 et seq.) ("APA") imposes three principal requirements when an agency promulgates legislative rules (rules made pursuant to congressionally delegated authority); (1) Publication with adequate notice of a proposed rule; (2) followed by a meaningful opportunity for the public to comment on the rule’s content; and (3) publication of the final rule not less than 30 days before its effective date. The APA provides that notice and comment procedures do not apply if the agency for good cause finds them to be "unnecessary, impracticable, or contrary to the public interest." 12 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(A). Section 553(d) of the APA also provides that publication not less than 30 days prior to a rule’s effective date is not required for (1) a substantive rule which grants or recognizes an exemption or relieves a restriction; (2) interpretive rules and statements of policy; or (3) an agency finding good cause for shortened notice and publishing its reasoning with the rule. 12 U.S.C. 553(d).

The Board has determined that good cause exists for finding that the notice, public comment, and delayed effective date provisions of the APA are unnecessary, impracticable, or contrary to the public interest with respect to the final amendments to Regulation D. The rate increases for IORR and IOER that are reflected in the final amendments to Regulation D were made with a view towards accommodating commerce and business and with regard to their bearing upon the general credit situation of the country. Notice and public comment would prevent the Board’s action from being effective as promptly as necessary in the public interest, and would not otherwise serve any useful purpose. Notice, public comment, and a delayed effective date would create uncertainty about the finality and effectiveness of the Board’s action and undermine the effectiveness of that action. Accordingly, the Board has determined that good cause exists to dispense with the notice, public comment, and delayed effective date procedures of the APA with respect to the final amendments to Regulation D.

IV. Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The Regulatory Flexibility Act ("RFA") does not apply to a rulemaking where a general notice of proposed rulemaking is not required. As noted previously, the Board has determined that it is unnecessary and contrary to the public interest to publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking for this final rule. Accordingly, the RFA’s requirements relating to an initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis do not apply.

V. Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act ("PRA") of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506; 5 CFR part 1320 Appendix A.1), the Board reviewed the final rule under the authority delegated to the Board by the Office of Management and Budget. The final rule contains no requirements subject to the PRA.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 204

Banks, banking, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Board amends 12 CFR Part 204 as follows:

PART 204—RESERVE REQUIREMENTS OF DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS (REGULATION D)

1. The authority citation for part 204 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 12 U.S.C. 248(a), 248(c), 371a, 461, 601, 611, and 3105.

2. Section 204.10 is amended by revising paragraph (b)(5) to read as follows:

§ 204.10 Payment of interest on balances.

*b * * * *

(b) * * *

(5) The rates for IORR and IOER are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate (percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IORR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Robert de V. Frierson,
Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 2017–00613 Filed 1–19–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–P

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

12 CFR Part 747

RIN 3133–AE67

Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment

AGENCY: National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

ACTION: Interim final rule.

SUMMARY: The NCUA Board (Board) is amending its regulations to adjust the maximum amount of each civil monetary penalty (CMP) within its
jurisdiction to account for inflation. This action, including the amount of the adjustments, is required under the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 and the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015.

DATES: This interim final rule is effective January 23, 2017. Comments must be received on or before February 22, 2017.

ADRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods (Please send comments by one method only):
- Email: Address to regcomments@ncua.gov. Include “[Your name] Comments on “Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment” in the email subject line.
- Fax: (703) 518–6319. Use the subject line described above for fax.
- Mail: Address to Gerard Poliquin, Secretary of the Board, National Credit Union Administration, 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314–3428.
- Hand Delivery/Courier: Same as mail address.

Public Inspection: All public comments are available on the agency’s Web site at http://www.ncua.gov/RegulationsOpinionsLaws/comments as submitted, except as may not be possible for technical reasons. Public comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information. Paper copies of comments may be inspected in NCUA’s law library at 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, by appointment weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. To make an appointment, call (703) 518–6546 or send an email to OGCMail@ncua.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ian Marenna, Senior Trial Attorney, at 1775 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, or telephone: (703) 518–6540.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
I. Legal Background
A. Statutory Requirements and OMB Guidance

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 1(DCIA) amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 2 (FCPIA Act) to require every federal agency to enact regulations that adjust each CMP provided by law under its jurisdiction by the rate of inflation at least once every four years.

In November 2015, Congress further amended the CMP inflation requirements in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, 3 which contains the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (the 2015 amendments). 4 This legislation provided for an initial “catch-up” adjustment of CMPs in 2016, followed by annual adjustments. The catch-up adjustment re-set CMP maximum amounts by setting aside the inflation adjustments that agencies made in prior years and instead calculated inflation with reference to the year when each CMP was enacted or last modified by Congress. Agencies were required to publish their catch-up adjustments in an interim final rule by July 1, 2016 and make them effective by August 1, 2016. 5 NCUA complied with these requirements in a June 2016 interim final rule, followed by an October 2016 final rule to confirm the adjustments as final. 6

The 2015 amendments also specified how agencies must conduct annual inflation adjustments after the 2016 catch-up adjustment. Beginning in 2017, agencies must make the required adjustments and publish them in the Federal Register by January 15 of each succeeding year. 7 The statute provides that the adjustments shall be made notwithstanding the section of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) that requires prior notice and public comment for agency rulemaking. 8 The 2015 amendments also specify that each CMP maximum must be increased by the percentage by which the consumer price index for urban consumers (CPI–U) 9 for October of the year immediately preceding the year the adjustment is made exceeds the CPI–U for October of the prior year. 10 For example, for the adjustment made in 2017, agencies must compare the October 2016 CPI–U with the October 2015 CPI–U.

The 2015 amendments also provide that agencies may forgo the required annual adjustments in certain circumstances. Specifically, in a subsection titled “Other Adjustments Made,” the statute provides that an agency is not required to make an annual adjustment to a CMP if it has been increased by a greater amount than the contemplated annual adjustment in the preceding 12 months. 11 When these criteria are met, the agency has discretion not to make the adjustments otherwise required by the statute.

In addition, the 2015 amendments directed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance to agencies on implementing the inflation adjustments. 12 OMB is required to issue such guidance each December and did so on December 16, 2016. 13 This OMB guidance for the upcoming 2017 adjustments includes an inflationary multiplier (1.01636) to apply to each current CMP maximum amount to determine the adjusted maximum. The guidance also addresses the exception described above for adjustments made in the preceding 12 months, indicating that the exception applies to adjustments made due to a law other than the 2015 amendments. 14 Finally, the guidance addresses rulemaking procedures and agency reporting and oversight requirements.

The next section sets forth the Board’s calculation of the adjustments for 2017, in accordance with the foregoing requirements.

B. Application to the 2017 Adjustments

This section applies the statutory requirements and OMB’s guidance to NCUA CMPs. As explained above, the 2015 amendments require NCUA to adjust the

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4 129 Stat. 599.
5 Public Law 114–74, Sec. 701(b)(1), 129 Stat. 584, 599 (Nov. 2, 2015).
6 81 FR 40152 (June 21, 2016); 81 FR 78028 (Nov. 7, 2016).
7 Public Law 114–74, Sec. 701(b)(1), 129 Stat. 584, 599 (Nov. 2, 2015).
8 Id.
9 Id.
maximum amounts of its CMPs by the percentage by which the October 2016 CPI–U (241.729) exceeds the October 2015 CPI–U (237.838). This percentage is 1.636. This percentage increase can be expressed as an inflation multiplier (the quotient of the October 2016 figure divided by the October 2015 figure). Accordingly, each CMP maximum amount should be multiplied by 1.01636 to determine the adjusted maximum amount. OMB’s guidance identifies the same multiplier.

The Board has considered the exception in the 2015 amendments for adjustments made in the preceding 12 months, discussed above, but has decided not to invoke it. The OMB guidance indicates that this exception applies when the adjustments in the preceding 12 months were made under authority other than the 2015 amendments. The Board finds this reading of the statute reasonable. Even if this exception did apply as a threshold matter, there would be good reasons not to apply it. First, the adjustments calculated below are relatively minor, as the maximums will increase by about 1.6 percent. Second, NCUA is not required to and historically has not assessed CMPs at the maximum levels. Third, if NCUA chose to forgo the increases this year, it would not be able to capture this inflation in later years, which would cause the maximums to fall out of line with annual inflation. Finally, the Board anticipates that the federal banking agencies will not apply this exception to CMPs for which NCUA and the banking agencies have concurrent jurisdiction.

Although NCUA is not required to make its adjustments in accord with any other agency, maintaining consistency in this area is desirable. In sum, even if the exception might apply, the Board would not invoke it this year.

The table below presents the adjustment calculations. The current maximums are found at 12 CFR 747.1001, as adjusted in June 2016. This amount is multiplied by the inflation multiplier to calculate the new maximum in the far right column. Only these adjusted maximum amounts, and not the calculations, will be codified at 12 CFR 747.1001 under this interim final rule. The adjusted amounts will be effective January 15, 2017, and can be applied to violations that occurred on or after November 2, 2015, the date the 2015 amendments were enacted.

### Table—Calculation of Maximum CMP Adjustments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citation</th>
<th>Description/tier</th>
<th>Current maximum ($)</th>
<th>Multiplier</th>
<th>Adjusted maximum ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1782(a)(3)</td>
<td>Inadvertent failure to submit a report or the inadvertent submission of a false or misleading report.</td>
<td>3,787</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>3,849.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1782(a)(3)</td>
<td>Non-inadvertent failure to submit a report or the non-inadventitious (sic) submission of a false or misleading report.</td>
<td>37,872</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>38,492.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1782(a)(3)</td>
<td>Failure to submit a report or the submission of a false or misleading report done knowingly or with reckless disregard.</td>
<td>Lesser of 1,893,610 or 1% of total CU assets.</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>Lesser of 1,924,589 or 1% of total CU assets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1782(d)(2)(A)</td>
<td>Tier 1 CMP for inadvertent failure to submit certified statement of insured shares and charges due to NCUSIF, or inadvertent submission of false or misleading statement.</td>
<td>3,462</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>3,519.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1782(d)(2)(B)</td>
<td>Tier 2 CMP for non-inadvertent failure to submit certified statement or submission of false or misleading statement.</td>
<td>34,620</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>35,186.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1782(d)(2)(C)</td>
<td>Tier 3 CMP for failure to submit a certified statement or the submission of a false or misleading statement done knowingly or with reckless disregard.</td>
<td>Lesser of 1,730,990 or 1% of total CU assets.</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>Lesser of 1,759,309 or 1% of total CU assets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1785(a)(3)</td>
<td>Non-compliance with insurance logo requirements.</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>120.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1785(e)(3)</td>
<td>Non-compliance with NCUA security requirements.</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>279.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1786(k)(2)(A)</td>
<td>Tier 1 CMP for violations of law, regulation, and other orders or agreements.</td>
<td>9,468</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>9,623.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1786(k)(2)(B)</td>
<td>Tier 2 CMP for violations of law, regulation, and other orders or agreements for recklessly engaging in unsafe or unsound practices or breaches of fiduciary duty.</td>
<td>47,340</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>48,114.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1786(k)(2)(C)</td>
<td>Tier 3 CMP for knowingly committing the violations under Tier 1 or 2 (natural person).</td>
<td>1,893,610</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>1,924,589.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 U.S.C. 1786(k)(2)(C)</td>
<td>Tier 3 (same) (CU).</td>
<td>Lesser of 1,893,610 or 1% of total CU assets.</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>Lesser of 1,924,589 or 1% of total CU assets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 U.S.C. 1639e(k)</td>
<td>Subsequent violations of the same (first violation).</td>
<td>21,749</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>22,105.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 U.S.C. 4012a(5)</td>
<td>Non-compliance with flood insurance requirements.</td>
<td>2,056</td>
<td>1.01636</td>
<td>2,090.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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15 The table uses condensed descriptions of CMP tiers. Refer to the U.S. Code citations for complete descriptions.
III. Regulatory Procedures

A. Interim Final Rule Under the APA

In the 2015 amendments to the FCPA Act, Congress provided that agencies shall make the required inflation adjustments in 2017 and subsequent years notwithstanding 5 U.S.C. 553, which requires agencies to follow notice-and-comment procedures in rulemaking and to make rules effective no sooner than 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. The 2015 amendments provide a clear exception to these requirements. In addition, the Board finds that notice-and-comment procedures would be impracticable and unnecessary under the APA because of the largely ministerial and technical nature of the rule, which affords agencies limited discretion in promulgating the rule, and the statutory deadline for making the adjustments. In these circumstances, the Board finds good cause to issue an interim final rule without issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking. The Board also finds good cause to make the interim final rule effective upon publication because of the statutory deadline. Accordingly, this interim final rule is issued without prior notice and will become effective immediately upon publication. However, the Board invites comments on all aspects of the interim final rule. The Board will review and consider all comments before issuing a final rule.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act requires the Board to prepare an analysis to describe any significant economic impact a regulation may have on a substantial number of small entities. For purposes of this analysis, the Board considers small credit unions to be those having under $100 million in assets. This interim final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small credit unions because it only affects the maximum amounts of certain CMPs that the Board may assess against individuals, entities, or credit unions, but does not require any reporting or recordkeeping. Therefore, this interim final rule will not create new paperwork burdens or modify any existing paperwork burdens.

D. Executive Order 13132

Executive Order 13132 encourages independent regulatory agencies to consider the impact of their actions on state and local interests. In adherence to fundamental federalism principles, NCUA, an independent regulatory agency as defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(5), voluntarily complies with the executive order. This interim final rule adjusts the maximum amounts of certain CMPs that the Board may assess against individuals, entities, or credit unions, and federally insured credit unions, including state-chartered credit unions. However, the interim final rule does not create any new authority or alter the underlying statutory authorities that enable the Board to assess CMPs. Accordingly, this interim final rule will not have a substantial direct effect on the states, on the connection between the national government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. The Board has determined that this interim final rule does not constitute a policy that has federalism implications for purposes of the executive order.

E. Assessment of Federal Regulations and Policies on Families

The Board has determined that this interim final rule will not affect family well-being within the meaning of Section 654 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999.

F. Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (SBREFA) provides generally for congressional review of agency rules. A reporting requirement is triggered in instances where the Board issues a final rule as defined by Section 551 of the APA. The Board has submitted this interim final rule to OMB for it to determine whether it is a “major rule” within the meaning of the relevant sections of SBREFA.

List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 747

Civil monetary penalties, Credit unions.

By the National Credit Union Administration Board on January 6, 2017.

Gerard S. Poliquin,
Secretary of the Board.

For the reasons stated above, the NCUA Board amends 12 CFR part 747 as follows:

PART 747—ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS, ADJUDICATIVE HEARINGS, RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE, AND INVESTIGATIONS

§ 747.1001 Adjustment of civil monetary penalties by the rate of inflation.

(a) NCUA is required by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101–410, 104 Stat. 890, as amended (28 U.S.C. 2461 note)) to adjust the maximum amount of each civil monetary penalty within its jurisdiction by the rate of inflation. The following chart displays those adjusted amounts, as calculated pursuant to the statute:

15 U.S.C. 1766, 1782, 1784,

Subpart K—Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties

Revise § 747.1001 to read as follows:

§ 747.1001 Adjustment of civil monetary penalties by the rate of inflation.

The Board has determined that this interim final rule will not affect family well-being within the meaning of Section 654 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999.

SUMMARY: This rule updates the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) legal authority citations in the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) to cite the most recent Presidential notice continuing an emergency declared pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. This is a non-substantive rule that only updates authority paragraphs of the EAR. It does not alter any right, obligation or prohibition that applies to any person under the EAR.

DATES: The rule is effective January 23, 2017.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The authority for parts 730, 734, 736, 742, 744, and 745 of the EAR rests, in part, on Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994—Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, 59 FR 59099, 3 CFR, 1994 Comp., p. 950 and on annual notices continuing the emergency declared in that executive order. This rule revises the authority citations for the affected parts of the EAR to cite the most recent such notice, which the President signed on November 8, 2016.

This rule is purely non-substantive and makes no changes other than to revise CFR authority citations for the purpose of making the authority citations current. It does not change the text of any section of the EAR, nor does it alter any right, obligation or prohibition that applies to any person under the EAR.

Rulemaking Requirements

1. Executive Orders 13563 and 12866 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). This rule does not impose any regulatory burden on the public and is consistent with the goals of Executive Order 13563. This rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork