

other provision of this subpart, we will not determine any overpaid individual to be at fault in causing a qualifying overpayment (see § 408.910(c)(1)) unless we determine that the qualifying overpayment made to an individual or a representative payee during the pandemic period (see § 408.902(b)) was the result of fraud or similar fault or involved misuse of benefits by a representative payee (see § 408.641).

PART 416—SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME FOR THE AGED, BLIND, AND DISABLED

Subpart E—Payment of Benefits, Overpayments, and Underpayments

■ 9. The authority citation for subpart E of part 416 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Secs. 702(a)(5), 1147, 1601, 1602, 1611(c) and (e), and 1631(a)–(d) and (g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 902(a)(5), 1320b–17, 1381, 1381a, 1382(c) and (e), and 1383(a)–(d) and (g)); 31 U.S.C. 3716; 31 U.S.C. 3720A.

■ 10. Amend § 416.537 by adding paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 416.537 Overpayments—defined.

* * * * *

(c) *Pandemic period.* As used throughout this subpart, the term *pandemic period* for the purposes of the waiver authority in § 416.550 refers exclusively to the period of time beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on September 30, 2020.

■ 11. Amend § 416.550 by adding paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 416.550 Waiver of adjustment or recovery—when applicable.

* * * * *

(c) We will apply the procedures in this paragraph (c) when an individual requests waiver of all or part of a qualifying overpayment.

(1) For purposes of this paragraph (c), a qualifying overpayment is one that accrued during the *pandemic period* (see § 416.537(c)) because of the actions that we took in response to the COVID–19 national public health emergency, including the suspension of certain of our manual workloads that would have processed actions identifying and stopping certain overpayments.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subpart, we will presume that an individual who requests waiver of a qualifying overpayment is without fault in causing the overpayment (see § 416.552) unless we determine that the qualifying overpayment made to a beneficiary or a representative payee was the result of fraud or similar fault or involved misuse

of benefits by a representative payee (see § 416.641).

(3) If we determine under paragraph (c)(2) of this section that an individual or a representative payee is without fault in causing a qualifying overpayment, we will also determine that recovery of the qualifying overpayment would be against equity and good conscience. For purposes of this paragraph (c)(3) only, “against equity and good conscience” is not limited to the meaning used in § 416.554 but means a broad concept of fairness that takes into account all of the facts and circumstances of the case.

(4) The provisions of this paragraph (c)(4) will apply to a qualifying overpayment identified by December 31, 2020.

■ 12. Amend § 416.552 by adding a sentence following the second sentence of the introductory text to read as follows:

§ 416.552 Waiver of adjustment or recovery—without fault.

* * * Notwithstanding any other provision of this subpart, we will not determine any overpaid individual to be at fault in causing a qualifying overpayment (see § 416.550(c)(1)) unless we determine that the qualifying overpayment made to an individual or a representative payee during the pandemic period (see § 416.537(c)) was the result of fraud or similar fault or involved misuse of benefits by a representative payee (see § 416.641).

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug Enforcement Administration

21 CFR Part 1308

[Docket No. DEA–482]

Schedules of Controlled Substances: Extension of Temporary Placement of N-Ethylpentylone in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act

AGENCY: Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Temporary rule; temporary scheduling order; extension.

SUMMARY: The Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration is issuing this order to extend the temporary schedule I status of a synthetic cathinone, 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(ethylamino)pentan-1-one (N-ethylpentylone, ephylone), including its

optical, positional and geometric isomers, salts, and salts of isomers. The schedule I status of N-ethylpentylone currently is in effect until August 31, 2020. This order extends the temporary scheduling of N-ethylpentylone for one year, or until the permanent scheduling action for this substance is completed, whichever occurs first.

DATES: This order, which extends the temporary scheduling order that DEA previously issued for this substance (83 FR 44474, August 31, 2018), is effective August 31, 2020, and expires on August 31, 2021. If DEA publishes a final rule making this scheduling action permanent, this order will expire on the effective date of that rule, if the effective date is earlier than August 31, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott A. Brinks, Regulatory Drafting and Policy Support Section, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration; Mailing Address: 8701 Morrisette Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22152; Telephone: (571) 362–8209.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Legal Authority

On August 31, 2018, the former Acting Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) published a temporary scheduling order in the **Federal Register** (83 FR 44474) placing 1-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-2-(ethylamino)-pentan-1-one (N-ethylpentylone, ephylone), a synthetic cathinone, in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) pursuant to the temporary scheduling provisions of 21 U.S.C. 811(h).¹ That order was effective on the date of publication, and was based on findings by the former Acting Administrator of DEA that the temporary scheduling of this substance was necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(1). The CSA provides that the temporary control of this substance expire two years from the effective date of the temporary scheduling order, or on August 31, 2020. 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(2). However, this same subsection also provides that, during the pendency of proceedings under 21 U.S.C. 811(a)(1) to permanently add the substance to a schedule, the temporary scheduling of that substance can be extended for up to one year. Proceedings for the scheduling of a substance under 21 U.S.C. 811(a) may be initiated by the Attorney

¹ Though DEA has used the term “final order” with respect to temporary scheduling orders in the past, this notice adheres to the statutory language of 21 U.S.C. 811(h), which refers to a “temporary scheduling order.” No substantive change is intended.

General (delegated to the Administrator of DEA pursuant to 28 CFR 0.100) on his own motion.

The Acting Administrator of DEA, on his own motion pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(a), has initiated proceedings under 21 U.S.C. 811(a)(1) to permanently schedule *N*-ethylpentylone. DEA is simultaneously publishing, elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, a notice of proposed rulemaking for the permanent placement of *N*-ethylpentylone in schedule I. If that proposed rule is finalized, scheduling of this substance will be made permanent by publication of a final rule in the **Federal Register**.

Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(h)(2), the Acting Administrator of DEA orders that the temporary scheduling of *N*-ethylpentylone, including its optical, positional, and geometric isomers, salts, and salts of isomers, be extended for one year, or until the permanent scheduling proceeding is completed, whichever occurs first.

Regulatory Matters

The CSA provides for an expedited temporary scheduling action where such action is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety. Under 21 U.S.C. 811(h), the Administrator of DEA, as delegated by the Attorney General, may, by order, place a substance in schedule I on a temporary basis. This same subsection provides that the temporary scheduling of a substance shall expire at the end of two years from the date of the issuance of the order scheduling such substance, except that the Administrator may, during the pendency of proceedings to permanently schedule the substance, extend the temporary scheduling for up to one year.

Given that section 811(h) directs that temporary scheduling actions be issued by order and sets forth the procedures by which such orders are to be issued and extended, DEA believes that the notice and comment requirements of section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. 553, do not apply to this extension of the temporary scheduling order. The specific language chosen by Congress indicates an intention for DEA to proceed through the issuance of an order instead of proceeding by rulemaking. Given that Congress specifically requires the Attorney General to follow rulemaking procedures for other kinds of scheduling actions, see 21 U.S.C. 811(a), it is noteworthy that, in subsection 811(h), Congress authorized the issuance of temporary scheduling actions by order rather than by rule. In the alternative,

even assuming that this action might be subject to section 553 of the APA, the Acting Administrator finds that there is good cause to forgo the notice and comment requirements of section 553, as any further delays in the process for extending the temporary scheduling order would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest in view of the manifest urgency to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety that this substance would present if scheduling expired, for the reasons expressed in the temporary scheduling order (83 FR 44474, August 31, 2018). Further, DEA believes that this order extending the temporary scheduling action is not a “rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 601(2), and, accordingly, is not subject to the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). The requirements for the preparation of an initial regulatory flexibility analysis in 5 U.S.C. 603(a) are not applicable where, as here, DEA is not required by section 553 of the APA or any other law to publish a general notice of proposed rulemaking.

Additionally, this action is not a significant regulatory action as defined by Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review), section 3(f), and the principles reaffirmed in Executive Order 13563 (Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review). Accordingly, this action has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This order is not an Executive Order 13771 regulatory action.

This action will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 13132 (Federalism), it is determined that this action does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

As noted above, this action is an order, not a rule. Accordingly, the Congressional Review Act (CRA) is inapplicable, as it applies only to rules. However, if this were a rule, pursuant to the CRA, “any rule for which an agency for good cause finds that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest, shall take effect at such time as the federal agency promulgating the rule determines.” 5 U.S.C. 808(2). It is in the public interest to maintain the temporary placement of *N*-ethylpentylone in schedule I because it poses a public health risk, for the reasons expressed in the temporary scheduling order (83 FR 44474, August

31, 2018). The temporary scheduling action was taken pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(h), which is specifically designed to enable DEA to act in an expeditious manner to avoid an imminent hazard to the public safety. Under 21 U.S.C. 811(h), temporary scheduling orders are not subject to notice and comment rulemaking procedures. DEA understands that the CSA frames temporary scheduling actions as orders rather than rules to ensure that the process moves swiftly, and this extension of the temporary scheduling order continues to serve that purpose. For the same reasons that underlie 21 U.S.C. 811(h), that is, the need to place this substance in schedule I because it poses an imminent hazard to public safety, it would be contrary to the public interest to delay implementation of this extension of the temporary scheduling order. Therefore, in accordance with section 808(2) of the CRA, this order extending the temporary scheduling order shall take effect immediately upon its publication. DEA has submitted a copy of this extension of the temporary scheduling order to both Houses of Congress and to the Comptroller General, although such filing is not required under the CRA, 5 U.S.C. 801–808 because, as noted above, this action is an order, not a rule.

Dated: August 25, 2020.

Timothy J. Shea,

Acting Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 100

[Docket Number USCG–2020–0469]

RIN 1625–AA08

Special Local Regulation; Boat Parade; San Diego, CA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary special local regulation (SLR) on the waters of San Diego Bay, California on September 6, 2020. This temporary SLR is necessary to provide for the safety of the participants, crew, spectators, sponsor vessels, and general users of the waterway. This SLR temporarily establishes a designated section of the commercial anchorage area as a First