

**PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

■ 2. Add § 165.T08–0993 to read as follows:

**§ 165.T08–0993 Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Shipping Channel, Corpus Christi, TX.**

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: all navigable waters of the Corpus Christi Shipping Channel in a zone defined by the following coordinates; 27°50′31.28″ N, 97°04′17.23″ W; 27°50′31.73″ N, 97°04′15.44″ W; 27°50′29.06″ N, 97°04′16.61″ W; 27°50′29.32″ N, 97°04′14.82″ W.

(b) *Effective period.* This section is effective from 8 p.m. on December 27, 2022 through 4 a.m. on December 30, 2022. This section is subject to enforcement from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. of the next day, each day.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) According to the general regulations in § 165.23 of this part, entry into the temporary safety zone described in paragraph (a) of this section is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Sector Corpus Christi (COTP) or a designated representative. They may be contacted on Channel 16 VHF–FM (156.8 MHz) or by telephone at 361–939–0450.

(2) If permission is granted, all persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the COTP or designated representative.

(d) *Information broadcasts.* The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public of the enforcement times and date for this safety zone through Broadcast Notices to Mariners, Local Notices to Mariners, and/or Safety Marine Information Broadcasts as appropriate.

Dated: December 19, 2022.

**J.B. Gunning,**

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sector Corpus Christi.*

[FR Doc. 2022–28371 Filed 12–23–22; 4:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 9110–04–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY****Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 165**

**[Docket Number USCG–2022–0975]**

**RIN 1625–AA00**

**Safety Zone; Lake Charles, Lake Charles, LA**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Temporary final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone for all navigable waters within a 650-foot radius of a drone flight area at 30°14′0.014″ N, 93°14′43.492″ W, on Lake Charles. This safety zone is necessary to protect persons and vessels from hazards associated with a drone show. This regulation prohibits persons and vessels from being in the safety zone unless authorized by the Captain of the Port, Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur or a designated representative.

**DATES:** This rule is effective on December 30, 2022, from 8:50 p.m. through 9:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG–2022–0975 in the search box and click “Search.” Next, in the Document Type column, select “Supporting & Related Material.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions on this rule, call or email LT Mache Mason, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 337–912–0073, email [msulcwww@uscg.mil](mailto:msulcwww@uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Table of Abbreviations**

CFR Code of Federal Regulations  
DHS Department of Homeland Security  
FR Federal Register  
NPRM Notice of proposed rulemaking  
§ Section  
U.S.C. United States Code

**II. Background Information and Regulatory History**

The Coast Guard is issuing this temporary rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to authority under section 4(a) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553(b)). This provision authorizes an agency to issue a rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment when the agency for good cause finds that those procedures are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” Under 5 U.S.C.

553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to this rule because it is impracticable. The NPRM process would delay the establishment of the safety zone until after the drone show event and compromise public safety. We must establish this temporary safety zone immediately and lack sufficient time to provide a reasonable comment period and then consider those comments before issuing the rule.

Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. Delaying this rule would be impracticable because we must establish this safety zone by December 30, 2022 to respond to the potential safety hazards associated with the drone show event.

**III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule**

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 46 U.S.C. 700034 (previously 33 U.S.C. 1231). The Captain of the Port (COTP) Port Arthur has determined that potential hazards associated with the drone show at this location would be a safety concern for spectator craft and vessels in the vicinity of the designated flight area location. The purpose of this rule is to ensure safety of vessels and the navigable waters in the safety zone before, during, and after the scheduled event.

**IV. Discussion of Comments, Changes, and the Rule**

This rule establishes a safety zone from 8:50 p.m. through 9:30 p.m. on December 30, 2022. The safety zone will cover all navigable waters within a 650-foot radius of a drone flight area located at 30°14′0.014″ N and 93°14′43.492″ W. The duration of the safety zone is intended to protect participants, spectators, and other persons and vessels, in the nearby navigable waters during the drone show.

No vessel or person will be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative.

**V. Regulatory Analyses**

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive orders, and we discuss First Amendment rights of protestors.

### A. Regulatory Planning and Review

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, this rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This regulatory action determination is based on size, location, and duration of the safety zones. This action involves a drone flight area at 30°14′0.014″ N and 93°14′43.492″ W, in Lake Charles on December 30, 2022. This safety zone will be in effect for forty minutes in a 650-foot radius. This rule would be enforced to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment from hazards associated with the drone show.

### B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the safety zone may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section V.A above, this rule will not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104–121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this rule. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please call or email the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The

Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency’s responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888–REG–FAIR (1–888–734–3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

### C. Collection of Information

This rule will not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

### D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect 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. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

### E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

### F. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023–01, Rev. 1, associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have

determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule involves a safety zone lasting only forty minutes that will prohibit entry within a 650-foot radius of a drone flight area. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60 (a) of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 1. A Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination is available in the docket. For instructions on locating the docket, see the **ADDRESSES** section of this preamble.

### G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to call or email the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places or vessels.

### List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

### PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 46 U.S.C. 700034, 700051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

■ 2. Add § 165.T08–0975 to read as follows:

#### § 165.T08–0975 Safety Zone; Lake Charles, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

(a) *Location.* All waters within a 650-foot radius of the drone flight area at 30°14′0.014″ N and 93°14′43.492″ W, on Lake Charles on December 30, 2022, from 8:50 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. The duration of the safety zone is intended to protect participants, spectators, and other persons and vessels, on the navigable waters of the Lake Charles during the drone show.

(b) *Enforcement period.* This section is effective from 8:50 p.m. through 9:30 p.m. on December 30, 2022.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) In accordance with the general regulations in § 165.23 of this part, entry of vessels or persons into the safety zone described in paragraph

(a) of this section is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur (COTP) or a designated representative. They may be contacted on VHF-FM channel 13 or 16, or by phone at 337-912-0073.

(2) The COTP or a designated representative may forbid and control the movement of all vessels in the regulated area. When hailed or signaled by an official patrol vessel, a vessel shall come to an immediate stop and comply with the directions given. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the area, citation for failure to comply, or both.

(3) The COTP or a designated representative may terminate the event or the operation of any vessel at any time it is deemed necessary for the protection of life or property.

(4) The COTP or a designated representative will terminate enforcement of the special local regulations at the conclusion of the event.

(d) *Informational broadcasts.* The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public of the effective period for the safety zone as well as any changes in the dates and times of enforcement through Local Notice to Mariners (LNMs), Broadcast Notices to Mariners (BNMs), and/or Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) as appropriate.

Dated: December 20, 2022.

**M.A. Wike,**

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur.*

[FR Doc. 2022-28280 Filed 12-28-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### 37 CFR Part 1

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2018-0031]

RIN 0651-AD31

#### Setting and Adjusting Patent Fees During Fiscal Year 2020

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Final rule; delay of effective date and final rule.

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**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) published a final rule in the **Federal Register** on August 3, 2020, that includes a fee for patent applications that are not filed in DOCX format, except for design, plant, or provisional

applications. This new fee was scheduled to become effective on January 1, 2023. Through this final rule, the USPTO is delaying the effective date of this fee until April 3, 2023.

**DATES:** This final rule is effective April 3, 2023. As of December 29, 2022, the effective date of amendatory instruction 2.i. (affecting 37 CFR 1.16(u)), published at 85 FR 46932 on August 3, 2020, and delayed at 86 FR 66192, November 22, 2021, is further delayed until April 3, 2023. The change to 37 CFR 1.16(u) in amendatory instruction 2.i., published at 85 FR 46932 on August 3, 2020, is applicable only to nonprovisional utility applications filed under 35 U.S.C. 111 on or after April 3, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mark O. Polutta, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-7709; or Eugenia A. Jones, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-7727. You can also send inquiries by email to [patentpractice@uspto.gov](mailto:patentpractice@uspto.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 3, 2020, the USPTO published a final rule in the **Federal Register** that included a new fee set forth in § 1.16(u) with an effective date of January 1, 2022. See *Setting and Adjusting Patent Fees in Fiscal Year 2020*, 85 FR 46932. As specified in § 1.16(u), the fee is due for any application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111 for an original patent—except design, plant, or provisional applications—where the specification, claims, and/or abstract do not conform to the USPTO requirements for submission in DOCX format. Therefore, the fee is due for nonprovisional utility applications filed under 35 U.S.C. 111, including continuing applications, that are not filed in DOCX format.

The USPTO conducted two pilot programs for filing applications in DOCX format. The eMod Text Pilot Program was conducted between August 2016 and September 2017. The USPTO then expanded the ability to file patent applications in DOCX format in EFS-Web to all users in September 2017. In 2018, the USPTO launched Patent Center and conducted the Patent Center Text Pilot Program from June 2018 through April 2020. All applicants have been able to file applications in DOCX format in Patent Center since April 2020. Information about Patent Center is available at [www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center](http://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center). In addition, the USPTO has held and continues to hold many discussions with stakeholders to ensure a fair and reasonable transition to the DOCX format.

The USPTO is delaying the effective date of the fee set forth in § 1.16(u) until

April 3, 2023. Although the USPTO published a notice on December 20, 2022 (87 FR 77812) indicating that the fee set forth in § 1.16(u) was expected to go into effect on January 1, 2023, the USPTO is now further delaying the effective date for the fee to give applicants more time to adjust to filing patent applications in DOCX format.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to begin filing patent applications in DOCX format before the new effective date of the fee. Applicants are also reminded that they can file test submissions through Patent Center training mode to practice filing in DOCX. Furthermore, applicants who have not yet taken advantage of the DOCX training sessions hosted by the USPTO are strongly encouraged to do so. Information on filing application documents in DOCX and a link to the DOCX training sessions are available at [www.uspto.gov/patents/docx](http://www.uspto.gov/patents/docx).

#### Rulemaking Requirements

*A. Administrative Procedure Act:* This final rule revises the effective date of a final rule published on August 3, 2020, implementing a non-DOCX filing surcharge fee, and is a rule of agency practice and procedure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A). See *JEM Broad. Co. v. F.C.C.*, 22 F.3d 32 (D.C. Cir. 1994) (“[T]he ‘critical feature’ of the procedural exception [in 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A)] ‘is that it covers agency actions that do not themselves alter the rights or interests of parties, although [they] may alter the manner in which the parties present themselves or their viewpoints to the agency.’” (quoting *Batterton v. Marshall*, 648 F.2d 694, 707 (D.C. Cir. 1980))); see also *Bachow Commc’ns Inc. v. F.C.C.*, 237 F.3d 683, 690 (D.C. Cir. 2001) (rules governing an application process are procedural under the Administrative Procedure Act); *Inova Alexandria Hosp. v. Shalala*, 244 F.3d 342, 350 (4th Cir. 2001) (rules for handling appeals were procedural where they did not change the substantive standard for reviewing claims). Accordingly, prior notice and opportunity for public comment are not required pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b) or (c) (or any other law). See *Cooper Techs. Co. v. Dudas*, 536 F.3d 1330, 1336-37 (Fed. Cir. 2008) (stating that 5 U.S.C. 553, and thus 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2)(B), do not require notice and comment rulemaking for “interpretative rules, general statements of policy, or rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice” (quoting 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A))).

Moreover, the Director of the USPTO, pursuant to authority at 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), finds good cause to adopt the change to the effective date of § 1.16(u)