

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, as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999). This action merely approves a state rule implementing a federal standard, and does not alter the relationship or the distribution of power and responsibilities established in the Clean Air Act.

Executive Order 13045 Protection of Children From Environmental Health and Safety Risks

This rule also is not subject to Executive Order 13045 "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks" (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997), because it is not economically significant.

National Technology Transfer Advancement Act

In reviewing SIP submissions, EPA's role is to approve state choices, provided that they meet the criteria of the Clean Air Act. In this context, in the absence of a prior existing requirement for the state to use voluntary consensus standards (VCS), EPA has no authority to disapprove a SIP submission for failure to use VCS. It would thus be inconsistent with applicable law for EPA, when it reviews a SIP submission, to use VCS in place of a SIP submission that otherwise satisfies the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Thus, the requirements of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (15 U.S.C. 272 note) do not apply.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not impose an information collection burden under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Congressional Review Act

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of the rule in the **Federal Register**. A major rule cannot take effect until 60 days after it

is published in the **Federal Register**. This action is not a "major rule" as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Under section 307(b)(1) of the Clean Air Act, petitions for judicial review of this action must be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the appropriate circuit by July 24, 2006. Filing a petition for reconsideration by the Administrator of this final rule does not affect the finality of this rule for the purposes of judicial review nor does it extend the time within which a petition for judicial review may be filed, and shall not postpone the effectiveness of such rule or action. This action may not be challenged later in proceedings to enforce its requirements. (See section 307(b)(2).)

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Particulate matter.

Dated: April 20, 2006.

Norman Niedergang,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5.

■ For the reasons stated in the preamble, part 52, chapter I, of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 52—[AMENDED]

■ 1. The authority citation for part 52 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*

Subpart P—Indiana

■ 2. Section 52.770 is amended by adding paragraph (c)(175) to read as follows:

§ 52.770 Identification of plan.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(175) On December 15, 2005, Indiana submitted revised particulate matter (PM₁₀) regulations for ASF Keystone, Inc. in Lake County. The emission limit for the small coil manufacturing unit is increased while the limits for the medium and large coil manufacturing units are decreased. The result of these revisions is a net decrease in PM₁₀ emission limits. The emission limits for miscellaneous coil manufacturing are removed because the unit no longer operates. EPA also removed the process weight rate emission limits for the four units.

(i) Incorporation by reference.

(A) Indiana Administrative Code Title 326: Air Pollution Control Board, Article 6.8: Particulate Matter Limitations for Lake County, Rule 2: Lake County: PM₁₀ Emission

Requirements, Section 4: ASF Keystone, Inc.-Hammond. Filed with the Secretary of State on October 20, 2005 and effective November 19, 2005. Published in 29 *Indiana Register* 794 on December 1, 2005.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

45 CFR Part 303

RIN 0970-AC19

Child Support Enforcement Program; Reasonable Quantitative Standard for Review and Adjustment of Child Support Orders

AGENCY: Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule finalizes without change the provisions of the Interim Final Rule published on December 28, 2004 and responds to public comments received as a result of the interim final rule. The rule permits States to use a reasonable quantitative standard to determine whether or not to proceed with an adjustment of an existing child support award amount after conducting a review of the order, regardless of the method of review used.

DATES: These regulations are effective May 23, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paige Biava, Division of Policy, OCSE, 202-401-5635, e-mail: phbiava@acf.hhs.gov. Deaf and hearing-impaired individuals may call the Federal Dual Party Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. eastern time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Statutory Authority

The provisions of this regulation pertaining to review and adjustment of child support orders are published under the authority granted to the Secretary by section 466(a) of the Social Security Act (the Act), 42 U.S.C. 666(a). Section 466(a) requires each State to have in effect laws requiring the use of specified procedures, consistent with this section of the Act and regulations of the Secretary, to increase the effectiveness of the Child Support Enforcement program. Review and adjustment of support orders at section

466(a)(10) of the Act is one of the required procedures.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

No new information collection requirements are imposed by these regulations, nor are any existing requirements changed as a result of their promulgation. Therefore, the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507(d)), regarding reporting and record keeping, do not apply.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The Secretary certifies, under 5 U.S.C. 605(b), as enacted by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (Pub. L. 96-354), that this rule will not result in a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The primary impact is on State governments. State governments are not considered small entities under the Act.

Regulatory Impact Analysis

Executive Order 12866 requires that regulations be reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the priorities and principles set forth in the Executive Order. The Department has determined that this rule is consistent with these priorities and principles. This regulation is considered a "significant regulatory action" under 3(f) of the Executive Order, and therefore has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

Section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 requires that a covered agency prepare a budgetary impact statement before promulgating a rule that includes any Federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any one year.

If a covered agency must prepare a budgetary impact statement, section 205 further requires that it select the most cost-effective and least burdensome alternative that achieves the objectives of the rule and is consistent with the statutory requirements. In addition, section 203 requires a plan for informing and advising any small governments that may be significantly or uniquely impacted by the rule.

We have determined that the final rule will not result in the expenditure by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of more than \$100 million in any one year. Accordingly, we have not prepared a budgetary impact statement specifically addressing the regulatory

alternatives considered, or prepared a plan for informing and advising any significantly or uniquely impacted small governments.

Congressional Review

This regulation is not a major rule as defined in 5 U.S.C. chapter 8.

Assessment of Federal Regulations and Policies on Families

Section 654 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act of 1999 requires Federal agencies to determine whether a proposed policy or regulation may affect family well-being. If the agency's determination is affirmative, then the agency must prepare an impact assessment addressing seven criteria specified in the law. These regulations will not have an impact on family well-being as defined in the legislation.

Executive Order 13132

Executive Order 13132 on Federalism applies to policies that have Federalism implications, defined as "regulations, legislative comments or proposed legislation, and other policy statements or actions that have substantial direct effects on the States, or on the distributions of power and, responsibilities among the various levels of government." This rule does not have Federalism implications for State or local governments as defined in the Executive Order.

Summary Description of Regulatory Provisions

This rule finalizes without change provisions of the Interim Final Rule published in the **Federal Register** on December 28, 2004 (60 FR 77659) and permits States to use a reasonable quantitative standard to determine whether or not to adjust an existing child support award amount after conducting a review of the order, regardless of the method of review used.

Under this final rule, a State may establish a reasonable quantitative standard, based on either a fixed dollar amount or percentage, or both, as a basis for determining whether an inconsistency between the existent child support award amount and the amount of support as determined as a result of a review is adequate grounds for petitioning for adjustment of the order, regardless of the method of review. This allows States to manage their limited resources and refrain from seeking unreasonably small order adjustments whenever the existing order amount varies by *any* amount, however small, from the amount calculated under the State's guidelines. Very few

States have automated review processes in place. The application of child support guidelines often involves far more than a simple calculation based upon one parent's income, and may include decisions with respect to child care, health insurance and extraordinary medical expenses. This rule minimizes the burden, stress and uncertainty families would face in opening up their orders to change despite little anticipated gain. In addition, the rule reduces complex agency and tribunal record-keeping that could lead to errors, and lessens the burden on employers who would need to respond to constantly adjusting income withholding orders to address small differences in the amount withheld.

Section 303.8 continues to require State child support enforcement (IV-D) agencies to review child support orders at least every 3 years, upon request of a parent in any IV-D case, and upon request of the State if there is an assignment of support rights under title IV-A of the Act, and make adjustments, if appropriate, i.e. if the reasonable quantitative standard for an adjustment is met. Further, under paragraph (b)(5) of this section, a State must have procedures, under which a parent or other person who has standing may request a review and adjustment outside the regular 3-year (or shorter) cycle and if the requesting party demonstrates a substantial change in circumstance, for adjusting the order in accordance with its support guidelines.

We note that the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Pub. L. 109-171) amended the child support statute (42 U.S.C. 666(a)(10)) related to review and adjustment of support orders to require States, effective October 1, 2007, to review all cases with an assignment of support rights under title IV-A every three years. We will issue separate regulations addressing this change.

Response to Comments

We received two comments from an advocate. Responses to these comments follow. We also received comments in favor of the regulation from four State IV-D agencies.

Section 303.8—Review and adjustment of child support orders

Comment: One commenter stated that the interim final rule is not consistent with Federal statute.

Response: We disagree. The regulation is consistent with Federal statute as originally interpreted in 1993 and as construed in OCSE-AT-97-10, on July 30, 1997. Section 466(a)(10)(A)(i)(I) of the Act, as amended by section 351 of Public Law 104-193, does not preclude a State law

from providing a threshold deviation before an adjustment of an order is appropriate. Under section 466(a)(10)(A)(i) of the Act, the State must take “into account the best interests of the child involved.” A small reduction in support, or even an increase, because of a difference between the current order and the order amount calculated during a review, might not be in the child’s best interests. The rule that allowed states to apply a reasonable quantitative standard for adjustment of an order was in effect for ten years. During that period there was no indication or evidence that the best interest of children would have been better served by requiring even incremental adjustments to orders (whether increases or decreases). On the contrary, we believe such frequent small changes to orders would have caused stress, uncertainty and confusion, and would have imposed an unreasonable administrative burden upon state agencies. In summary, such changes would not have been “appropriate.”

(As previously noted, we will be issuing separate regulations to address the changes made to section 466(a)(10) by the Deficit Reduction Act.)

2. *Comment:* This commenter also said that the interim final rule has the potential to harm needy children and parents. If the amount of the potential increase doesn’t meet the quantitative standard, the child would be deprived of an amount of money that isn’t insignificant over a year. The same commenter also stated that, if a change

in the order amount would be a decrease and isn’t sought, the low income obligor would be burdened with an excessive order or fall into arrears.

Response: We do not agree. Since the issuance of the Action Transmittal, we are aware of no evidence of harm done to families or obligated parents. We believe authority given to States by this regulatory change is necessary and consistent with the law.

As outlined in the preamble to the Interim Rule, OCSE issued policy on review and adjustment of orders in OCSE-AT-97-10 on July 30, 1997. Under section 466(a)(10)(A)(i)(I) of the Act, the language “if appropriate, adjust the order” is consistent with regulations which say that, if a State reviews a case under the 3-year cycle provision using State guidelines, it can determine not to adjust the order if the inconsistency between the current order and the guideline amount does not meet the “reasonable quantitative standard established by the State.” Under the regulations, the State could establish a reasonable quantitative standard based upon either a fixed dollar amount or percentage, or both, as a basis for determining whether an inconsistency between the existing child support award amount and the amount of support which resulted from application of the guidelines was adequate grounds for petitioning for adjustment of the order. The state should, of course, continue to take into account any significant changes.

Either party may still ask for a review and modification of the child support order notwithstanding the state’s threshold rule limiting mandatory procedures requiring the IV-D agency to seek such small adjustments. The thresholds established by each state avoid *de minimus* actions which a court may reject anyway. This rule minimizes the burden, stress and uncertainty families would face in opening-up the order to change despite little anticipated gain.

List of Subjects in 45 CFR Part 303

Child support, Grant programs—social programs.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Programs No. 93.563, Child Support Enforcement Program)

PART 303—STANDARDS FOR PROGRAM OPERATIONS

■ Therefore, the interim final rule amending 45 CFR part 303 which was published on December 28, 2004 (69 FR 77659) is adopted as final without change.

Dated: January 20, 2006.

Wade F. Horn,

Assistant Secretary for Children and Families.

Date Approved: February 17, 2006.

Michael O. Leavitt,

Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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