PUBLICATION UPDATE

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Bender's Immigration Regulations Service

Publication 695 Release 236-237 February 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

- Release 236–237 of Bender's Immigration Regulations Services includes regulatory changes published in the Federal Register through January 19, 2018.
- See below for details of what is included.

VOLUME 1 (8 CFR) DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)-Only Transitional Worker Numerical Limitation for Fiscal Years 2018 Through 2020. By a notification of numerical limitations published at 82 FR 55493, Nov. 22, 2017, DHS-USCIS set caps for FY 2018 through 2020 as follows:

- For FY 2018, cap set at 9,998.
- For FY 2019, cap set at 4,999.
- For FY 2020, cap set at 2,499, to be in

effect until the end of the transition period on December 31, 2019.

The additional caps are have been added to the footnote enumerating the Federal Register Notices of FY Numerical Limitations at 8 CFR 214.2(w)(1)(viii)(C).

A footnote has been added at 8 CFR 214.2(w)(1)(ix) [defining "Transition period"] to note that, based on the factors set out in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (CNRA), it was determined by the Secretary of Labor to extend the CW-1 program for five years. The original end date for the program was December 31, 2014.

Waiver of Passport and Visa Requirements Due to an Unforeseen Emergency. A final rule published by DHS-CBP at 82 FR 41867, Sept. 5, 2017 (effective Oct. 5, 2017), amended 8 CFR 212.1(g), which is the regulation describing the procedures for issuance of a discretionary waiver, on the basis of unforeseen emergency in individual cases, of certain documentary requirements for individuals seeking admis-

sion to the United States as a nonimmigrant. Also reflected in this release is the amendment made by a parallel final rule of the Department of State published at 82 FR 41883, Sept. 5, 2017 (eff. Oct. 5, 2017), which amended 22 CFR 41.2 (i).

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMI-GRATION REVIEW

Procedures Further Implementing the Annual Limitation on Suspension of Deportation and Cancellation of Removal. A final rule by EOIR published at 82 FR 57336, Dec. 5, 2017 (eff. Jan. 4, 2018) amended 8 CFR 1240.21 by removing and reserving paragraph (b) and revising paragraphs (c) introductory text and (c)(1). EOIR noted that the amendment eliminates certain procedures created in 1998 that were used to convert 8,000 conditional grants of suspension of deportation and cancellation of removal to outright grants before the end of fiscal year 1998. In addition, it authorizes immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals to issue final decisions denying applications, without restriction, regardless of whether the annual limitation has been reached.

VOLUME 2

DOS REGULATIONS

Visas: Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended. By final rule published at 82 FR 41883, Sept. 5, 2017 (eff. Oct. 5, 2017), the Department of State amended 22 CFR 41.2(i) regarding waiver of documentary requirements, due to an unforeseen emergency, for nonimmigrants seeking admission to the United States. Also reflected in this release is the amendment made by a parallel DHS-CBP final rule published at 82 FR 41867, Sept. 5, 2017 (effective Oct. 5, 2017), which amended 8 CFR 212.1(g).

DOL REGULATIONS

Department of Labor Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Annual Adjustments for 2018. A final rule of the Department of Labor published at 83 FR 7, Jan. 2, 2018, amended 20 CFR 655.620(a), 655.801(b), and 655.810(b)(1), (b)(2), and (b)(3), to adjust for inflation the civil monetary penalties assessed or enforced in DOL's regulations, 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). This rule was effective on January 2, 2018. As provided by the Inflation Adjustment Act, the increased penalty levels apply to any penalties assessed after January 2, 2018.

DOHHS REGULATIONS

Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2018. The Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2018 was published by DOHHS at 83 FR 2642, Jan. 18, 2018, and has been added to the collection of annual Poverty Guideline updates at the end of the material behind the "DOHHS Regulations" tab in Volume 2.

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Release 236-237

Publication 695

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February 2018

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