Dated: March 24, 2006.
Robert W. Werner,
Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
Office of Foreign Assets Control
31 CFR Parts 550, 590, and 591

Libyan Sanctions Regulations, Angola (UNITA) Sanctions Regulations, Rough Diamonds (Liberia) Sanctions Regulations

AGENCY: Office of Foreign Assets Control, Treasury.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control is removing from the Code of Federal Regulations the Libyan Sanctions Regulations, the Angola (UNITA) Sanctions Regulations, and the Rough Diamonds (Liberia) Sanctions Regulations, as a result of the termination of the national emergencies, and revocation of the Executive orders, on which those regulations were based.

DATES: Effective Date: March 30, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Assistant Director, Policy, Office of Foreign Assets Control, tel.: 202/622–4855, or Chief Counsel (Foreign Assets Control), Office of the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, tel.: 202/622–2410 (not toll free numbers).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic and Facsimile Availability

This file is available for download without charge in ASCII and Adobe Acrobat readable (*.PDF) formats at GPO Access. GPO Access supports HTTP, FTP, and Telnet at fedbbs.access.gpo.gov. It may also be accessed by modem dialup at 202/512–1387 followed by typing “/GO/FAC.” Paper copies of this document can be obtained by calling the Government Printing Office at 202/512–1530. This document and additional information concerning the programs of the Office of Foreign Assets Control are available for downloading from the Office’s Internet Home Page: http://www.treas.gov/ofac, or via FTP at ofacftp.treas.gov.

Facsimiles of information are available through the Office’s 24-hour fax-on-demand service: Call 202/622–0077 using a fax machine, fax modem, or (within the United States) a touch-tone telephone.

Background

On May 6, 2003, the President issued Executive Order 13298 (68 FR 24857, May 8, 2003), terminating the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993, with respect to the actions and policies of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (“UNITA”) and revoking Executive Orders 12865, 13069, and 13098. In terminating the national emergency, the President chose to end all blocking of any assets previously blocked under the Angola (UNITA) Sanctions Regulations.

On September 20, 2004, the President issued Executive Order 13357 (69 FR 56665, September 22, 2004), terminating the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12543 of January 7, 1986, with respect to the actions and policies of the Government of Libya and revoking Executive Orders 12543, 12544, 12801, and 12538. In terminating the national emergency, the President chose to end all blocking of any assets previously blocked under the Libyan Sanctions Regulations.

Executive Order 13357 superseded a series of general licenses and amendments thereof, effective February 26, 2004, April 2, 2004, April 23, 2004, and August 6, 2004, which had authorized certain travel-related and residence-related transactions, as well as certain new transactions with Libya.

The text of these licenses is available on the Office of Foreign Assets Control Web site at: http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/sanctions/sanctguide-libya.shtml.

Please note that certain transactions involving the Government of Libya, including entities owned or controlled by the Government of Libya, remain subject to the Terrorism List Governments Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 596.

On January 15, 2004, the President issued Executive Order 13324 (69 FR 2823, January 20, 2004), terminating the national emergency declared with respect to the illicit trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone and Liberia and revoking Executive Orders 13194 and 13213. Please note that the President issued Executive Order 13448 on July 27, 2004, declaring a national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons. This order, which remains in effect, blocks the assets of, and prohibits transactions with, these and other subsequently-designated persons.

In addition, on July 29, 2003, the President issued Executive Order 13312, implementing the Clean Diamond Trade Act, Pub. L. 108–19, and the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme for rough diamonds. Executive Order 13312 prohibits, subject to certain Presidential waiver authorities, the importation into, and exportation from, the United States of any rough diamonds, from whatever source, not controlled through the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme. To implement Executive Order 13312, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (“OFAC”) issued interim regulations, effective July 30, 2003, under 31 CFR part 592, Rough Diamonds Control Regulations (68 Fed. Reg. 45777, August 4, 2003); on September 23, 2004, OFAC issued the final Rough Diamonds Control Regulations (69 Fed. Reg. 56936, September 23, 2004). As a result of these actions, all controls on rough diamonds are contained in 31 CFR part 592, Rough Diamonds Control Regulations.

Accordingly, OFAC is removing the Libyan Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 550, the Angola (UNITA) Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 590, and the Rough Diamonds (Liberia) Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR part 591. Removal of these parts does not affect ongoing enforcement proceedings or prevent the initiation of enforcement proceedings where the relevant statute of limitations has not run.

Executive Order 12866, Administrative Procedure Act, Regulatory Flexibility Act, and Paperwork Reduction Act

Because the Libyan Sanctions Regulations, Angola (UNITA) Sanctions Regulations, and Rough Diamonds (Liberia) Sanctions Regulations involve a foreign affairs function, the provisions of Executive Order 12866 and the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) requiring notice of proposed rulemaking, opportunity for public participation, and delay in effective date are inapplicable. Because no notice of proposed rulemaking is required for this rule, the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612) does not apply.

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because this rule does not impose information collection requirements that would require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.

List of Subjects

31 CFR Part 550

Administrative practice and procedure, Banks, Banking, Currency, Foreign investments in United States, Foreign trade, Libya, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Securities, Travel restrictions.
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117
[CGD01–06–025]

Drawbridge Operation Regulations;
Hutchinson River (Eastchester Creek),
New York City, NY

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, First Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the regulation governing the operation of the AMTRAK Pelham Bay railroad bridge, across the Hutchinson River at mile 0.5, at New York City, New York. This deviation allows the bridge to open on a limited daily schedule from March 27, 2006 through April 25, 2006. Vessels that can pass under the bridge without a bridge opening may do so at all times. This deviation is necessary to facilitate scheduled bridge maintenance.

DATES: This deviation is effective from March 27, 2006 through April 25, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Materials referred to in this document are available for inspection or copying at the First Coast Guard District, Bridge Branch Office, One South Street, New York, New York 10004, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (212) 668–7165. The First Coast Guard District Bridge Branch Office maintains the public docket for this temporary deviation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Judy Leung-Yee, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, at (212) 668–7165.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
The AMTRAK Pelham Bay railroad bridge, across the Hutchinson River at mile 0.5, has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 8 feet at mean high water and 15 feet at mean low water. The existing regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.5 and 117.793.

The owner of the bridge, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK), requested a temporary deviation to facilitate scheduled electrical bridge repairs. In order to perform the above repairs the bridge must operate on a limited opening schedule.

Under this temporary deviation the AMTRAK Pelham Bay railroad bridge shall operate, from March 27, 2006 through April 25, 2006, as follows:

On Tuesday through Saturday of each week of the effective period of this temporary deviation, the draw shall open on signal only two times during the high tide predicted at Hell Gate, New York, between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The period during which the draw shall open is from 45 minutes before the predicted high tide at Hell Gate to three and one half hours after the predicted high tide.

On each Monday during the effective period of this temporary deviation, the draw shall open on signal only two times during each high tide, from 45 minutes before the predicted high tide at Hell Gate, New York, to three and one half hours after the predicted high tide.

On each Sunday during the effective period of this temporary deviation, the bridge need not open.

Vessels that can pass under the draw without a bridge opening may do so at all times.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(c), this work will be performed with all due speed in order to return the bridge to normal operation as soon as possible. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.


Gary Kassof,
Bridge Program Manager, First Coast Guard District.

BILLING CODE 4910–15–P

POSTAL SERVICE
39 CFR Part 111

Parcel Return Service

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule adopts new mailing standards to make Parcel Return Service a permanent classification. Parcel Return Service replaces the former Parcel Return Services experiment and is now open to all postal customers who meet the participation requirements.

DATES: Effective Date: April 2, 2006.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Postal Service published a final rule in the Federal Register on September 18, 2003 (68 FR 54664), introducing a new service called Parcel Return Services (PRS). This experimental service allowed authorized permit holders or their agents to pick up parcels returned by consumers at return bulk mail centers and return delivery units across the country.

We filed a Request for Recommended Decision with the Postal Rate Commission on October 17, 2005, to make the experimental classification permanent. On March 3, 2006, the Postal Rate Commission issued its Recommended Decision that PRS become a permanent service offering (Docket No. MC2006–1). The Governors of the Postal Service acted on the Recommended Decision in Resolution 06–3 on March 22, 2006, establishing PRS as a permanent mail classification. The Governors set April 2, 2006, as the effective date of the change.

Summary of Changes

We are changing the name of PRS from the plural “Parcel Return Services” to the singular “Parcel Return Service.” There are two major changes in the permanent PRS classification as compared with the experimental service offering. We are not offering Bound Printed Matter (BPM) Return Service as part of the permanent set of rates for PRS, because there was no reported BPM volume during the experiment. Consequently, only Parcel Select Return Service remains. At the request of PRS mailers, we will now offer Certificate of Mailing as an extra service for PRS parcels. A mailer returning a parcel using PRS can bring it to a local post office and purchase a Certificate of