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News

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New Digest

PHMSA adjusts maximum civil penalty amounts for inflation. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) today issued Interim Final Rules to revise its regulations and increase the maximum civil penalty amounts for violations of the Federal hazardous materials safety law or Federal Pipeline Safety Laws (49 U.S.C. 60101, et seq.), certain oil spill response plan provisions of the Clean Water Act, (33 U.S.C. 1321 (b)(6)), and any PHMSA regulation or order issued thereunder. Under the “Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015” (Sec. 701 of Public Law 114-74), which further amended the “Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990” (Public Law 101-410), the maximum civil penalty for a knowing violation is now \$77,114, except that the maximum civil penalty is \$179,933 for a violation that results in death, serious illness, or severe injury to any person or substantial destruction of property. In addition, the minimum civil penalty amount of \$463 applies to a violation relating to training. Federal agencies are required to adjust their civil monetary penalties effective August 1, 2016, and then annually thereafter, to account for changes in inflation. Contact for media: Artealia Gilliard (202) 366-4831.