

(ii) Subsequent Violation/Subsections (a)(1)–(3), from \$60,000 to \$60,000

(iii) Violation/Subsections (a)(4)–(5), from \$6,000 to \$5,500.

(iv) Subsequent Violation/Subsections (a)(4)–(5), from \$6,000 to \$5,500.

(v) Violation/Subsection (a)(6), from \$120,000 to \$120,000.

(8) 16 U.S.C. 973f(a), South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, from \$300,000 to \$300,000.

(9) 16 U.S.C. 1174(b), Fur Seal Act Amendments of 1983, from \$11,000 to \$11,000.

(10) 16 U.S.C. 1375(a)(1), Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (1981), from \$12,000 to \$11,000.

(11) 16 U.S.C. 1385(e), Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act (1990), from \$110,000 to \$110,000.

(12) 16 U.S.C. 1437(d)(1), National Marine Sanctuaries Act (1992), from \$119,000 to \$120,000.

(13) 16 U.S.C. 1540(a)(1), Endangered Species Act of 1973;

(i) Knowing Violations of Section 1538 (1988), from \$30,000 to \$27,500.

(ii) Other Knowing Violations (1988), from \$14,000 to \$13,200.

(iii) Otherwise Violations (1978), from \$600 to \$550.

(14) 16 U.S.C. 1858(a), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (1990), from \$120,000 to \$120,000.

(15) 16 U.S.C. 2437(a)(1), Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act of 1984;

(i) Knowing Violation, from \$12,000 to \$11,000.

(ii) Violation, from \$6,000 to \$5,500.

(16) 16 U.S.C. 2465(a), Antarctic Protection Act of 1990;

(i) Knowing Violation, from \$11,000 to \$11,000.

(ii) Violation, from \$5,500 to \$5,500.

(17) 16 U.S.C. 3373(a), Lacey Act Amendments of 1981

(i) Sale and Purchase Violation, from \$12,000 to \$11,000.

(ii) Marking Violation, from \$300 to \$275.

(iii) False Labeling Violation, from \$12,000 to \$11,000.

(iv) Other than Marking Violation, from \$12,000 to \$11,000.

(18) 16 U.S.C. 3606(b)(1), Atlantic Salmon Convention Act of 1982 (1990), from \$120,000 to \$120,000.

(19) 16 U.S.C. 3637(b), Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 (1990), from \$120,000 to \$120,000.

(20) 16 U.S.C. 4016(b)(1)(B), Fish and Seafood Promotion Act of 1986, from \$5,500 to \$5,500.

(21) 16 U.S.C. 5010(a)(1), North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Act of 1992, from \$110,000 to \$110,000.

(22) 16 U.S.C. 5103(b)(2), Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative

Management Act (1993), from \$110,000 to \$120,000.

(23) 16 U.S.C. 5154(c)(1), Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (1990), from \$120,000 to \$120,000.

(24) 16 U.S.C. 5507(a)(1), High Seas Fishing Compliance Act of 1995, from \$109,000 to \$110,000.

(25) 16 U.S.C. 5606(b), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995, from \$109,000 to \$120,000.

(26) 22 U.S.C. 1978(e), Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 (1971);

(i) Violation, from \$11,000 to \$11,000.

(ii) Subsequent Violation, from \$27,500 to \$27,500.

(27) 30 U.S.C. 1462(a), Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act (1980), from \$30,000 to \$27,500.

(28) 42 U.S.C. 9152(c)(1), Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act of 1980, from \$30,000 to \$27,500.

■ 3. Section 6.5 is revised to read as follows:

*§ 6.5 Effective date of adjustments.*

The adjustments made by Sec. 6.4 of this part, of the penalties there specified, are effective on December 11, 2003, and said penalties, as thus adjusted by the adjustments made by Sec. 6.4 of this part, shall apply only to violations occurring after December 11, 2003, and before the effective date of any future inflation adjustment thereto made subsequent to December 11, 2003 as provided in Sec. 6.6 of this part.

[FR Doc. 03–30621 Filed 12–10–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–17–P

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

### 20 CFR Parts 404 and 416

[Regulation Nos. 4 and 16]

RIN 0960–AE97

#### **Federal Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled; Administrative Review Process; Video Teleconferencing Appearances Before Administrative Law Judges of the Social Security Administration**

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration (SSA).

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** We are adopting without change the final rules that were published in the **Federal Register** on February 3, 2003, at 68 FR 5210, authorizing us to conduct hearings before administrative law judges (ALJs) using video teleconferencing (VTC). The revised rules authorized us to conduct hearings before ALJs at which a party or

parties to the hearing and/or a witness or witnesses may appear before the ALJ by VTC. The revised rules also provided that if we schedule you to appear at your hearing by VTC, rather than in person, and you object to use of the VTC procedure, we will reschedule your hearing as one at which you may appear in person before the ALJ. Under the revised rules, the ALJ will also consider any objection you may have to the appearance of a witness by VTC. The purpose of the rules is to provide us with greater flexibility in scheduling and holding hearings, improve hearing process efficiency, and extend another service delivery option to individuals requesting a hearing.

**DATES:** These rules were effective March 5, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert J. Augustine, Social Insurance Specialist, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, 100 Altmeyer Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235–6401, (410) 965–0020 or TTY 1–800–966–5906, for information about this notice. For information on eligibility or filing for benefits, call our national toll-free number, 1–800–772–1213 or TTY 1–800–325–0778, or visit our Internet site, Social Security Online, at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.

#### **Electronic Version**

The electronic file of this document is available on the Internet at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. It is also available on the Internet site for SSA (*i.e.*, Social Security Online) at <http://policy.ssa.gov/pnpublic.nsf/LawRegs>.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

On January 5, 2001, at 66 FR 1059, we published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in which we proposed to authorize our use of VTC in conducting hearings before ALJs. One provision in the proposed rules would have given claimants the right to veto use of VTC to take both their own testimony and the testimony of vocational experts (VEs) and medical experts (MEs). On February 3, 2003, after considering the public comments received on the NPRM, we published the final rules at 68 FR 5210 authorizing our use of VTC effective March 5, 2003. The final rules made a significant change from the proposed rules by giving claimants the right to veto the use of VTC only for the purpose of taking their own testimony. Accordingly, in publishing the final rules, we requested public comment on the issue of whether