

The FAA has determined that this proposed regulation only involves established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. Therefore, this proposed regulation—(1) is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a “significant rule” under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 10034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a Regulatory Evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this proposed rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend part 71 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 71) as follows:

PART 71—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959–1963 Comp., p. 389; 49 U.S.C. 106(g); 14 CFR 11.69.

§ 71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of the Federal Aviation Administration Order 7400.9B, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated July 18, 1994, and effective September 16, 1994, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 5000 Class D Airspace

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AWPCA D Miramar NAS, CA [Removed]

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Issued in Los Angeles, California, on May 31, 1995.

Dennis T. Koehler,

*Acting Manager, Air Traffic Division,
Western-Pacific Region.*

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

20 CFR Parts 404 and 416

RIN 0960–AE06

Administrative Review Process, Testing Modifications to Prehearing Procedures and Decisions by Adjudication Officers

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: We propose to amend our rules to establish the authority to test the position of an adjudication officer who, under the *Plan for a New Disability Claim Process* approved by the Commissioner of Social Security in September 1994 (the disability redesign plan), would be the focal point for all prehearing activities when a request for a hearing before an administrative law judge (ALJ) is filed. The adjudication officer is an integral element of the disability redesign plan. We expect that our test of the adjudication officer position will provide us with sufficient information to determine the effect of the position on the hearing process. This proposed rule only refers to the changes to the disability procedures we will test. Unless specified, all other regulations related to the disability determination process remain unchanged.

DATES: To be sure that your comments are considered, we must receive them no later than July 10, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted in writing to the Commissioner of Social Security, P.O. Box 1585, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, sent by telefax to (410) 966–2830, sent by E-mail to “regulations@ssa.gov,” or delivered to the Division of Regulations and Rulings, Social Security Administration, 3–B–1 Operations Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on regular business days. Comments may be inspected during these same hours by making arrangements with the contact person shown below.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Harry J. Short, Legal Assistant, Division of Regulations and Rulings, Social

Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235, (410) 965–6243.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

BACKGROUND

The Social Security Administration (SSA) decides claims for Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act (the Act) and for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits under title XVI of the Act in an administrative review process that generally consists of four steps. Claimants who are not satisfied with the initial determination we make on a claim may request reconsideration. Claimants who are not satisfied with our reconsidered determination may request a hearing before an ALJ, and claimants who are dissatisfied with an ALJ's decision may request review by the Appeals Council. Claimants who have completed these steps and who are not satisfied with our final decision, may request judicial review of the decision in the Federal courts.

Generally, when a claim is filed for Social Security or SSI benefits based on disability, a State agency makes the initial and reconsideration disability determination for us. A hearing requested after we have made a reconsideration determination is conducted by an ALJ in one of the 132 hearing offices we have nationwide.

Applications for Social Security and SSI benefits based on disability have risen dramatically in recent years. The number of new disability claims SSA received in Fiscal Year (FY) 1994—3.56 million—represented a 40 percent increase over the number received in FY 1990—2.55 million. Requests for an ALJ hearing also have increased dramatically. In FY 1994, our hearing offices had almost 540,000 hearing receipts, and most of these receipts were filed by persons claiming disability benefits. In that year, the number of hearing receipts we received exceeded the number of receipts we received in FY 1990 by more than 70 percent.

Despite management initiatives that resulted in a record increase in ALJ productivity in FY 1994 and the hiring of more than 200 new ALJs and more than 650 new support staff in that year, the number of cases pending in our hearing offices has reached unprecedented levels—more than 480,000 at the end of FY 1994.

In order to process this workload the disability redesign plan contains other changes to the disability determination process by which SSA plans to decrease processing times while providing world class service. For example, the disability redesign plan envisions a streamlined