

duties than are applicable to vessels of the United States and from the payment of light money. The authority to amend this section of the Customs Regulations has been delegated to the Chief, Regulations Branch.

Brazil was previously included in the list of exempted nations in § 4.22, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 4.22), but the U.S. Department of State informed Customs that U. S. vessels and their cargoes were being charged discriminatory duties in the form of lighthouse fees and a Merchant Marine Renewal Tax by the Government of Brazil. Accordingly, Brazil was removed from the list of exempted nations by means of a final rule published in the **Federal Register** on March 5, 1993 (58 FR 12538).

The Department of State now informs Customs that the Government of Brazil has agreed to exempt vessels of the United States from payment of lighthouse fees, effective September 15, 1994. The Government of Brazil also indicated that it has ended rebates of the Merchant Marine Renewal Tax to Brazilian-registered ships, so that duty is no longer being applied in a discriminatory manner.

Finding

On the basis of the above-mentioned information from the Department of State regarding the current absence of discriminatory duties of tonnage or impost imposed upon U.S. vessels in the ports of Brazil, the Customs Service has determined that vessels of Brazil are exempt from the payment of the special tonnage tax and light money, effective September 15, 1994. The Customs Regulations are amended accordingly.

Inapplicability of Public Notice and Delayed Date Requirements, the Regulatory Flexibility Act and Executive Order 12866

Because this amendment merely implements a statutory requirement and confers a benefit upon the public, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), notice and public procedure are unnecessary; further, for the same reasons, good cause exists for dispensing with a delayed effective date under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(1) and (3). Since this document is not subject to the notice and public procedure requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553, it is not subject to the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.). This amendment does meet the criteria for a "significant regulatory action" as specified in Executive Order 12866.

Drafting Information

The principal author of this document was Janet L. Johnson, Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs Service. However, personnel from other offices participated in its development.

List of Subjects in 19 CFR Part 4

Cargo vessels, Customs duties and inspection, Maritime carriers, Vessels.

Amendment to the Regulations

Part 4, Customs Regulations (19 CFR Part 4), is amended as set forth below:

PART 4—VESSELS IN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC TRADES

1. The authority for Part 4 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 19 U.S.C. 66, 1431, 1433, 1434, 1624; 46 U.S.C. App. 3, 91.
* * * * *

Section 4.22 also issued under 46 U.S.C. App. 121, 128, 141;
* * * * *

§ 4.22 [Amended]

2. Section 4.22 is amended by inserting "Brazil" in appropriate alphabetical order.

Dated: January 31, 1995.

Harold M. Singer,

Chief, Regulations Branch.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Secretary

24 CFR Part 91

[Docket No. R-95-1731; FR-3611-N-07]

Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HUD.

ACTION: Partial waiver of rule.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public that the Secretary is waiving three provisions of the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) rule that is in effect until it is replaced by the Consolidated Plan rule on February 6, 1995. These three provisions are being waived to permit an orderly transition from the CHAS to the Consolidated plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 31, 1994.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph F. Smith, Director, Office of Executive Services, Office of Community Planning and Development, 451 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC

20410, telephone (202) 708-1283 (voice) or (202) 708-2565 (TDD). These are not toll-free numbers. Copies of this notice will be made available on tape or large print for those with impaired vision that request them. They may be obtained at the above address.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Department of Housing and Urban Development intends to reduce the burden of administering the housing and community development programs by consolidating the planning and application requirements into a single housing and community development strategy. The new consolidated plan integrates the following submissions into one consolidated document: The Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy, the Community Development Plan, the Community Development Block Grant Final Statement, the HOME Program Description, the Emergency Shelter Grant application, and the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS application.

The consolidated plan requirements were published in a proposed rule on August 5, 1994 (59 FR 40129). The final consolidated plan submission rule, to be codified at 24 CFR part 91, was published on January 5, 1995 (60 FR 1878), replacing the CHAS regulations. The Department did not want jurisdictions that are preparing a consolidated plan under the new rule to be burdened unnecessarily by preparing a CHAS annual plan and a CHAS annual performance report.

Some of the requirements of the CHAS rule contain provisions that create obstacles for jurisdictions in making the transition to the consolidated plan. Section 91.70 of the CHAS rule would require States and local governments to submit a CHAS annual plan for the period of October 1, 1994 through September 30, 1995 (Fiscal Year 1995) by December 31, 1994. Section 91.80(a)(2) would require them to submit certifications of consistency with the annual plan for the current fiscal year (now Fiscal Year 1995). Section 91.82(b) would require them to submit CHAS annual performance reports for the 12-month period ending September 30, 1994 by December 31, 1994. These provisions are the subject of this waiver document.

II. Waiver

Pursuant to the authority of 24 CFR 91.99, the Department hereby waives the following provisions of the CHAS regulations, 24 CFR part 91, which are in effect until February 6, 1995: