compensation and authorized travel and subsistence expenses of such officers or employees from the time they leave their official station until they return thereto. Section 134.55(b) is being amended accordingly.

9. Section 108 of Pub. L. 95–410 (92 Stat. 888), the Customs Procedural Reform and Simplification Act of 1978, amended §§ 557 and 559, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1557 and 1559), to permit merchandise to remain in a Customs bonded warehouse at the owner's expense for a period of up to 5 years, without any further extension. By T.D. 79–221, published in the Federal Register on August 9, 1979 (44 FR 46794), § 144.5, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 144.5), was amended to establish a 5-year time limit, commencing from the date of importation, on the storage of merchandise in a bonded warehouse. An exception was made for merchandise in a bonded warehouse on the date of enactment of Pub. L. 95–410, October 3, 1978. For such merchandise the 5-year period began on that date. Since the 5 years covered by this exception have expired, and no extensions are allowed, §§ 144.5 and 144.36 are being amended to remove these exceptions.

10. Section 144.32, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 144.32), contains procedures for making withdrawals from Customs bonded warehouses. Section 144.32(c) refers to applications by "proprietors" to make withdrawals. It has come to Customs attention that some confusion may result from that word since persons other than warehouse proprietors can make applications for withdrawals, and in fact, proprietors usually are not the persons making the applications. Accordingly, § 144.32(c) is being amended to remove the word, "proprietors".

11. Section 208 of Pub. L. 98–573, the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, amended section 498(a)(1), Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1498(a)(1)), by increasing the informal entry limit from $250 to $1,250. However, it exempted all articles valued in excess of $250 classified in Schedule 3, parts of Schedule 7, and Parts 2 and 3 of the Appendix of the Tariff Schedules of the United States Annotated or any other article for which formal entry is required without regard to value. Under 19 U.S.C. 1498(a)(1), the Secretary of the Treasury may specify the exact amount of the informal entry limit. The limit may vary for different classes or kinds of merchandise or different classes of transactions. After thorough consideration of the issue, it was determined that, with the exception of the specific exclusions, the informal limit for all articles would be set initially at $1,000, with the option to increase it to $1,250 in the future. This change was reflected by amending various sections of the Customs Regulations as part of another document published as T.D. 85–123 in the Federal Register on July 13, 1985 (50 FR 29949). It has now been determined that §§ 145.4 and 148.23, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 145.4, 148.23), must also be amended to reflect this change.

12. Section 115 of Pub. L. 97–446 amended Subpart A of Part 2 of Schedule 8 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States Annotated (19 U.S.C. 1202), to raise the personal exemption allowed residents returning to the U.S. Items 813.30 and 813.31, TSUS, were amended to raise from $300 to $400 the exemption allowed residents returning, and from $600 to $800 for residents arriving directly or indirectly from American Samoa, Guam, or the Virgin Islands of the U.S. This change requires numerous amendments to Part 148, Customs Regulations (19 CFR Part 148).

13. In § 162.75, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 162.75), relating to limitations on seizures for violations of section 592, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1592), an error was made in the numbering of some paragraphs. Paragraphs currently numbered § 162.75(d)(3) (1) and (2) should be designated § 162.75(d)(3) (i) and (ii). The section is being corrected accordingly.

14. Part 172, Customs Regulations (19 CFR Part 172) contains provisions relating to liquidated damages incurred under the provisions of any bond posted with Customs. Section 172.33(c)(1) erroneously refers to the payment of "penalties and withheld duties" prior to filing a second supplemental petition contesting a decision concerning liabilities under a bond. The phrase should be "liquidated damages." Section 172.33(c)(1) is being amended accordingly.

15. Part 191, Customs Regulations (19 CFR Part 191), contains the general provisions and specific procedures relating to drawback claims. Throughout Part 191, various forms have been used to document transactions to determine their compliance with the drawback regulations. Customs has recently begun use of a new form, Customs Form 331, Manufacturing Drawback Entry and/or Certificate, which replaces nine forms previously used. Several sections within Part 191 are being amended to remove references to the obsolete forms.

Inapplicability of Public Notice and Delayed Effective Date Provisions

Inasmuch as these amendments merely conform the Customs Regulations to existing law or practice, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), notice and public procedure thereon are unnecessary and pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), a delayed effective date is not required.

Executive Order 12291

Because this document will not result in a "major rule" as defined by section 1(b) of E.O. 12291, the regulatory analysis and review prescribed by the E.O. is not required.

Inapplicability of Regulatory Flexibility Act

This document is not subject to the provisions of sections 603 and 604 of Title 5, United States Code, as added by section 3 of Pub. L. 96–354, the "Regulatory Flexibility Act". That Act does not apply to any regulation, such as this, for which a notice of proposed rulemaking is not required by the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 551, *et seq.*) or any other statute.

Drafting Information

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List of Subjects

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