

## **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)**

### **Statement of Regulatory Priorities**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) aim is to increase human understanding of the solar system and the universe that contains it and to improve American aeronautics ability. NASA's basic organization consists of the Headquarters, nine field Centers, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (a federally funded research and development center), and several component installations which report to Center Directors. Responsibility for overall planning, coordination, and control of NASA programs is vested in NASA Headquarters, located in Washington, DC.

NASA continues to implement programs according to its 2022 Strategic Plan. The Agency's mission is to "explore the unknown in air and space, innovate for the benefit of humanity, and inspire the world through discovery." The 2022 Strategic Plan (available at 2022 NASA Strategic Plan) guides NASA's program activities through a framework of the following four strategic goals:

- Strategic Goal 1: Expand human knowledge through new scientific discoveries.
- Strategic Goal 2: Extend human presence deeper into space and to the Moon for sustainable long-term exploration and utilization.
- Strategic Goal 3: Catalyze economic growth and drive innovations to address national challenges.
- Strategic Goal 4: Enhance capabilities and operations to catalyze current and future mission success.

### **NASA's Regulatory Philosophy and Principles**

The Agency's rulemaking program strives to be responsive, efficient, and transparent. NASA adheres to the general principles set forth in Executive Order 12866, "Regulatory Planning and Review." NASA is a signatory to the Federal Acquisition Regulatory (FAR) Council. The FAR at 48 CFR chapter 1 contains procurement regulations that apply to NASA and other Federal agencies. Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. section 1302 and FAR 1.103(b), the FAR is jointly prepared, issued, and maintained by the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of General Services, and the Administrator of NASA, under several of their statutory authorities.

NASA is also mindful of the importance of international regulatory cooperation, consistent with domestic law and United States (U.S.) trade policy, as noted in Executive Order 13609, "Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation" (May 1, 2012). NASA, along with the Departments of State, Commerce, and Defense, engage with other countries in the Wassenaar Arrangement, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Australia Group, and Missile Technology Control Regime through which the international community develops a common list of items that should be subject to export controls. NASA also has been a key participant in interagency efforts to overhaul and streamline the U.S. Munitions List and the Commerce Control List.

These efforts help facilitate transfers of goods and technologies to allies and partners while helping prevent transfers to countries of national security and proliferation concerns.

### **NASA Priority Regulatory Actions**

NASA is highlighting the priorities summarized below in this agenda.

#### Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NASA is revising its policy and procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. These proposed amendments would update procedures contained in the Agency's current regulation at 14 CFR subpart 1216.3, Procedures for Implementing the NEPA, to incorporate updates based on the Agency's review of its Categorical Exclusions and streamline the NEPA process to better support NASA's evolving mission.

## Social Security Number Fraud Prevention

NASA is revising its regulations at 14 CFR part 1212.6 under the Privacy Act. The revisions would clarify and update the language of procedural requirements pertaining to the inclusion of Social Security Numbers (SSN) on documents that the Agency sends by mail. These revisions are necessary to implement the Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act of 2017, (Pub. L. 115-59; 42 U.S.C. 405 note), signed on September 15, 2017, which restricts Federal agencies from including individuals' SSNs on documents sent by mail, unless the head of the agency determines that the inclusion of the SSN on the document is necessary (section 2(a) of the Act).

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