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NRC Revises Regulations to Increase Potential Maximum Fine

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, following changes in federal law, has revised its [regulations](#) to increase the potential maximum civil penalty for violations of the Atomic Energy Act from \$140,000 to \$280,000.

The agency is increasing the maximum civil penalty to meet the requirements of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 2015. The law calls for an initial “catch-up” penalty adjustment to become effective no later than Aug. 1. The NRC will also follow the law’s requirement to annually adjust penalties for inflation, beginning in January 2017.

The NRC may assess penalties up to the new maximum in all cases assessed after Aug. 1, even if the violation occurred before that time. The NRC will soon publish conforming changes to the agency’s enforcement policy, which includes the process for assessing civil penalties based on the violation’s severity and the type of licensee.