

competitive.” 12 U.S.C. 5511(a). Declining to cite conduct that is a violation of TILA and Regulation Z based on the articulated principles in the Statement may skew the consumer financial marketplace, to the detriment of market participants who provide written disclosures in accordance with TILA and Regulation Z while demonstrating an ability to quickly assist consumers and respond to the credit needs of consumers during the pandemic. To fulfill its statutory mandate, the Bureau has made it a priority to direct its supervisory, enforcement, and other tools to ensure that consumers are afforded full protection under the law. It is therefore more important than ever that financial institutions will adhere to the consumer protection requirements of TILA and Regulation Z in their interactions with consumers and that the Bureau use its supervisory and enforcement tools to the full extent and with the full flexibility afforded by Congress.

The Bureau hereby rescinds, as of April 1, 2021, its Statement on Supervisory and Enforcement Practices Regarding Electronic Credit Card Disclosures in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and instructs all financial institutions, including credit card issuers, to comply with their obligations under TILA (15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) as implemented by Regulation Z (12 CFR part 1026). Instead, in its discretion, the Bureau intends to exercise its supervisory and enforcement authority consistent with the Dodd-Frank Act and with the full authority afforded by Congress consistent with the statutory purpose and objectives of the Bureau. The Bureau does not intend to cite in an examination or initiate an enforcement action against any entity that did not comply with the TILA and Regulation Z written disclosure requirements as described in the Statement between June 3, 2020, and April 30, 2021.

Regulatory Requirements

The Statement constituted a general statement of policy exempt from the notice and comment rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). It was intended to provide information regarding the Bureau's general plans to exercise its supervisory and enforcement discretion and did not impose any legal requirements on external parties, nor did it create or confer any substantive rights on external parties that could be enforceable in any administrative or civil proceeding. This rescission likewise is a general statement of policy exempt from the notice and comment rulemaking requirements of the APA. It

is intended to provide information regarding the Bureau's general plans to exercise its supervision and enforcement discretion and does not impose any legal requirements on external parties or create or confer any substantive rights on external parties that could be enforceable in any administrative or civil proceedings. No notice of proposed rulemaking was originally required in issuing the Statement, and it is not required in issuing this rescission. The Regulatory Flexibility Act also does not require an initial or final regulatory flexibility analysis for this rescission. The Bureau has also determined that the rescission of the Statement does not impose any new or revise any existing recordkeeping, reporting, or disclosure requirements on covered entities or members of the public that would be collections of information requiring approval by the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Dated: March 29, 2021.

David Uejio,

Acting Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

[FR Doc. 2021-06970 Filed 4-5-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-AM-P

BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

12 CFR Chapter X

Rescission of Statement of Policy on Bureau Supervisory and Enforcement Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

AGENCY: Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

ACTION: Rescission of statement of policy.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (Bureau) is rescinding the Statement on Bureau Supervisory and Enforcement Response to COVID-19 Pandemic.

DATES: This rescission is applicable on April 1, 2021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mehul Madia, Division of Supervision, Enforcement, and Fair Lending, at (202) 435-7104. If you require this document in an alternative electronic format, please contact CFFB_Accessibility@cfpb.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 26, 2020, the Bureau issued a statement entitled, “Statement on Bureau Supervisory and Enforcement Response to COVID-19 Pandemic” (Statement), regarding the Bureau's exercise of its

supervisory and enforcement discretion during the pandemic.¹ Specifically, the Statement provided that the Bureau would take into account staffing and related resource challenges confronting financial institutions and their counsel as they relate to supervisory activities and enforcement actions. The Statement also noted that when conducting examinations and other supervisory activities and in determining whether to take enforcement action, the Bureau will consider the circumstances that entities may face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and will be sensitive to good-faith efforts demonstrably designed to assist consumers.

The Bureau hereby rescinds, as of April 1, 2021, the Statement and announces its intent to exercise its supervisory and enforcement authority consistent with the Dodd-Frank Act and with the full authority afforded by Congress consistent with the statutory purpose and objectives of the Bureau.

The Statement expressed the Bureau's recognition of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operations of many financial institutions, including staffing and related resource challenges confronting financial institutions and their counsel. The Bureau has concluded that since release of this statement such circumstances have changed. Since March 2020 and over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, financial institutions and other entities that provide financial services and products to consumers have adjusted operations by, for example, shifting to a remote mode of operation. As States and other jurisdictions have rescinded and modified stay-at-home orders over the course of the pandemic, many financial services entities have resumed some level of in-person operations and, in many instances combined with more robust remote capabilities, have demonstrated improved business continuity.

With regard to the temporary flexibility announced in the Statement, the Bureau believes that companies should have had sufficient time to adapt to the pandemic and should now be able adequately to comply with the law and respond to enforcement actions or supervisory activities without the flexibility afforded under the statement. In addition, because the Statement did not create binding legal obligations on the Bureau or create or confer any substantive rights on external parties, it did not create any reasonable reliance interests for industry participants.

¹ https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_supervisory-enforcement-statement_covid-19_2020-03.pdf.

Indeed, the Bureau never intended the Statement to be permanent, and accordingly expressly framed the Statement as temporary relief.

The Bureau continues to encourage institutions to meet the financial services needs of their customers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a national emergency that threatens the financial well-being of millions of Americans, with particularly dire effects to communities of color. As the pandemic continues to unfold, consumers are facing economic hardship and compliance with Federal consumer financial law therefore is of paramount importance. The Bureau's statutory purposes include "ensuring . . . that markets for consumer financial products and services are fair, transparent, and competitive." 12 U.S.C. 5511(a). Declining to cite conduct consistent with the full scope of the Bureau's supervision authority based on the articulated principles in the Statement may skew the consumer financial marketplace, to the detriment of market participants who comply with the law. To fulfill its statutory mandate, the Bureau has made it a priority to direct its supervisory, enforcement, and other tools to the prevention of harm to consumers from unlawful acts, policies, and practices. It is therefore of critical importance that institutions adhere to consumer protection requirements, including fair lending laws, in their interactions with consumers, and that the Bureau use its supervisory and enforcement tools to the full extent and with the full flexibility afforded by Congress.

The Bureau is therefore rescinding the Statement, applicable as of April 1, 2021.² Instead, in its discretion, the

Bureau intends to exercise its supervisory and enforcement authority using a risk-based approach and considering responsible business conduct, consistent with the Dodd-Frank Act and with the full authority afforded by Congress consistent with the statutory purpose and objectives of the Bureau.³

Regulatory Requirements

The Statement constituted a general statement of policy exempt from the notice and comment rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). It was intended to provide information regarding the Bureau's general plans to exercise its supervisory and enforcement discretion and did not impose any legal requirements on external parties, nor did it create or confer any substantive rights on external parties that could be enforceable in any administrative or civil proceeding. This rescission likewise is a general statement of policy exempt from the notice and comment rulemaking requirements of the APA. It is intended to provide information regarding the Bureau's general plans to exercise its supervision and enforcement discretion and does not impose any legal requirements on external parties or create or confer any substantive rights on external parties that could be enforceable in any administrative or civil proceedings. No notice of proposed rulemaking was originally required in issuing the Statement and it is not required in issuing this rescission. The Regulatory Flexibility Act also does not require an initial or final regulatory flexibility analysis for this rescission. The Bureau has also determined that the rescission of the Statement does not impose any new or revise any existing recordkeeping, reporting, or disclosure requirements on covered entities or members of the public that would be collections of information requiring approval by the Office of Management

that Statement, addressed flexibilities under certain appraisal standards. To the extent that the Bureau indicated flexibility, it now intends to exercise its supervisory and enforcement authority consistent with the Dodd-Frank Act and with the full authority afforded by Congress. As detailed in the Statement it is issuing today, the Bureau believes the circumstances described in the April 7 Interagency Statement and the April 14 Interagency Statement have changed and that companies should have had sufficient time to adapt. As such, the Bureau does not intend to continue to provide any flexibilities afforded entities in these specific sections of both the April 7 Interagency Statement and the April 14 Interagency Statement.

³ See, e.g., CFPB Bulletin 2020-1, Responsible Business Conduct: Self-Assessing, Self-Reporting, Remediating, and Cooperating, available at https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/cfpb_bulletin-2020-01_responsible-business-conduct.pdf.

and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Dated: March 29, 2021.

David Uejio,

Acting Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

[FR Doc. 2021-06964 Filed 4-5-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-AM-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. FAA-2020-0854; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01067-T; Amendment 39-21432; AD 2021-04-11]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The FAA is superseding Airworthiness Directive (AD) 2020-01-10, which applied to certain Airbus SAS Model A350-941 airplanes. AD 2020-01-10 required installing flight control and guidance system (FCGS) software (SW) X11 Standard (STD). This AD retains the requirements of AD 2020-01-10, requires modifying the electrical power supply of the air generation system (AGS) ram air outlet door actuators, and expands the applicability by adding airplanes, as specified in a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) AD, which is incorporated by reference. This AD was prompted by the development of a modification that forces the AGS ram air outlet doors to be flush in cases of total engine flameout or loss of the main electrical supply. Because of this additional modification, certain airplanes that were excluded from the applicability of AD 2020-01-10 are included in the applicability of this AD. The FAA is issuing this AD to address the unsafe condition on these products.

DATES: This AD is effective May 11, 2021.

The Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of a certain publication listed in this AD as of May 11, 2021.

ADDRESSES: For material incorporated by reference (IBR) in this AD, contact the EASA, Konrad-Adenauer-Ufer 3, 50668 Cologne, Germany; telephone +49 221 8999 000; email ADs@easa.europa.eu; internet

² Last year, the Bureau, along with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (the "Agencies") issued statements entitled "Interagency Statement on Loan Modifications and Reporting for Financial Institutions Working with Customers Affected by the Coronavirus" (April 7, 2020) (the "April 7 Interagency Statement"), and "Interagency Statement on Appraisals and Evaluations for Real Estate Related Financial Transactions Affected by the Coronavirus" (April 14, 2020) (the "April 14 Interagency Statement"). Both statements provided that the Agencies did not intend to take public enforcement actions against entities in certain instances. The April 7 Interagency Statement focused on loan modifications and stated that the agencies "do not expect to take a consumer compliance public enforcement action against an institution, provided that the circumstances were related to the National Emergency and that the institution made good faith efforts to support borrowers and comply with the consumer protection requirements, as well as responded to any needed corrective action." Under the April 14 Interagency Statement, the agencies, as defined in