



Amendments to the Sentencing Guidelines (Preliminary)

April 12, 2018

This document collects the amendments to the sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and commentary in the unofficial, “reader-friendly” form in which they were made available at the Commission’s public meeting on April 12, 2018. As with all amendments that the Commission has voted to promulgate but has not yet officially submitted to Congress and the Federal Register, authority to make technical and conforming changes may be exercised and motions to reconsider may be made. Once the amendments have been submitted to Congress and the Federal Register, official text of the amendments as submitted will be posted on the Commission’s website at www.ussc.gov and will be available in a forthcoming edition of the Federal Register. In addition, an updated “reader-friendly” version of the amendments will be posted on the Commission’s website at www.ussc.gov.

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The Commission specified an effective date of **November 1, 2018**, for the amendments listed above.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: TECHNICAL

Synopsis of Amendment: This proposed amendment makes various technical changes to the *Guidelines Manual*.

First, the proposed amendment makes certain clarifying changes to two guidelines. The proposed amendment amends Chapter One, Part A, Subpart 1(4)(b) (Departures) to provide an explanatory note addressing the fact that §5K2.19 (Post-Sentencing Rehabilitative Efforts) was deleted by Amendment 768, effective November 1, 2012. The proposed amendment also makes minor clarifying changes to Application Note 2(A) to §2B1.1 (Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud), to make clear that, for purposes of subsection (a)(1)(A), an offense is “referenced to this guideline” if §2B1.1 is the applicable Chapter Two guideline specifically referenced in Appendix A (Statutory Index) for the offense of conviction.

Second, the proposed amendment makes technical changes to provide updated references to certain sections in the United States Code that were restated in legislation. As part of an Act to codify existing law relating to the National Park System, Congress repealed numerous sections in Title 16 of the United States Code, and restated them in Title 18 and a newly enacted Title 54. *See* Pub. L. 113–287 (Dec. 19, 2014). The proposed amendment amends the Commentary to §2B1.5 (Theft of, Damage to, or Destruction of, Cultural Heritage Resources or Paleontological Resources; Unlawful Sale, Purchase, Exchange, Transportation, or Receipt of Cultural Heritage Resources or Paleontological Resources) to correct outdated references to certain sections in Title 16 that were restated, with minor revisions, when Congress enacted Title 54. It also deletes from the Commentary to §2B1.5 the provision relating to the definition of “historic resource,” as that term was omitted from Title 54. In addition, the proposed amendment makes a technical change to Appendix A (Statutory Index), to correct an outdated reference to 16 U.S.C. § 413 by replacing it with the appropriate reference to 18 U.S.C. § 1865(c).

Third, the proposed amendment makes technical changes to reflect the editorial reclassification of certain sections in the United States Code. Effective September 1, 2017, the Office of Law Revision Counsel transferred certain provisions bearing on crime control and law enforcement, previously scattered throughout various parts of the United States Code, to a new Title 34. To reflect the new section numbers of the reclassified provisions, The proposed amendment makes changes to: the Commentary to §2A3.5 (Failure to Register as a Sex Offender); the Commentary to §2X5.2 (Class A Misdemeanors (Not Covered by Another Specific Offense Guideline)); subsection (a)(10) of §5B1.3 (Conditions of Probation); subsection (a)(8) of §5D1.3 (Conditions of Supervised Release); and Appendix A (Statutory Index).

Fourth, the proposed amendment makes clerical changes in §§2Q1.3 (Mishandling of Other Environmental Pollutants; Recordkeeping, Tampering, and Falsification), 2R1.1 (Bid-Rigging, Price-Fixing or Market-Allocation Agreements Among Competitors), 4A1.2 (Definitions and Instructions for Computing Criminal History), and 4B1.4 (Armed Career Criminal), to correct title references to §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).

Finally, the proposed amendment also makes clerical changes to—

- (1) the Commentary to §1B1.13 (Reduction in Term of Imprisonment Under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) (Policy Statement)), to correct a typographical error by inserting a missing word in Application Note 4;
- (2) subsection (d)(6) to §2D1.11 (Unlawfully Distributing, Importing, Exporting or Possessing a Listed Chemical; Attempt or Conspiracy), to correct a typographical error in the line referencing Pseudoephedrine;
- (3) subsection (e)(2) to §2D1.11 (Unlawfully Distributing, Importing, Exporting or Possessing a Listed Chemical; Attempt or Conspiracy), to correct a punctuation mark under the heading relating to List I Chemicals;
- (4) the Commentary to §2M2.1 (Destruction of, or Production of Defective, War Material, Premises, or Utilities) captioned “Statutory Provisions,” to add a missing section symbol and a reference to Appendix A (Statutory Index);
- (5) the Commentary to §2Q1.1 (Knowing Endangerment Resulting From Mishandling Hazardous or Toxic Substances, Pesticides or Other Pollutants) captioned “Statutory Provisions,” to add a missing reference to 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(5) and a reference to Appendix A (Statutory Index);
- (6) the Commentary to §2Q1.2 (Mishandling of Hazardous or Toxic Substances or Pesticides; Recordkeeping, Tampering, and Falsification; Unlawfully Transporting Hazardous Materials in Commerce) captioned “Statutory Provisions,” to add a specific reference to 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(1)–(4);
- (7) the Commentary to §2Q1.3 (Mishandling of Other Environmental Pollutants; Recordkeeping, Tampering, and Falsification) captioned “Statutory Provisions,” to add a specific reference to 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(1)–(4);
- (8) subsection (a)(4) to §5D1.3. (Conditions of Supervised Release), to change an inaccurate reference to “probation” to “supervised release”;
- (9) subsection (a) of §8C2.1 (Applicability of Fine Guidelines), to delete an outdated reference to §2C1.6, which was deleted by consolidation with §2C1.2 (Offering, Giving, Soliciting, or Receiving a Gratuity) effective November 1, 2004; and
- (10) the lines referencing “18 U.S.C. § 371” and “18 U.S.C. § 1591” in Appendix A (Statutory Index), to rearrange the order of certain Chapter Two guidelines references to place them in proper numerical order.

Proposed Amendment:

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION, AUTHORITY, AND GENERAL APPLICATION PRINCIPLES

PART A – INTRODUCTION AND AUTHORITY

* * *

1. ORIGINAL INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDELINES MANUAL

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4. The Guidelines' Resolution of Major Issues (Policy Statement)

* * *

(b) Departures.

The sentencing statute permits a court to depart from a guideline-specified sentence only when it finds “an aggravating or mitigating circumstance of a kind, or to a degree, not adequately taken into consideration by the Sentencing Commission in formulating the guidelines that should result in a sentence different from that described.” 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b). The Commission intends the sentencing courts to treat each guideline as carving out a “heartland,” a set of typical cases embodying the conduct that each guideline describes. When a court finds an atypical case, one to which a particular guideline linguistically applies but where conduct significantly differs from the norm, the court may consider whether a departure is warranted. Section 5H1.10 (Race, Sex, National Origin, Creed, Religion, and Socio-Economic Status), §5H1.12 (Lack of Guidance as a Youth and Similar Circumstances), the third sentence of §5H1.4 (Physical Condition, Including Drug or Alcohol Dependence or Abuse), the last sentence of §5K2.12 (Coercion and Duress), and §5K2.19 (Post-Sentencing Rehabilitative Efforts)* list several factors that the court cannot take into account as grounds for departure. With those specific exceptions, however, the Commission does not intend to limit the kinds of factors, whether or not mentioned anywhere else in the guidelines, that could constitute grounds for departure in an unusual case.

*Note: Section 5K2.19 (Post-Sentencing Rehabilitative Efforts) was deleted by Amendment 768, effective November 1, 2012. (See USSG App. C, amendment 768.)

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(d) Probation and Split Sentences.

The statute provides that the guidelines are to “reflect the general appropriateness of imposing a sentence other than imprisonment in cases in which the defendant is a first offender who has not been convicted of a crime of violence or an otherwise serious

offense . . .” 28 U.S.C. § 994(j). Under pre-guidelines sentencing practice, courts sentenced to probation an inappropriately high percentage of offenders guilty of certain economic crimes, such as theft, tax evasion, antitrust offenses, insider trading, fraud, and embezzlement, that in the Commission’s view are “serious.”

The Commission’s solution to this problem has been to write guidelines that classify as serious many offenses for which probation previously was frequently given and provide for at least a short period of imprisonment in such cases. The Commission concluded that the definite prospect of prison, even though the term may be short, will serve as a significant deterrent, particularly when compared with pre-guidelines practice where probation, not prison, was the norm.

More specifically, the guidelines work as follows in respect to a first offender. For offense levels one through eight, the sentencing court may elect to sentence the offender to probation (with or without confinement conditions) or to a prison term. For offense levels nine and ten, the court may substitute probation for a prison term, but the probation must include confinement conditions (community confinement, intermittent confinement, or home detention). For offense levels eleven and twelve, the court must impose at least one-half the minimum confinement sentence in the form of prison confinement, the remainder to be served on supervised release with a condition of community confinement or home detention. The Commission, of course, has not dealt with the single acts of aberrant behavior that still may justify probation at higher offense levels through departures.*

*Note: Although the Commission had not addressed “single acts of aberrant behavior” at the time the Introduction to the Guidelines Manual originally was written, it subsequently addressed the issue in Amendment 603, effective November 1, 2000. (See Supplement to Appendix C—USSG App. C, amendment 603.)

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§1B1.13. Reduction in Term of Imprisonment Under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) (Policy Statement)

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Commentary

Application Notes:

4. **Motion by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons.**—A reduction under this policy statement may be granted only upon motion by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A). The Commission encourages the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to file such a motion if the defendant meets any of the circumstances set forth in Application Note 1. The court is in a unique position to determine whether the circumstances warrant a reduction (and, if so, the amount of reduction), after considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and the criteria set forth in this policy statement, such as the defendant’s medical condition, the defendant’s family circumstances, and whether the defendant is a danger to the safety of any other person or to the community.

This policy statement shall not be construed to confer upon the defendant any right not otherwise recognized in law.

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§2A3.5. Failure to Register as a Sex Offender

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Commentary

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Application Notes:

1. **Definitions.**—For purposes of this guideline:

* * *

“*Sex offense*” has the meaning given that term in ~~42 U.S.C. § 16911(5)~~ 34 U.S.C. § 20911(5).

“*Tier I offender*”, “*Tier II offender*”, and “*Tier III offender*” have the meaning given the terms “tier I sex offender”, “tier II sex offender”, and “tier III sex offender”, respectively, in ~~42 U.S.C. § 16911~~ 34 U.S.C. § 20911.

* * *

§2B1.1. Larceny, Embezzlement, and Other Forms of Theft; Offenses Involving Stolen Property; Property Damage or Destruction; Fraud and Deceit; Forgery; Offenses Involving Altered or Counterfeit Instruments Other than Counterfeit Bearer Obligations of the United States

- (a) Base Offense Level:

- (1) **7**, if (A) the defendant was convicted of an offense referenced to this guideline; and (B) that offense of conviction has a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years or more; or
- (2) **6**, otherwise.

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Commentary

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Application Notes:

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2. **Application of Subsection (a)(1).**—

- (A) “**Referenced to this Guideline**”.—For purposes of subsection (a)(1), an offense is “*referenced to this guideline*” if (i) this guideline is the applicable Chapter Two guideline specifically referenced in Appendix A (Statutory Index) for the offense of conviction, as determined under the provisions of §1B1.2 (Applicable Guidelines) ~~for the offense of~~

conviction; or (ii) in the case of a conviction for conspiracy, solicitation, or attempt to which §2X1.1 (Attempt, Solicitation, or Conspiracy) applies, this guideline is the appropriate guideline for the offense the defendant was convicted of conspiring, soliciting, or attempting to commit.

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§2B1.5. Theft of, Damage to, or Destruction of, Cultural Heritage Resources or Paleontological Resources; Unlawful Sale, Purchase, Exchange, Transportation, or Receipt of Cultural Heritage Resources or Paleontological Resources

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Commentary

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Application Notes:

1. **Definitions.**—For purposes of this guideline:

(A) **“Cultural heritage resource”** means any of the following:

(i) A historic property, as defined in ~~16 U.S.C. § 470w(5)~~ **54 U.S.C. § 300308** (*see also* section 16(l) of 36 C.F.R. pt. 800).

~~(ii) A historic resource, as defined in 16 U.S.C. § 470w(5).~~

~~(iii)~~ (ii) An archaeological resource, as defined in 16 U.S.C. § 470bb(1) (*see also* section 3(a) of 43 C.F.R. pt. 7; 36 C.F.R. pt. 296; 32 C.F.R. pt. 229; 18 C.F.R. pt. 1312).

~~(iv)~~ (iii) A cultural item, as defined in section 2(3) of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. § 3001(3) (*see also* 43 C.F.R. § 10.2(d)).

~~(v)~~ (iv) A commemorative work. **“Commemorative work”** (I) has the meaning given that term in 40 U.S.C. § 8902(a)(1); and (II) includes any national monument or national memorial.

~~(vi)~~ (v) An object of cultural heritage, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 668(a)(2).

~~(vii)~~ (vi) Designated ethnological material, as described in 19 U.S.C. §§ 2601(2)(ii), 2601(7), and 2604.

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3. **Enhancement in Subsection (b)(2).**—For purposes of subsection (b)(2):

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(C) **“National Historic Landmark”** means a property designated as such pursuant to ~~16 U.S.C. § 470a(a)(1)(B)~~ **54 U.S.C. § 302102**.

- (D) “*National marine sanctuary*” means a national marine sanctuary designated as such by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1433.
- (E) “*National monument or national memorial*” means any national monument or national memorial established as such by Act of Congress or by proclamation pursuant to the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. § 431) 54 U.S.C. § 320301.
- (F) “*National park system*” has the meaning given that term in 16 U.S.C. § 1e(a) 54 U.S.C. § 100501.

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§2D1.11. Unlawfully Distributing, Importing, Exporting or Possessing a Listed Chemical; Attempt or Conspiracy

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**(d) EPHEDRINE, PSEUDOEPHEDRINE, AND PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE
QUANTITY TABLE*
(Methamphetamine and Amphetamine Precursor Chemicals)**

QUANTITY	BASE OFFENSE LEVEL
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* * *

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| (6) At least 70 G but less than 100 G of Ephedrine;
At least 70 G but less than 100 G of Phenylpropanolamine;
At least 70 G but less than 100 G of Pseudoephedrine Pseudoephedrine. | Level 28 |
|---|-----------------|

* * *

**(e) CHEMICAL QUANTITY TABLE*
(All Other Precursor Chemicals)**

LISTED CHEMICALS AND QUANTITY	BASE OFFENSE LEVEL
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- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| (2) List I Chemicals
At least 890 G but less than 2.7 KG of Benzaldehyde;
At least 20 KG but less than 60 KG of Benzyl Cyanide;
At least 200 G but less than 600 G of Ergonovine;
At least 400 G but less than 1.2 KG of Ergotamine;
At least 20 KG but less than 60 KG of Ethylamine;
At least 2.2 KG but less than 6.6 KG of Hydriodic Acid;
At least 1.3 KG but less than 3.9 KG of Iodine;
At least 320 KG but less than 960 KG of Isosafrole;
At least 200 G but less than 600 G of Methylamine;
At least 500 KG but less than 1500 KG of N-Methylephedrine;
At least 500 KG but less than 1500 KG of N-Methylpseudoephedrine;
At least 625 G but less than 1.9 KG of Nitroethane; | Level 28 |
|--|-----------------|

At least 10 KG but less than 30 KG of Norpseudoephedrine;
At least 20 KG but less than 60 KG of Phenylacetic Acid;
At least 10 KG but less than 30 KG of Piperidine;
At least 320 KG but less than 960 KG of Piperonal;
At least 1.6 KG but less than 4.8 KG of Propionic Anhydride;
At least 320 KG but less than 960 KG of Safrole;
At least 400 KG but less than 1200 KG of 3, 4-Methylenedioxyphenyl-2-propanone;
At least 1135.5 L but less than 3406.5 L of Gamma-butyrolactone;
At least 714 G but less than 2.1 KG of Red Phosphorus, White Phosphorus, or Hypophosphorous Acid.;

List II Chemicals

33 KG or more of Acetic Anhydride;
3525 KG or more of Acetone;
60 KG or more of Benzyl Chloride;
3225 KG or more of Ethyl Ether;
3600 KG or more of Methyl Ethyl Ketone;
30 KG or more of Potassium Permanganate;
3900 KG or more of Toluene.

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§2M2.1. Destruction of, or Production of Defective, War Material, Premises, or Utilities

(a) Base Offense Level: **32**

Commentary

Statutory Provisions: 18 U.S.C. §§ 2153, 2154; 42 U.S.C. § 2284; 49 U.S.C. § 60123(b). For additional statutory provision(s), see Appendix A (Statutory Index).

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§2Q1.1. Knowing Endangerment Resulting From Mishandling Hazardous or Toxic Substances, Pesticides or Other Pollutants

(a) Base Offense Level: **24**

Commentary

Statutory Provisions: 18 U.S.C. § 1992(b)(3); 33 U.S.C. § 1319(c)(3); 42 U.S.C. §§ 6928(e), 7413(c)(5). For additional statutory provision(s), see Appendix A (Statutory Index).

* * *

§2Q1.2. Mishandling of Hazardous or Toxic Substances or Pesticides; Recordkeeping, Tampering, and Falsification; Unlawfully Transporting Hazardous Materials in Commerce

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Commentary

Statutory Provisions: 7 U.S.C. §§ 136j–136l; 15 U.S.C. §§ 2614 and 2615; 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(c)(1), (2), 1321(b)(5), 1517(b); 42 U.S.C. §§ 300h-2, 6928(d), 7413(c)(1)–(4), 9603(b), (c), (d); 43 U.S.C. §§ 1350, 1816(a), 1822(b); 49 U.S.C. §§ 5124, 46312. For additional statutory provision(s), *see* Appendix A (Statutory Index).

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§2Q1.3. Mishandling of Other Environmental Pollutants; Recordkeeping, Tampering, and Falsification

* * *

Commentary

Statutory Provisions: 33 U.S.C. §§ 403, 406, 407, 411, 1319(c)(1), (c)(2), 1415(b), 1907, 1908; 42 U.S.C. § 7413(c)(1)–(4). For additional statutory provision(s), *see* Appendix A (Statutory Index).

Application Notes:

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8. Where a defendant has previously engaged in similar misconduct established by a civil adjudication or has failed to comply with an administrative order, an upward departure may be warranted. *See* §4A1.3 (~~Adequacy of Criminal History Category~~ Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).

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§2R1.1. Bid-Rigging, Price-Fixing or Market-Allocation Agreements Among Competitors

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Commentary

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Application Notes:

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7. In the case of a defendant with previous antitrust convictions, a sentence at the maximum of the applicable guideline range, or an upward departure, may be warranted. *See* §4A1.3 (~~Adequacy of Criminal History Category~~ Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).

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§2X5.2. Class A Misdemeanors (Not Covered by Another Specific Offense Guideline)

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Commentary

Statutory Provisions: 18 U.S.C. §§ 1365(f), 1801; ~~42 U.S.C. § 14133~~ 34 U.S.C. §12593; 49 U.S.C. § 31310.

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§4A1.2. Definitions and Instructions for Computing Criminal History

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(h) FOREIGN SENTENCES

Sentences resulting from foreign convictions are not counted, but may be considered under §4A1.3 (~~Adequacy of Criminal History Category~~Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).

(i) TRIBAL COURT SENTENCES

Sentences resulting from tribal court convictions are not counted, but may be considered under §4A1.3 (~~Adequacy of Criminal History Category~~Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).

(j) EXPUNGED CONVICTIONS

Sentences for expunged convictions are not counted, but may be considered under §4A1.3 (~~Adequacy of Criminal History Category~~Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).

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Commentary

Application Notes:

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6. **Reversed, Vacated, or Invalidated Convictions.**—Sentences resulting from convictions that (A) have been reversed or vacated because of errors of law or because of subsequently discovered evidence exonerating the defendant, or (B) have been ruled constitutionally invalid in a prior case are not to be counted. With respect to the current sentencing proceeding, this guideline and commentary do not confer upon the defendant any right to attack collaterally a prior conviction or sentence beyond any such rights otherwise recognized in law (*e.g.*, 21 U.S.C. § 851 expressly provides that a defendant may collaterally attack certain prior convictions).

Nonetheless, the criminal conduct underlying any conviction that is not counted in the criminal history score may be considered pursuant to §4A1.3 (~~Adequacy of Criminal History Category~~Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).

* * *

8. **Applicable Time Period.**—Section 4A1.2(d)(2) and (e) establishes the time period within which prior sentences are counted. As used in §4A1.2(d)(2) and (e), the term “*commencement of the instant offense*” includes any relevant conduct. See §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct). If the court finds that a sentence imposed outside this time period is evidence of similar, or serious dissimilar, criminal conduct, the court may consider this information in determining whether an upward departure is warranted under §4A1.3 (Adequacy of Criminal History Category Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).

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§4B1.4. Armed Career Criminal

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Commentary

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Background: This section implements 18 U.S.C. § 924(e), which requires a minimum sentence of imprisonment of fifteen years for a defendant who violates 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) and has three previous convictions for a violent felony or a serious drug offense. If the offense level determined under this section is greater than the offense level otherwise applicable, the offense level determined under this section shall be applied. A minimum criminal history category (Category IV) is provided, reflecting that each defendant to whom this section applies will have at least three prior convictions for serious offenses. In some cases, the criminal history category may not adequately reflect the defendant’s criminal history; see §4A1.3 (Adequacy of Criminal History Category Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)).

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§5B1.3. Conditions of Probation

(a) MANDATORY CONDITIONS

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- (10) The defendant shall submit to the collection of a DNA sample from the defendant at the direction of the United States Probation Office if the collection of such a sample is authorized pursuant to section 3 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. § 14135a-34 U.S.C. § 40702).

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§5D1.3. Conditions of Supervised Release

(a) MANDATORY CONDITIONS

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- (4) The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance and submit to one drug test within 15 days of release on ~~probation~~ supervised release and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter (as determined by the court) for use of a controlled substance, but the condition stated in this paragraph may be ameliorated or suspended by the court for any individual defendant if the defendant's presentence report or other reliable information indicates a low risk of future substance abuse by the defendant (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).

* * *

- (8) The defendant shall submit to the collection of a DNA sample from the defendant at the direction of the United States Probation Office if the collection of such a sample is authorized pursuant to section 3 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (~~42 U.S.C. § 14135a~~ 34 U.S.C. § 40702).

* * *

§8C2.1. Applicability of Fine Guidelines

The provisions of §§8C2.2 through 8C2.9 apply to each count for which the applicable guideline offense level is determined under:

- (a) §§2B1.1, 2B1.4, 2B2.3, 2B4.1, 2B5.3, 2B6.1;
§§2C1.1, 2C1.2, ~~2C1.6~~;
§§2D1.7, 2D3.1, 2D3.2;
§§2E3.1, 2E4.1, 2E5.1, 2E5.3;
§2G3.1;
§§2K1.1, 2K2.1;
§2L1.1;
§2N3.1;
§2R1.1;
§§2S1.1, 2S1.3;
§§2T1.1, 2T1.4, 2T1.6, 2T1.7, 2T1.8, 2T1.9, 2T2.1, 2T2.2, 2T3.1; or
- (b) §§2E1.1, 2X1.1, 2X2.1, 2X3.1, 2X4.1, with respect to cases in which the offense level for the underlying offense is determined under one of the guideline sections listed in subsection (a) above.

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APPENDIX A

STATUTORY INDEX

* * *

16 U.S.C. § 146 2B1.1, 2B2.3

~~16 U.S.C. § 413~~ ~~2B1.1~~

16 U.S.C. § 470aaa-5 2B1.1, 2B1.5

* * *

18 U.S.C. § 371 2A1.5, 2C1.1 (if conspiracy to defraud by interference with governmental functions), ~~2T1.9~~, 2K2.1 (if a conspiracy to violate 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)), **2T1.9**, 2X1.1

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18 U.S.C. § 1591 2G1.1, ~~2G2.1~~, 2G1.3, **2G2.1**

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18 U.S.C. § 1864 2Q1.6

18 U.S.C. § 1865(c) 2B1.1

18 U.S.C. § 1901 2C1.3

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33 U.S.C. § 3851 2Q1.2

34 U.S.C. § 10251 2B1.1

34 U.S.C. § 10271 2B1.1

34 U.S.C. § 12593 2X5.2

34 U.S.C. § 20962 2H3.1

34 U.S.C. § 20984 2H3.1

38 U.S.C. § 787 2B1.1

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42 U.S.C. § 3631 2H1.1

~~42 U.S.C. § 3791~~ ~~2B1.1~~

42 U.S.C. § 3792 2B1.1

~~42 U.S.C. § 3795~~ ————— ~~2B1.1~~

42 U.S.C. § 5157(a) 2B1.1

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42 U.S.C. § 9603(d) 2Q1.2

~~42 U.S.C. §14133~~ ————— ~~2X5.2~~

42 U.S.C. § 14905 2B1.1

~~42 U.S.C. § 16962~~ ————— ~~2H3.1~~

~~42 U.S.C. § 16984~~ ————— ~~2H3.1~~

43 U.S.C. § 1350 2Q1.2

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

MARIHUANA EQUIVALENCY

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: This proposed amendment makes technical changes to §2D1.1 (Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy) to replace the term “marihuana equivalency” which is used in the Drug Equivalency Tables when determining penalties for certain controlled substances.

The Commentary to §2D1.1 sets forth a series of Drug Equivalency Tables. These tables provide a conversion factor termed “marihuana equivalency” for certain controlled substances that is used to determine the offense level for cases in which the controlled substance involved in the offense is not specifically listed in the Drug Quantity Table, or where there is more than one controlled substance involved in the offense (whether or not listed in the Drug Quantity Table). *See* §2D1.1, comment. (n.8). The Drug Equivalency Tables are separated by drug type and schedule.

In a case involving a controlled substance that is not specifically referenced in the Drug Quantity Table, the base offense level is determined by using the Drug Equivalency Tables to convert the quantity of the controlled substance involved in the offense to its marihuana equivalency, then finding the offense level in the Drug Quantity Table that corresponds to that quantity of marihuana. In a case involving more than one controlled substance, each of the drugs is converted into its marihuana equivalency, the converted quantities are added, and the aggregate quantity is used to find the offense level in the Drug Quantity Table.

The Commission received comment expressing concern that the term “marihuana equivalency” is misleading and results in confusion for individuals not fully versed in the guidelines. In particular, some commenters suggested that the Commission should replace “marihuana equivalency” with another term.

The proposed amendment would amend §2D1.1 to replace “marihuana equivalency” as the conversion factor for determining penalties for controlled substances that are not specifically referenced in the Drug Quantity Table or when combining differing controlled substances, with a new value termed “converted drug weight.” Specifically, the proposed amendment would add the new conversion factor to all provisions of the Drug Quantity Table at §2D1.1(c) and change the title of the “Drug Equivalency Tables” to “Drug Conversion Tables.” In addition, the proposed amendment would make technical changes to the Commentary to §2D1.1 and through the *Guidelines Manual* to replace all references to marihuana as a conversion factor with the new value.

All changes set forth in the proposed amendment are not intended as a substantive change in policy for §2D1.1.

Proposed Amendment:

§2D1.1. Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy

(a) Base Offense Level (Apply the greatest):

- (1) **43**, if the defendant is convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), or (b)(1)(C), or 21 U.S.C. § 960(b)(1), (b)(2), or (b)(3), and the offense of conviction establishes that death or serious bodily injury resulted from the use of the substance and that the defendant committed the offense after one or more prior convictions for a similar offense; or
- (2) **38**, if the defendant is convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), or (b)(1)(C), or 21 U.S.C. § 960(b)(1), (b)(2), or (b)(3), and the offense of conviction establishes that death or serious bodily injury resulted from the use of the substance; or
- (3) **30**, if the defendant is convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(E) or 21 U.S.C. § 960(b)(5), and the offense of conviction establishes that death or serious bodily injury resulted from the use of the substance and that the defendant committed the offense after one or more prior convictions for a similar offense; or
- (4) **26**, if the defendant is convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(E) or 21 U.S.C. § 960(b)(5), and the offense of conviction establishes that death or serious bodily injury resulted from the use of the substance; or
- (5) the offense level specified in the Drug Quantity Table set forth in subsection (c), except that if (A) the defendant receives an adjustment under §3B1.2 (Mitigating Role); and (B) the base offense level under subsection (c) is (i) level **32**, decrease by **2** levels; (ii) level **34** or level **36**, decrease by **3** levels; or (iii) level **38**, decrease by **4** levels. If the resulting offense level is greater than level **32** and the defendant receives the **4**-level (“minimal participant”) reduction in §3B1.2(a), decrease to level **32**.

(b) Specific Offense Characteristics

- (1) If a dangerous weapon (including a firearm) was possessed, increase by **2** levels.

- (2) If the defendant used violence, made a credible threat to use violence, or directed the use of violence, increase by **2** levels.
- (3) If the defendant unlawfully imported or exported a controlled substance under circumstances in which (A) an aircraft other than a regularly scheduled commercial air carrier was used to import or export the controlled substance, (B) a submersible vessel or semi-submersible vessel as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2285 was used, or (C) the defendant acted as a pilot, copilot, captain, navigator, flight officer, or any other operation officer aboard any craft or vessel carrying a controlled substance, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **26**, increase to level **26**.
- (4) If the object of the offense was the distribution of a controlled substance in a prison, correctional facility, or detention facility, increase by **2** levels.
- (5) If (A) the offense involved the importation of amphetamine or methamphetamine or the manufacture of amphetamine or methamphetamine from listed chemicals that the defendant knew were imported unlawfully, and (B) the defendant is not subject to an adjustment under §3B1.2 (Mitigating Role), increase by **2** levels.
- (6) If the defendant is convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 865, increase by **2** levels.
- (7) If the defendant, or a person for whose conduct the defendant is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct), distributed a controlled substance through mass-marketing by means of an interactive computer service, increase by **2** levels.
- (8) If the offense involved the distribution of an anabolic steroid and a masking agent, increase by **2** levels.
- (9) If the defendant distributed an anabolic steroid to an athlete, increase by **2** levels.
- (10) If the defendant was convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(g)(1)(A), increase by **2** levels.
- (11) If the defendant bribed, or attempted to bribe, a law enforcement officer to facilitate the commission of the offense, increase by **2** levels.
- (12) If the defendant maintained a premises for the purpose of manufacturing or distributing a controlled substance, increase by **2** levels.

(13) (Apply the greatest):

(A) If the offense involved (i) an unlawful discharge, emission, or release into the environment of a hazardous or toxic substance; or (ii) the unlawful transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of a hazardous waste, increase by **2** levels.

(B) If the defendant was convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 860a of distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute, methamphetamine on premises where a minor is present or resides, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **14**, increase to level **14**.

(C) If—

(i) the defendant was convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 860a of manufacturing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, methamphetamine on premises where a minor is present or resides; or

(ii) the offense involved the manufacture of amphetamine or methamphetamine and the offense created a substantial risk of harm to (I) human life other than a life described in subdivision (D); or (II) the environment,

increase by **3** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **27**, increase to level **27**.

(D) If the offense (i) involved the manufacture of amphetamine or methamphetamine; and (ii) created a substantial risk of harm to the life of a minor or an incompetent, increase by **6** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **30**, increase to level **30**.

(14) If (A) the offense involved the cultivation of marihuana on state or federal land or while trespassing on tribal or private land; and (B) the defendant receives an adjustment under §3B1.1 (Aggravating Role), increase by **2** levels.

(15) If the defendant receives an adjustment under §3B1.1 (Aggravating Role) and the offense involved 1 or more of the following factors:

(A) (i) the defendant used fear, impulse, friendship, affection, or some combination thereof to involve another individual in the illegal purchase, sale, transport, or storage of controlled substances, (ii) the individual received little or no compensation

from the illegal purchase, sale, transport, or storage of controlled substances, and (iii) the individual had minimal knowledge of the scope and structure of the enterprise;

- (B) the defendant, knowing that an individual was (i) less than 18 years of age, (ii) 65 or more years of age, (iii) pregnant, or (iv) unusually vulnerable due to physical or mental condition or otherwise particularly susceptible to the criminal conduct, distributed a controlled substance to that individual or involved that individual in the offense;
- (C) the defendant was directly involved in the importation of a controlled substance;
- (D) the defendant engaged in witness intimidation, tampered with or destroyed evidence, or otherwise obstructed justice in connection with the investigation or prosecution of the offense;
- (E) the defendant committed the offense as part of a pattern of criminal conduct engaged in as a livelihood,

increase by **2** levels.

(16) If the defendant receives the 4-level (“minimal participant”) reduction in §3B1.2(a) and the offense involved all of the following factors:

- (A) the defendant was motivated by an intimate or familial relationship or by threats or fear to commit the offense and was otherwise unlikely to commit such an offense;
- (B) the defendant received no monetary compensation from the illegal purchase, sale, transport, or storage of controlled substances; and
- (C) the defendant had minimal knowledge of the scope and structure of the enterprise,

decrease by **2** levels.

(17) If the defendant meets the criteria set forth in subdivisions (1)–(5) of subsection (a) of §5C1.2 (Limitation on Applicability of Statutory Minimum Sentences in Certain Cases), decrease by **2** levels.

[Subsection (c) (Drug Quantity Table) is set forth on the following pages.]

(d) Cross References

- (1) If a victim was killed under circumstances that would constitute murder under 18 U.S.C. § 1111 had such killing taken place within the territorial or maritime jurisdiction of the United States, apply §2A1.1 (First Degree Murder) or §2A1.2 (Second Degree Murder), as appropriate, if the resulting offense level is greater than that determined under this guideline.
- (2) If the defendant was convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(7) (of distributing a controlled substance with intent to commit a crime of violence), apply §2X1.1 (Attempt, Solicitation, or Conspiracy) in respect to the crime of violence that the defendant committed, or attempted or intended to commit, if the resulting offense level is greater than that determined above.

(e) Special Instruction

- (1) If (A) subsection (d)(2) does not apply; and (B) the defendant committed, or attempted to commit, a sexual offense against another individual by distributing, with or without that individual's knowledge, a controlled substance to that individual, an adjustment under §3A1.1(b)(1) shall apply.

(c) DRUG QUANTITY TABLE

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND QUANTITY*	BASE OFFENSE LEVEL
(1) <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 90 KG or more of Heroin;● 450 KG or more of Cocaine;● 25.2 KG or more of Cocaine Base;● 90 KG or more of PCP, or 9 KG or more of PCP (actual);● 45 KG or more of Methamphetamine, or 4.5 KG or more of Methamphetamine (actual), or 4.5 KG or more of "Ice";● 45 KG or more of Amphetamine, or 4.5 KG or more of Amphetamine (actual);● 900 G or more of LSD;● 36 KG or more of Fentanyl;● 9 KG or more of a Fentanyl Analogue;● 90,000 KG or more of Marihuana;● 18,000 KG or more of Hashish;● 1,800 KG or more of Hashish Oil;● 90,000,000 units or more of Ketamine;● 90,000,000 units or more of Schedule I or II Depressants;● 5,625,000 units or more of Flunitrazepam;● 90,000 KG or more of Converted Drug Weight.	Level 38

- (2) **Level 36**
- At least 30 KG but less than 90 KG of Heroin;
 - At least 150 KG but less than 450 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 8.4 KG but less than 25.2 KG of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 30 KG but less than 90 KG of PCP, or
at least 3 KG but less than 9 KG of PCP (actual);
 - At least 15 KG but less than 45 KG of Methamphetamine, or
at least 1.5 KG but less than 4.5 KG of Methamphetamine (actual), or
at least 1.5 KG but less than 4.5 KG of “Ice”;
 - At least 15 KG but less than 45 KG of Amphetamine, or
at least 1.5 KG but less than 4.5 KG of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 300 G but less than 900 G of LSD;
 - At least 12 KG but less than 36 KG of Fentanyl;
 - At least 3 KG but less than 9 KG of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 30,000 KG but less than 90,000 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 6,000 KG but less than 18,000 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 600 KG but less than 1,800 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 30,000,000 units but less than 90,000,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 30,000,000 units but less than 90,000,000 units of
Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 1,875,000 units but less than 5,625,000 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 30,000 KG but less than 90,000 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.

- (3) **Level 34**
- At least 10 KG but less than 30 KG of Heroin;
 - At least 50 KG but less than 150 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 2.8 KG but less than 8.4 KG of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 10 KG but less than 30 KG of PCP, or
at least 1 KG but less than 3 KG of PCP (actual);
 - At least 5 KG but less than 15 KG of Methamphetamine, or
at least 500 G but less than 1.5 KG of Methamphetamine (actual), or
at least 500 G but less than 1.5 KG of “Ice”;
 - At least 5 KG but less than 15 KG of Amphetamine, or
at least 500 G but less than 1.5 KG of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 100 G but less than 300 G of LSD;
 - At least 4 KG but less than 12 KG of Fentanyl;
 - At least 1 KG but less than 3 KG of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 10,000 KG but less than 30,000 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 2,000 KG but less than 6,000 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 200 KG but less than 600 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 10,000,000 but less than 30,000,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 10,000,000 but less than 30,000,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 625,000 but less than 1,875,000 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 10,000 KG but less than 30,000 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.

- (4) **Level 32**
- At least 3 KG but less than 10 KG of Heroin;
 - At least 15 KG but less than 50 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 840 G but less than 2.8 KG of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 3 KG but less than 10 KG of PCP, or
at least 300 G but less than 1 KG of PCP (actual);
 - At least 1.5 KG but less than 5 KG of Methamphetamine, or
at least 150 G but less than 500 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or
at least 150 G but less than 500 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 1.5 KG but less than 5 KG of Amphetamine, or
at least 150 G but less than 500 G of Amphetamine (actual);

- At least 30 G but less than 100 G of LSD;
- At least 1.2 KG but less than 4 KG of Fentanyl;
- At least 300 G but less than 1 KG of a Fentanyl Analogue;
- At least 3,000 KG but less than 10,000 KG of Marihuana;
- At least 600 KG but less than 2,000 KG of Hashish;
- At least 60 KG but less than 200 KG of Hashish Oil;
- At least 3,000,000 but less than 10,000,000 units of Ketamine;
- At least 3,000,000 but less than 10,000,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
- At least 187,500 but less than 625,000 units of Flunitrazepam;
- At least 3,000 KG but less than 10,000 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.

- (5) **Level 30**
- At least 1 KG but less than 3 KG of Heroin;
 - At least 5 KG but less than 15 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 280 G but less than 840 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 1 KG but less than 3 KG of PCP, or at least 100 G but less than 300 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 500 G but less than 1.5 KG of Methamphetamine, or at least 50 G but less than 150 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 50 G but less than 150 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 500 G but less than 1.5 KG of Amphetamine, or at least 50 G but less than 150 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 10 G but less than 30 G of LSD;
 - At least 400 G but less than 1.2 KG of Fentanyl;
 - At least 100 G but less than 300 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 1,000 KG but less than 3,000 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 200 KG but less than 600 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 20 KG but less than 60 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 1,000,000 but less than 3,000,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 1,000,000 but less than 3,000,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 62,500 but less than 187,500 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 1,000 KG but less than 3,000 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.

- (6) **Level 28**
- At least 700 G but less than 1 KG of Heroin;
 - At least 3.5 KG but less than 5 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 196 G but less than 280 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 700 G but less than 1 KG of PCP, or at least 70 G but less than 100 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 350 G but less than 500 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 35 G but less than 50 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 35 G but less than 50 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 350 G but less than 500 G of Amphetamine, or at least 35 G but less than 50 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 7 G but less than 10 G of LSD;
 - At least 280 G but less than 400 G of Fentanyl;
 - At least 70 G but less than 100 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 700 KG but less than 1,000 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 140 KG but less than 200 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 14 KG but less than 20 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 700,000 but less than 1,000,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 700,000 but less than 1,000,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 43,750 but less than 62,500 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 700 KG but less than 1,000 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.

- (7) **Level 26**
- At least 400 G but less than 700 G of Heroin;
 - At least 2 KG but less than 3.5 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 112 G but less than 196 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 400 G but less than 700 G of PCP, or at least 40 G but less than 70 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 200 G but less than 350 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 20 G but less than 35 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 20 G but less than 35 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 200 G but less than 350 G of Amphetamine, or at least 20 G but less than 35 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 4 G but less than 7 G of LSD;
 - At least 160 G but less than 280 G of Fentanyl;
 - At least 40 G but less than 70 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 400 KG but less than 700 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 80 KG but less than 140 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 8 KG but less than 14 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 400,000 but less than 700,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 400,000 but less than 700,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 25,000 but less than 43,750 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 400 KG but less than 700 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.
- (8) **Level 24**
- At least 100 G but less than 400 G of Heroin;
 - At least 500 G but less than 2 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 28 G but less than 112 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 100 G but less than 400 G of PCP, or at least 10 G but less than 40 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 50 G but less than 200 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 5 G but less than 20 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 5 G but less than 20 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 50 G but less than 200 G of Amphetamine, or at least 5 G but less than 20 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 1 G but less than 4 G of LSD;
 - At least 40 G but less than 160 G of Fentanyl;
 - At least 10 G but less than 40 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 100 KG but less than 400 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 20 KG but less than 80 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 2 KG but less than 8 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 100,000 but less than 400,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 100,000 but less than 400,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 6,250 but less than 25,000 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 100 KG but less than 400 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.
- (9) **Level 22**
- At least 80 G but less than 100 G of Heroin;
 - At least 400 G but less than 500 G of Cocaine;
 - At least 22.4 G but less than 28 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 80 G but less than 100 G of PCP, or at least 8 G but less than 10 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 40 G but less than 50 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 4 G but less than 5 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 4 G but less than 5 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 40 G but less than 50 G of Amphetamine, or at least 4 G but less than 5 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 800 MG but less than 1 G of LSD;

- At least 32 G but less than 40 G of Fentanyl;
- At least 8 G but less than 10 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
- At least 80 KG but less than 100 KG of Marihuana;
- At least 16 KG but less than 20 KG of Hashish;
- At least 1.6 KG but less than 2 KG of Hashish Oil;
- At least 80,000 but less than 100,000 units of Ketamine;
- At least 80,000 but less than 100,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
- At least 5,000 but less than 6,250 units of Flunitrazepam;
- At least 80 KG but less than 100 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.

- (10) **Level 20**
- At least 60 G but less than 80 G of Heroin;
 - At least 300 G but less than 400 G of Cocaine;
 - At least 16.8 G but less than 22.4 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 60 G but less than 80 G of PCP, or
at least 6 G but less than 8 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 30 G but less than 40 G of Methamphetamine, or
at least 3 G but less than 4 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or
at least 3 G but less than 4 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 30 G but less than 40 G of Amphetamine, or
at least 3 G but less than 4 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 600 MG but less than 800 MG of LSD;
 - At least 24 G but less than 32 G of Fentanyl;
 - At least 6 G but less than 8 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 60 KG but less than 80 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 12 KG but less than 16 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 1.2 KG but less than 1.6 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 60,000 but less than 80,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 60,000 but less than 80,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - 60,000 units or more of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - At least 3,750 but less than 5,000 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 60 KG but less than 80 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.

- (11) **Level 18**
- At least 40 G but less than 60 G of Heroin;
 - At least 200 G but less than 300 G of Cocaine;
 - At least 11.2 G but less than 16.8 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 40 G but less than 60 G of PCP, or
at least 4 G but less than 6 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 20 G but less than 30 G of Methamphetamine, or
at least 2 G but less than 3 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or
at least 2 G but less than 3 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 20 G but less than 30 G of Amphetamine, or
at least 2 G but less than 3 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 400 MG but less than 600 MG of LSD;
 - At least 16 G but less than 24 G of Fentanyl;
 - At least 4 G but less than 6 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 40 KG but less than 60 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 8 KG but less than 12 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 800 G but less than 1.2 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 40,000 but less than 60,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 40,000 but less than 60,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 40,000 but less than 60,000 units of Schedule III substances (except
Ketamine);

- At least 2,500 but less than 3,750 units of Flunitrazepam;
- At least 40 KG but less than 60 KG of *Converted Drug Weight*.

- (12) **Level 16**
- At least 20 G but less than 40 G of Heroin;
 - At least 100 G but less than 200 G of Cocaine;
 - At least 5.6 G but less than 11.2 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 20 G but less than 40 G of PCP, or at least 2 G but less than 4 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 10 G but less than 20 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 1 G but less than 2 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 1 G but less than 2 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 10 G but less than 20 G of Amphetamine, or at least 1 G but less than 2 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 200 MG but less than 400 MG of LSD;
 - At least 8 G but less than 16 G of Fentanyl;
 - At least 2 G but less than 4 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 20 KG but less than 40 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 5 KG but less than 8 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 500 G but less than 800 G of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 20,000 but less than 40,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 20,000 but less than 40,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 20,000 but less than 40,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - At least 1,250 but less than 2,500 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 20 KG but less than 40 KG of *Converted Drug Weight*.

- (13) **Level 14**
- At least 10 G but less than 20 G of Heroin;
 - At least 50 G but less than 100 G of Cocaine;
 - At least 2.8 G but less than 5.6 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 10 G but less than 20 G of PCP, or at least 1 G but less than 2 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 5 G but less than 10 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 500 MG but less than 1 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 500 MG but less than 1 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 5 G but less than 10 G of Amphetamine, or at least 500 MG but less than 1 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 100 MG but less than 200 MG of LSD;
 - At least 4 G but less than 8 G of Fentanyl;
 - At least 1 G but less than 2 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 10 KG but less than 20 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 2 KG but less than 5 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 200 G but less than 500 G of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 10,000 but less than 20,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 10,000 but less than 20,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 10,000 but less than 20,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - At least 625 but less than 1,250 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 10 KG but less than 20 KG of *Converted Drug Weight*.

- (14) **Level 12**
- Less than 10 G of Heroin;
 - Less than 50 G of Cocaine;
 - Less than 2.8 G of Cocaine Base;
 - Less than 10 G of PCP, or

- less than 1 G of PCP (actual);
- Less than 5 G of Methamphetamine, or less than 500 MG of Methamphetamine (actual), or less than 500 MG of “Ice”;
- Less than 5 G of Amphetamine, or less than 500 MG of Amphetamine (actual);
- Less than 100 MG of LSD;
- Less than 4 G of Fentanyl;
- Less than 1 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
- At least 5 KG but less than 10 KG of Marihuana;
- At least 1 KG but less than 2 KG of Hashish;
- At least 100 G but less than 200 G of Hashish Oil;
- At least 5,000 but less than 10,000 units of Ketamine;
- At least 5,000 but less than 10,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
- At least 5,000 but less than 10,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
- At least 312 but less than 625 units of Flunitrazepam;
- 80,000 units or more of Schedule IV substances (except Flunitrazepam);
- At least 5 KG but less than 10 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.

- (15) **Level 10**
- At least 2.5 KG but less than 5 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 500 G but less than 1 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 50 G but less than 100 G of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 2,500 but less than 5,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 2,500 but less than 5,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 2,500 but less than 5,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - At least 156 but less than 312 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 40,000 but less than 80,000 units of Schedule IV substances (except Flunitrazepam);
 - At least 2.5 KG but less than 5 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.

- (16) **Level 8**
- At least 1 KG but less than 2.5 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 200 G but less than 500 G of Hashish;
 - At least 20 G but less than 50 G of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 1,000 but less than 2,500 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 1,000 but less than 2,500 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 1,000 but less than 2,500 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - Less than 156 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 16,000 but less than 40,000 units of Schedule IV substances (except Flunitrazepam);
 - 160,000 units or more of Schedule V substances;
 - At least 1 KG but less than 2.5 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.

- (17) **Level 6**
- Less than 1 KG of Marihuana;
 - Less than 200 G of Hashish;
 - Less than 20 G of Hashish Oil;
 - Less than 1,000 units of Ketamine;
 - Less than 1,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - Less than 1,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - Less than 16,000 units of Schedule IV substances (except

- Flunitrazepam);
- Less than 160,000 units of Schedule V substances;
 - Less than 1 KG of **Converted Drug Weight**.
-

***Notes to Drug Quantity Table:**

- (A) Unless otherwise specified, the weight of a controlled substance set forth in the table refers to the entire weight of any mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of the controlled substance. If a mixture or substance contains more than one controlled substance, the weight of the entire mixture or substance is assigned to the controlled substance that results in the greater offense level.
- (B) The terms “**PCP (actual)**”, “**Amphetamine (actual)**”, and “**Methamphetamine (actual)**” refer to the weight of the controlled substance, itself, contained in the mixture or substance. For example, a mixture weighing 10 grams containing PCP at 50% purity contains 5 grams of PCP (actual). In the case of a mixture or substance containing PCP, amphetamine, or methamphetamine, use the offense level determined by the entire weight of the mixture or substance, or the offense level determined by the weight of the PCP (actual), amphetamine (actual), or methamphetamine (actual), whichever is greater.

The terms “**Hydrocodone (actual)**” and “**Oxycodone (actual)**” refer to the weight of the controlled substance, itself, contained in the pill, capsule, or mixture.

- (C) “**Ice**,” for the purposes of this guideline, means a mixture or substance containing d-methamphetamine hydrochloride of at least 80% purity.
- (D) “**Cocaine base**,” for the purposes of this guideline, means “crack.” “**Crack**” is the street name for a form of cocaine base, usually prepared by processing cocaine hydrochloride and sodium bicarbonate, and usually appearing in a lumpy, rocklike form.
- (E) In the case of an offense involving marijuana plants, treat each plant, regardless of sex, as equivalent to 100 grams of marijuana. *Provided*, however, that if the actual weight of the marijuana is greater, use the actual weight of the marijuana.
- (F) In the case of Schedule I or II Depressants (except gamma-hydroxybutyric acid), Schedule III substances, Schedule IV substances, and Schedule V substances, one “**unit**” means one pill, capsule, or tablet. If the substance (except gamma-hydroxybutyric acid) is in liquid form, one “**unit**” means 0.5 milliliters. For an anabolic steroid that is not in a pill, capsule, tablet, or liquid form (*e.g.*, patch, topical cream, aerosol), the court shall determine the base offense level using a reasonable estimate of the quantity of anabolic steroid involved in the offense. In making a reasonable estimate, the court shall consider that each 25 milligrams of an anabolic steroid is one “unit”.

- (G) In the case of LSD on a carrier medium (e.g., a sheet of blotter paper), do not use the weight of the LSD/carrier medium. Instead, treat each dose of LSD on the carrier medium as equal to 0.4 milligrams of LSD for the purposes of the Drug Quantity Table.
- (H) **Hashish**, for the purposes of this guideline, means a resinous substance of cannabis that includes (i) one or more of the tetrahydrocannabinols (as listed in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11(d)(31)), (ii) at least two of the following: cannabidiol, cannabichromene, or cannabichromene, and (iii) fragments of plant material (such as cystolith fibers).
- (I) **Hashish oil**, for the purposes of this guideline, means a preparation of the soluble cannabinoids derived from cannabis that includes (i) one or more of the tetrahydrocannabinols (as listed in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11(d)(31)), (ii) at least two of the following: cannabidiol, cannabichromene, and (iii) is essentially free of plant material (e.g., plant fragments). Typically, hashish oil is a viscous, dark colored oil, but it can vary from a dry resin to a colorless liquid.
- (J) The term “**Converted Drug Weight**,” for purposes of this guideline, refers to a nominal reference designation that is used as a conversion factor in the Drug Conversion Tables set forth in the Commentary below, to determine the offense level for controlled substances that are not specifically referenced in the Drug Quantity Table or when combining differing controlled substances.

Commentary

Statutory Provisions: 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a), (b)(1)–(3), (7), (g), 860a, 865, 960(a), (b); 49 U.S.C. § 46317(b). For additional statutory provision(s), see Appendix A (Statutory Index).

Application Notes:

1. “**Mixture or Substance**”.—“**Mixture or substance**” as used in this guideline has the same meaning as in 21 U.S.C. § 841, except as expressly provided. Mixture or substance does not include materials that must be separated from the controlled substance before the controlled substance can be used. Examples of such materials include the fiberglass in a cocaine/ fiberglass bonded suitcase, beeswax in a cocaine/beeswax statue, and waste water from an illicit laboratory used to manufacture a controlled substance. If such material cannot readily be separated from the mixture or substance that appropriately is counted in the Drug Quantity Table, the court may use any reasonable method to approximate the weight of the mixture or substance to be counted.

An upward departure nonetheless may be warranted when the mixture or substance counted in the Drug Quantity Table is combined with other, non-countable material in an unusually sophisticated manner in order to avoid detection.

Similarly, in the case of marihuana having a moisture content that renders the marihuana unsuitable for consumption without drying (this might occur, for example, with a bale of rain-soaked marihuana or freshly harvested marihuana that had not been dried), an approximation of the weight of the marihuana without such excess moisture content is to be used.

2. **“Plant”**.—For purposes of the guidelines, a **“plant”** is an organism having leaves and a readily observable root formation (*e.g.*, a marihuana cutting having roots, a rootball, or root hairs is a marihuana plant).
3. **Classification of Controlled Substances**.—Certain pharmaceutical preparations are classified as Schedule III, IV, or V controlled substances by the Drug Enforcement Administration under 21 C.F.R. § 1308.13–15 even though they contain a small amount of a Schedule I or II controlled substance. For example, Tylenol 3 is classified as a Schedule III controlled substance even though it contains a small amount of codeine, a Schedule II opiate. For the purposes of the guidelines, the classification of the controlled substance under 21 C.F.R. § 1308.13–15 is the appropriate classification.
4. **Applicability to “Counterfeit” Substances**.—The statute and guideline also apply to **“counterfeit” substances**, which are defined in 21 U.S.C. § 802 to mean controlled substances that are falsely labeled so as to appear to have been legitimately manufactured or distributed.
5. **Determining Drug Types and Drug Quantities**.—Types and quantities of drugs not specified in the count of conviction may be considered in determining the offense level. *See* §1B1.3(a)(2) (Relevant Conduct). Where there is no drug seizure or the amount seized does not reflect the scale of the offense, the court shall approximate the quantity of the controlled substance. In making this determination, the court may consider, for example, the price generally obtained for the controlled substance, financial or other records, similar transactions in controlled substances by the defendant, and the size or capability of any laboratory involved.

If the offense involved both a substantive drug offense and an attempt or conspiracy (*e.g.*, sale of five grams of heroin and an attempt to sell an additional ten grams of heroin), the total quantity involved shall be aggregated to determine the scale of the offense.

In an offense involving an agreement to sell a controlled substance, the agreed-upon quantity of the controlled substance shall be used to determine the offense level unless the sale is completed and the amount delivered more accurately reflects the scale of the offense. For example, a defendant agrees to sell 500 grams of cocaine, the transaction is completed by the delivery of the controlled substance — actually 480 grams of cocaine, and no further delivery is scheduled. In this example, the amount delivered more accurately reflects the scale of the offense. In contrast, in a reverse sting, the agreed-upon quantity of the controlled substance would more accurately reflect the scale of the offense because the amount actually delivered is controlled by the government, not by the defendant. If, however, the defendant establishes that the defendant did not intend to provide or purchase, or was not reasonably capable of providing or purchasing, the agreed-upon quantity of the controlled substance, the court shall exclude from the offense level determination the amount of controlled substance that the defendant establishes that the defendant did not intend to provide or purchase or was not reasonably capable of providing or purchasing.

6. **Analogues and Controlled Substances Not Referenced in this Guideline**.—Any reference to a particular controlled substance in these guidelines includes all salts, isomers, all salts of isomers, and, except as otherwise provided, any analogue of that controlled substance. Any reference to cocaine includes ecgonine and coca leaves, except extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine and ecgonine have been removed. For purposes of this guideline **“analogue”** has the meaning given the term “controlled substance analogue” in 21 U.S.C. § 802(32). In determining the appropriate sentence, the court also may consider whether the same quantity of analogue produces a greater effect on the central nervous system than the controlled substance for which it is an analogue.

In the case of a controlled substance that is not specifically referenced in this guideline, determine the base offense level using the ~~marihuana equivalent~~ converted drug weight of the most closely related controlled substance referenced in this guideline. *See Application Note 8.* In determining the most closely related controlled substance, the court shall, to the extent practicable, consider the following:

- (A) Whether the controlled substance not referenced in this guideline has a chemical structure that is substantially similar to a controlled substance referenced in this guideline.
- (B) Whether the controlled substance not referenced in this guideline has a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system that is substantially similar to the stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system of a controlled substance referenced in this guideline.
- (C) Whether a lesser or greater quantity of the controlled substance not referenced in this guideline is needed to produce a substantially similar effect on the central nervous system as a controlled substance referenced in this guideline.

7. **Multiple Transactions or Multiple Drug Types.**—Where there are multiple transactions or multiple drug types, the quantities of drugs are to be added. Tables for making the necessary conversions are provided below.

8. **Use of Drug ~~Equivalency~~ Conversion Tables.**—

(A) **Controlled Substances Not Referenced in Drug Quantity Table.**—The Commission has used the sentences provided in, and equivalences derived from, the statute (21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)), as the primary basis for the guideline sentences. The statute, however, provides direction only for the more common controlled substances, *i.e.*, heroin, cocaine, PCP, methamphetamine, fentanyl, LSD and marihuana. In the case of a controlled substance that is not specifically referenced in the Drug Quantity Table, determine the base offense level as follows:

- (i) Use the Drug ~~Equivalency~~ Conversion Tables to ~~convert the quantity~~ find the converted drug weight of the controlled substance involved in the offense to its equivalent quantity of marihuana.
- (ii) Find the ~~equivalent quantity of marihuana~~ corresponding converted drug weight in the Drug Quantity Table.
- (iii) Use the offense level that corresponds to the ~~equivalent quantity of marihuana~~ converted drug weight determined above as the base offense level for the controlled substance involved in the offense.

(*See also* Application Note 6.) For example, in the Drug ~~Equivalency~~ Conversion Tables set forth in this Note, 1 gram of a substance containing oxymorphone, a Schedule I opiate, converts to ~~an equivalent quantity of~~ 5 kilograms of marihuana converted drug weight. In a case involving 100 grams of oxymorphone, the ~~equivalent quantity of marihuana~~ converted drug weight would be 500 kilograms, which corresponds to a base offense level of 26 in the Drug Quantity Table.

(B) **Combining Differing Controlled Substances.**—The Drug ~~Equivalency~~ Conversion Tables also provide a means for combining differing controlled substances to obtain a single offense level. In each case, convert each of the drugs to its ~~marihuana equivalent~~ converted

drug weight, add the quantities, and look up the total in the Drug Quantity Table to obtain the combined offense level.

For certain types of controlled substances, the ~~marihuana equivalency converted drug weights assigned~~ in the Drug ~~Equivalency Conversion~~ Tables are “capped” at specified amounts (e.g., the combined ~~equivalent converted weight~~ of all Schedule V controlled substances shall not exceed 2.49 kilograms of ~~marihuana converted drug weight~~). Where there are controlled substances from more than one schedule (e.g., a quantity of a Schedule IV substance and a quantity of a Schedule V substance), determine the ~~marihuana equivalency converted drug weight~~ for each schedule separately (subject to the cap, if any, applicable to that schedule). Then add the ~~marihuana equivalency converted drug weights~~ to determine the combined ~~marihuana equivalency converted drug weight~~ (subject to the cap, if any, applicable to the combined amounts).

Note: Because of the statutory equivalences, the ratios in the Drug ~~Equivalency Conversion~~ Tables do not necessarily reflect dosages based on pharmacological equivalents.

(C) Examples for Combining Differing Controlled Substances.—

- (i) The defendant is convicted of selling 70 grams of a substance containing PCP (Level 20) and 250 milligrams of a substance containing LSD (Level 16). The PCP converts to 70 kilograms of ~~marihuana converted drug weight~~; the LSD converts to 25 kilograms of ~~marihuana converted drug weight~~. The total is therefore ~~equivalent converts~~ to 95 kilograms of ~~marihuana converted drug weight~~, for which the Drug Quantity Table provides an offense level of 22.
- (ii) The defendant is convicted of selling 500 grams of marihuana (Level 6) and 10,000 units of diazepam (Level 6). ~~The marihuana converts to 500 grams of converted drug weight.~~ The diazepam, a Schedule IV drug, ~~is equivalent converts~~ to 625 grams of ~~marihuana converted drug weight~~. The total, 1.125 kilograms of ~~marihuana converted drug weight~~, has an offense level of 8 in the Drug Quantity Table.
- (iii) The defendant is convicted of selling 80 grams of cocaine (Level 14) and 2 grams of cocaine base (Level 12). The cocaine ~~is equivalent converts~~ to 16 kilograms of ~~marihuana converted drug weight~~, and the cocaine base ~~is equivalent converts~~ to 7.142 kilograms of ~~marihuana converted drug weight~~. The total is therefore ~~equivalent converts~~ to 23.142 kilograms of ~~marihuana converted drug weight~~, which has an offense level of 16 in the Drug Quantity Table.
- (iv) The defendant is convicted of selling 76,000 units of a Schedule III substance, 200,000 units of a Schedule IV substance, and 600,000 units of a Schedule V substance. The ~~marihuana equivalency converted drug weight~~ for the Schedule III substance is 76 kilograms of ~~marihuana~~ (below the cap of 79.99 kilograms of ~~marihuana converted drug weight~~ set forth as the maximum ~~equivalent converted weight~~ for Schedule III substances). The ~~marihuana equivalency converted drug weight~~ for the Schedule IV substance is subject to a cap of 9.99 kilograms of ~~marihuana~~ set forth as the maximum ~~equivalent converted weight~~ for Schedule IV substances (without the cap it would have been 12.5 kilograms). The ~~marihuana equivalency converted drug weight~~ for the Schedule V substance is subject to the cap of 2.49 kilograms of ~~marihuana~~ set forth as the maximum ~~equivalent converted weight~~ for Schedule V substances (without the cap it would have been 3.75 kilograms). The combined ~~equivalent converted weight~~, determined by adding together the above

amounts, is subject to the cap of 79.99 kilograms of ~~marihuana~~ converted drug weight set forth as the maximum combined ~~equivalent~~ converted weight for Schedule III, IV, and V substances. Without the cap, the combined ~~equivalent~~ converted weight would have been 88.48 (76 + 9.99 + 2.49) kilograms.

(D) **Drug Equivalency Conversion Tables.—**

SCHEDULE I OR II OPIATES*	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 gm of Heroin =	1 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Alpha-Methylfentanyl =	10 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Dextromoramide =	670 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Dipipanone =	250 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of 3-Methylfentanyl =	10 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of 1-Methyl-4-phenyl-4-propionoxypiperidine/MPPP =	700 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of 1-(2-Phenylethyl)-4-phenyl-4-acetyloxypiperidine/PEPAP =	700 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Alphaprodine =	100 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidiny] Propanamide) =	2.5 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Hydromorphone/Dihydromorphinone =	2.5 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Levorphanol =	2.5 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Meperidine/Pethidine =	50 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Methadone =	500 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of 6-Monoacetylmorphine =	1 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Morphine =	500 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Oxycodone (actual) =	6700 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Oxymorphone =	5 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Racemorphan =	800 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Codeine =	80 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Dextropropoxyphene/Propoxyphene-Bulk =	50 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Ethylmorphine =	165 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Hydrocodone (actual) =	6700 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Mixed Alkaloids of Opium/Papaveretum =	250 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Opium =	50 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Levo-alpha-acetylmethadol (LAAM) =	3 kg-of marihuana

*Provided, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for any of these controlled substances individually, or in combination with another controlled substance, is level 12.

COCAINE AND OTHER SCHEDULE I AND II STIMULANTS (AND THEIR IMMEDIATE PRECURSORS)*	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 gm of Cocaine =	200 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of N-Ethylamphetamine =	80 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Fenethylamine =	40 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Amphetamine =	2 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Amphetamine (Actual) =	20 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Methamphetamine =	2 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Methamphetamine (Actual) =	20 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of "Ice" =	20 kg-of marihuana
1 gm of Khat =	.01 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of 4-Methylaminorex ("Euphoria") =	100 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Methylphenidate (Ritalin) =	100 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Phenmetrazine =	80 gm-of marihuana
1 gm Phenylacetone/P ₂ P (when possessed for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine) =	416 gm-of marihuana
1 gm Phenylacetone/P ₂ P (in any other case) =	75 gm-of marihuana
1 gm Cocaine Base ("Crack") =	3,571 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Aminorex =	100 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of Methcathinone =	380 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of N-N-Dimethylamphetamine =	40 gm-of marihuana
1 gm of N-Benzylpiperazine =	100 gm-of marihuana

**Provided, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for any of these controlled substances individually, or in combination with another controlled substance, is level 12.*

LSD, PCP, AND OTHER SCHEDULE I AND II HALLUCINOGENS (AND THEIR IMMEDIATE PRECURSORS)*	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 gm of Bufotenine =	70 gm of marijuana
1 gm of D-Lysergic Acid Diethylamide/Lysergide/LSD =	100 kg of marijuana
1 gm of Diethyltryptamine/DET =	80 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Dimethyltryptamine/DM =	100 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Mescaline =	10 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Mushrooms containing Psilocin and/or Psilocybin (Dry) =	1 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Mushrooms containing Psilocin and/or Psilocybin (Wet) =	0.1 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Peyote (Dry) =	0.5 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Peyote (Wet) =	0.05 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Phencyclidine/PCP =	1 kg of marijuana
1 gm of Phencyclidine (actual) /PCP (actual) =	10 kg of marijuana
1 gm of Psilocin =	500 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Psilocybin =	500 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Pyrrolidine Analog of Phencyclidine/PHP =	1 kg of marijuana
1 gm of Thiophene Analog of Phencyclidine/TCP =	1 kg of marijuana
1 gm of 4-Bromo-2,5-Dimethoxyamphetamine/DOB =	2.5 kg of marijuana
1 gm of 2,5-Dimethoxy-4-methylamphetamine/DOM =	1.67 kg of marijuana
1 gm of 3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine/MDA =	500 gm of marijuana
1 gm of 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine/MDMA =	500 gm of marijuana
1 gm of 3,4-Methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine/MDEA =	500 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Paramethoxymethamphetamine/PMA =	500 gm of marijuana
1 gm of 1-Piperidinocyclohexanecarbonitrile/PCC =	680 gm of marijuana
1 gm of N-ethyl-1-phenylcyclohexylamine (PCE) =	1 kg of marijuana

**Provided, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for any of these controlled substances individually, or in combination with another controlled substance, is level 12.*

SCHEDULE I MARIHUANA	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 gm of Marijuana/Cannabis, granulated, powdered, etc. =	1 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Hashish Oil =	50 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Cannabis Resin or Hashish =	5 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Tetrahydrocannabinol, Organic =	167 gm of marijuana
1 gm of Tetrahydrocannabinol, Synthetic =	167 gm of marijuana

FLUNITRAZEPAM **	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 unit of Flunitrazepam =	16 gm of marijuana

***Provided, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for flunitrazepam individually, or in combination with any Schedule I or II depressants, Schedule III substances, Schedule IV substances, and Schedule V substances is level 8.*

SCHEDULE I OR II DEPRESSANTS (EXCEPT GAMMA-HYDROXYBUTYRIC ACID)	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 unit of a Schedule I or II Depressant (except gamma-hydroxybutyric acid) =	1 gm of marijuana

GAMMA-HYDROXYBUTYRIC ACID	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 ml of gamma-hydroxybutyric acid =	8.8 gm-of marijuana

SCHEDULE III SUBSTANCES (EXCEPT KETAMINE)***	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 unit of a Schedule III Substance =	1 gm-of marijuana
*** <i>Provided</i> , that the combined equivalent converted weight of all Schedule III substances (except ketamine), Schedule IV substances (except flunitrazepam), and Schedule V substances shall not exceed 79.99 kilograms of marijuana converted drug weight.	

KETAMINE	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 unit of ketamine =	1 gm-of marijuana

SCHEDULE IV SUBSTANCES (EXCEPT FLUNITRAZEPAM)*****	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 unit of a Schedule IV Substance (except Flunitrazepam) =	0.0625 gm-of marijuana
***** <i>Provided</i> , that the combined equivalent converted weight of all Schedule IV (except flunitrazepam) and V substances shall not exceed 9.99 kilograms of marijuana converted drug weight.	

SCHEDULE V SUBSTANCES*****	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 unit of a Schedule V Substance =	0.00625 gm-of marijuana
***** <i>Provided</i> , that the combined equivalent converted weight of Schedule V substances shall not exceed 2.49 kilograms of marijuana converted drug weight.	

LIST I CHEMICALS (RELATING TO THE MANUFACTURE OF AMPHETAMINE OR METHAMPHETAMINE)*****	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 gm of Ephedrine =	10 kg-of marijuana
1 gm of Phenylpropanolamine =	10 kg-of marijuana
1 gm of Pseudoephedrine =	10 kg-of marijuana
***** <i>Provided</i> , that in a case involving ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine tablets, use the weight of the ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine contained in the tablets, not the weight of the entire tablets, in calculating the base offense level.	

DATE RAPE DRUGS (EXCEPT FLUNITRAZEPAM, GHB, OR KETAMINE)	CONVERTED DRUG WEIGHT
1 ml of 1,4-butanediol =	8.8 gm-marijuana
1 ml of gamma butyrolactone =	8.8 gm-marijuana

To facilitate conversions to drug-equivalencies converted drug weight, the following table is provided:

MEASUREMENT CONVERSION TABLE	
	1 oz = 28.35 gm
	1 lb = 453.6 gm
	1 lb = 0.4536 kg
	1 gal = 3.785 liters

1 qt = 0.946 liters
 1 gm = 1 ml (liquid)
 1 liter = 1,000 ml
 1 kg = 1,000 gm
 1 gm = 1,000 mg
 1 grain = 64.8 mg.

9. **Determining Quantity Based on Doses, Pills, or Capsules.**—If the number of doses, pills, or capsules but not the weight of the controlled substance is known, multiply the number of doses, pills, or capsules by the typical weight per dose in the table below to estimate the total weight of the controlled substance (e.g., 100 doses of Mescaline at 500 milligrams per dose = 50 grams of mescaline). The Typical Weight Per Unit Table, prepared from information provided by the Drug Enforcement Administration, displays the typical weight per dose, pill, or capsule for certain controlled substances. Do not use this table if any more reliable estimate of the total weight is available from case-specific information.

TYPICAL WEIGHT PER UNIT (DOSE, PILL, OR CAPSULE) TABLE

HALLUCINOGENS	
MDA	250 mg
MDMA	250 mg
Mescaline	500 mg
PCP*	5 mg
Peyote (dry)	12 gm
Peyote (wet)	120 gm
Psilocin*	10 mg
Psilocybe mushrooms (dry)	5 gm
Psilocybe mushrooms (wet)	50 gm
Psilocybin*	10 mg
2,5-Dimethoxy-4-methylamphetamine (STP, DOM)*	3 mg
MARIHUANA	
1 marihuana cigarette	0.5 gm
STIMULANTS	
Amphetamine*	10 mg
Methamphetamine*	5 mg
Phenmetrazine (Preludin)*	75 mg

*For controlled substances marked with an asterisk, the weight per unit shown is the weight of the actual controlled substance, and not generally the weight of the mixture or substance containing the controlled substance. Therefore, use of this table provides a very conservative estimate of the total weight.

* * *

Background: Offenses under 21 U.S.C. §§ 841 and 960 receive identical punishment based upon the quantity of the controlled substance involved, the defendant’s criminal history, and whether death or serious bodily injury resulted from the offense.

The base offense levels in §2D1.1 are either provided directly by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 or are proportional to the levels established by statute, and apply to all unlawful trafficking. Levels 30 and 24 in the Drug Quantity Table are the distinctions provided by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act; however,

further refinement of drug amounts is essential to provide a logical sentencing structure for drug offenses. To determine these finer distinctions, the Commission consulted numerous experts and practitioners, including authorities at the Drug Enforcement Administration, chemists, attorneys, probation officers, and members of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces, who also advocate the necessity of these distinctions. Where necessary, this scheme has been modified in response to specific congressional directives to the Commission.

The base offense levels at levels 24 and 30 establish guideline ranges such that the statutory minimum falls within the range; *e.g.*, level 30 ranges from 97 to 121 months, where the statutory minimum term is ten years or 120 months.

For marihuana plants, the Commission has adopted an equivalency of 100 grams per plant, or the actual weight of the usable marihuana, whichever is greater. The decision to treat each plant as equal to 100 grams is premised on the fact that the average yield from a mature marihuana plant equals 100 grams of marihuana. In controlled substance offenses, an attempt is assigned the same offense level as the object of the attempt. Consequently, the Commission adopted the policy that each plant is to be treated as the equivalent of an attempt to produce 100 grams of marihuana, except where the actual weight of the usable marihuana is greater.

Because the weights of LSD carrier media vary widely and typically far exceed the weight of the controlled substance itself, the Commission has determined that basing offense levels on the entire weight of the LSD and carrier medium would produce unwarranted disparity among offenses involving the same quantity of actual LSD (but different carrier weights), as well as sentences disproportionate to those for other, more dangerous controlled substances, such as PCP. Consequently, in cases involving LSD contained in a carrier medium, the Commission has established a weight per dose of 0.4 milligram for purposes of determining the base offense level.

The dosage weight of LSD selected exceeds the Drug Enforcement Administration's standard dosage unit for LSD of 0.05 milligram (*i.e.*, the quantity of actual LSD per dose) in order to assign some weight to the carrier medium. Because LSD typically is marketed and consumed orally on a carrier medium, the inclusion of some weight attributable to the carrier medium recognizes (A) that offense levels for most other controlled substances are based upon the weight of the mixture containing the controlled substance without regard to purity, and (B) the decision in *Chapman v. United States*, 500 U.S. 453 (1991) (holding that the term "mixture or substance" in 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1) includes the carrier medium in which LSD is absorbed). At the same time, the weight per dose selected is less than the weight per dose that would equate the offense level for LSD on a carrier medium with that for the same number of doses of PCP, a controlled substance that comparative assessments indicate is more likely to induce violent acts and ancillary crime than is LSD. (Treating LSD on a carrier medium as weighing 0.5 milligram per dose would produce offense levels equivalent to those for PCP.) Thus, the approach decided upon by the Commission will harmonize offense levels for LSD offenses with those for other controlled substances and avoid an undue influence of varied carrier weight on the applicable offense level. Nonetheless, this approach does not override the applicability of "mixture or substance" for the purpose of applying any mandatory minimum sentence (*see Chapman*; §5G1.1(b)).

Frequently, a term of supervised release to follow imprisonment is required by statute for offenses covered by this guideline. Guidelines for the imposition, duration, and conditions of supervised release are set forth in Chapter Five, Part D (Supervised Release).

The last sentence of subsection (a)(5) implements the directive to the Commission in section 7(1) of Public Law 111–220.

Subsection (b)(2) implements the directive to the Commission in section 5 of Public Law 111–220.

Subsection (b)(3) is derived from Section 6453 of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988.

Subsection (b)(11) implements the directive to the Commission in section 6(1) of Public Law 111–220.

Subsection (b)(12) implements the directive to the Commission in section 6(2) of Public Law 111–220.

Subsection (b)(13)(A) implements the instruction to the Commission in section 303 of Public Law 103–237.

Subsections (b)(13)(C)(ii) and (D) implement, in a broader form, the instruction to the Commission in section 102 of Public Law 106–310.

Subsection (b)(15) implements the directive to the Commission in section 6(3) of Public Law 111–220.

Subsection (b)(16) implements the directive to the Commission in section 7(2) of Public Law 111–220.

The Drug Conversion Tables set forth in Application Note 8(D) were previously called the Drug Equivalency Tables. In the original 1987 *Guidelines Manual*, the Drug Equivalency Tables provided four conversion factors (or “equivalents”) for determining the base offense level in cases involving either a controlled substance not referenced in the Drug Quantity Table or multiple controlled substances: heroin, cocaine, PCP, and marihuana. In 1991, the Commission amended the Drug Equivalency Tables to provide for one substance, marihuana, as the single conversion factor in §2D1.1. See USSG App. C, Amendment 396 (effective November 1, 1991). In 2018, the Commission amended §2D1.1 to replace marihuana as the conversion factor with the new term “converted drug weight” and to change the title of the Drug Equivalency Tables to the “Drug Conversion Tables.”

* * *

§1B1.10. Reduction in Term of Imprisonment as a Result of Amended Guideline Range (Policy Statement)

* * *

Commentary

Application Notes:

* * *

- Application to Amendment 750 (Parts A and C Only).**—As specified in subsection (d), the parts of Amendment 750 that are covered by this policy statement are Parts A and C only. Part A amended the Drug Quantity Table in §2D1.1 for crack cocaine and made related revisions to the Drug Equivalency Tables (currently called Drug Conversion Tables) in the Commentary to §2D1.1 (see §2D1.1, comment. (n.8)). Part C deleted the cross reference in §2D2.1(b) under which an offender who possessed more than 5 grams of crack cocaine was sentenced under §2D1.1.

* * *

§2D1.11. Unlawfully Distributing, Importing, Exporting or Possessing a Listed Chemical; Attempt or Conspiracy

* * *

Commentary

* * *

Application Notes:

* * *

- Offenses Involving Immediate Precursors or Other Controlled Substances Covered Under §2D1.1.**—In certain cases, the defendant will be convicted of an offense involving a listed chemical covered under this guideline, and a related offense involving an immediate precursor or other controlled substance covered under §2D1.1 (Unlawfully Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking). For example, P2P (an immediate precursor) and methylamine (a listed chemical) are used together to produce methamphetamine. Determine the offense level under each guideline separately. The offense level for methylamine is determined by using §2D1.11. The offense level for P2P is determined by using §2D1.1 (P2P is listed in the Drug Equivalency Conversion Table under Cocaine and Other Schedule I and II Stimulants (and their immediate precursors)). Under the grouping rules of §3D1.2(b), the counts will be grouped together. Note that in determining the scale of the offense under §2D1.1, the quantity of both the controlled substance and listed chemical should be considered (*see* Application Note 5 in the Commentary to §2D1.1).

* * *

CHAPTER THREE

ADJUSTMENTS

* * *

PART D — MULTIPLE COUNTS

* * *

Concluding Commentary to Part D of Chapter Three Illustrations of the Operation of the Multiple-Count Rules

The following examples, drawn from presentence reports in the Commission's files, illustrate the operation of the guidelines for multiple counts. The examples are discussed summarily; a more thorough, step-by-step approach is recommended until the user is thoroughly familiar with the guidelines.

* * *

2. Defendant B was convicted of four counts: (1) distribution of 230 grams of cocaine; (2) distribution of 150 grams of cocaine; (3) distribution of 75 grams of heroin; (4) offering a DEA agent \$20,000 to avoid prosecution. The combined offense level for drug offenses is determined by the total quantity of drugs, converted to ~~marihuana equivalents~~ **converted drug weight** (using the Drug ~~Equivalency~~ **Conversion** Tables in the Commentary to §2D1.1 (Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking)). The first count translates into 46 kilograms of ~~marihuana~~ **converted drug weight**; the second count translates into 30 kilograms of ~~marihuana~~ **converted drug weight**; and the third count translates into 75 kilograms of ~~marihuana~~ **converted drug weight**. The total is 151 kilograms of ~~marihuana~~ **converted drug weight**. Under §2D1.1, the combined offense level for the drug offenses is 24. In addition, because of the attempted bribe of the DEA agent, this offense level is increased by 2 levels to 26 under §3C1.1 (Obstructing or Impeding the Administration of Justice). Because the conduct constituting the bribery offense is accounted for by §3C1.1, it becomes part of the same Group as the drug offenses pursuant to §3D1.2(c). The combined offense level is 26 pursuant to §3D1.3(a), because the offense level for bribery (20) is less than the offense level for the drug offenses (26).

* * *

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

MISCELLANEOUS

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: This proposed amendment responds to recently enacted legislation and miscellaneous guideline issues.

The proposed amendment contains five parts (Parts A through E). The Commission is considering whether to promulgate any or all of these parts, as they are not mutually exclusive. They are as follows—

Part A responds to the Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. 114–154 (May 16, 2016), by amending §2B5.3 (Criminal Infringement of Copyright or Trademark).

Part B responds to the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders Act, Pub. L. 114–119 (Feb. 8, 2016), by amending §2A3.5 (Failure to Register as a Sex Offender), §2A3.6 (Aggravated Offenses Relating to Registration as a Sex Offender), and Appendix A (Statutory Index).

Part C responds to the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, Pub. L. 114–182 (June 22, 2016), by amending Appendix A (Statutory Index).

Part D amends §2G1.3 (Promoting a Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct with a Minor; Transportation of Minors to Engage in a Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct; Travel to Engage in Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct with a Minor; Sex Trafficking of Children; Use of Interstate Facilities to Transport Information about a Minor) to clarify how the use of a computer enhancement at subsection (b)(3) interacts with its correlating commentary.

Part E responds to the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, Pub. L. 114–324 (Dec. 16, 2016), by amending §5D1.3 (Conditions of Supervised Release).

(A) Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: Part A of the proposed amendment responds to the Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015, Pub. L. 114–154 (May 16, 2016). The primary purpose of the Act is to enable the Department of Justice to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity. Among other things, the Act clarified the *mens rea* requirement for offenses related to trafficking in counterfeit drugs, without changing the statutory penalties associated with such offenses. The Act amended 18 U.S.C. § 2230 (Trafficking in Counterfeit Goods or Services), which prohibits trafficking in a range of goods and services, including counterfeit drugs. The amended statute is currently referenced in Appendix A (Statutory Index) of the *Guidelines Manual* to §2B5.3 (Criminal Infringement of Copyright or Trademark).

In particular, the Act made changes relating to counterfeit drugs. First, the Act amended the penalty provision at section 2320, replacing the term “counterfeit drug” with the phrase “drug that uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with the drug.” Second, the Act revised section 2320(f)(6) to define only the term “drug” instead of “counterfeit drug.” The amended provision defines “drug” as “a drug, as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).” The Act did not amend the definition of “counterfeit mark” contained in section 2230(f)(1), which provides that—

the term “counterfeit mark” means—

(A) a spurious mark—

- (i) that is used in connection with trafficking in any goods, services, labels, patches, stickers, wrappers, badges, emblems, medallions, charms, boxes, containers, cans, cases, hangtags, documentation, or packaging of any type or nature;
- (ii) that is identical with, or substantially indistinguishable from, a mark registered on the principal register in the United States Patent and Trademark Office and in use, whether or not the defendant knew such mark was so registered;
- (iii) that is applied to or used in connection with the goods or services for which the mark is registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, or is applied to or consists of a label, patch, sticker, wrapper, badge, emblem, medallion, charm, box, container, can, case, hangtag, documentation, or packaging of any type or nature that is designed, marketed, or otherwise intended to be used on or in connection with the goods or services for which the mark is registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office; and
- (iv) the use of which is likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive; or

(B) a spurious designation that is identical with, or substantially indistinguishable from, a designation as to which the remedies of the Lanham Act are made available by reason of section 220506 of title 36

Part A of the proposed amendment amends §2B5.3(b)(5) to replace the term “counterfeit drug” with “drug that uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with the drug.” The proposed amendment would also amend the Commentary to §2B5.3 to delete the

“counterfeit drug” definition and provide that “drug” and “counterfeit mark” have the meaning given those terms in 18 U.S.C. § 2320(f).

Proposed Amendment:

§2B5.3. Criminal Infringement of Copyright or Trademark

- (a) Base Offense Level: **8**
- (b) Specific Offense Characteristics
 - (1) If the infringement amount (A) exceeded \$2,500 but did not exceed \$6,500, increase by **1** level; or (B) exceeded \$6,500, increase by the number of levels from the table in §2B1.1 (Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud) corresponding to that amount.
 - (2) If the offense involved the display, performance, publication, reproduction, or distribution of a work being prepared for commercial distribution, increase by **2** levels.
 - (3) If the (A) offense involved the manufacture, importation, or uploading of infringing items; or (B) defendant was convicted under 17 U.S.C. §§ 1201 and 1204 for trafficking in circumvention devices, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **12**, increase to level **12**.
 - (4) If the offense was not committed for commercial advantage or private financial gain, decrease by **2** levels, but the resulting offense level shall be not less than level **8**.
 - (5) If the offense involved a counterfeit drug that uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with the drug, increase by **2** levels.
 - (6) If the offense involved (A) the conscious or reckless risk of death or serious bodily injury; or (B) possession of a dangerous weapon (including a firearm) in connection with the offense, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **14**, increase to level **14**.
 - (7) If the offense involved a counterfeit military good or service the use, malfunction, or failure of which is likely to cause (A) the disclosure of classified information; (B) impairment of combat operations; or (C) other significant harm to (i) a combat operation, (ii) a member of

the Armed Forces, or (iii) national security, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **14**, increase to level **14**.

Commentary

Statutory Provisions: 17 U.S.C. §§ 506(a), 1201, 1204; 18 U.S.C. §§ 2318–2320, 2511. For additional statutory provision(s), see Appendix A (Statutory Index).

Application Notes:

1. **Definitions.**—For purposes of this guideline:

* * *

~~“**Counterfeit drug**” has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. § 2320(f)(6).~~

“**Counterfeit military good or service**” has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. § 2320(f)(4).

“**Drug**” and “**counterfeit mark**” have the meaning given those terms in 18 U.S.C. § 2320(f).

* * *

Background: This guideline treats copyright and trademark violations much like theft and fraud. Similar to the sentences for theft and fraud offenses, the sentences for defendants convicted of intellectual property offenses should reflect the nature and magnitude of the pecuniary harm caused by their crimes. Accordingly, similar to the loss enhancement in the theft and fraud guideline, the infringement amount in subsection (b)(1) serves as a principal factor in determining the offense level for intellectual property offenses.

* * *

Subsection (b)(5) implements the directive to the Commission in section 717 of Public Law 112–144.

* * *

(B) International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: Part B of the proposed amendment responds to the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders Act (“International Megan’s Law”), Pub. L. 114–119 (Feb. 8, 2016). The Act added a new notification requirement to 34 U.S.C. § 20914 (Information required in [sex offender] registration). Section 20914 states that sex offenders who are required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) must provide certain information for inclusion in the sex offender registry. Those provisions include the offender’s name, Social Security number, address of all residences, name and address where the offender is an employee, the name and address where the offender is a student, license plate number, and description of any vehicle. The International Megan’s Law added as an additional requirement that the sex offender must provide “information relating to intended travel of the sex offender outside of the United States, including any anticipated dates and places of departure, arrival or return, carrier and flight numbers for air travel, destination country and address or other contact information therein, means and purpose of travel, and any other itinerary or other travel-related information required by the Attorney General.”

The International Megan’s Law also added a new criminal offense at 18 U.S.C. § 2250(b) (Failure to register). The new subsection (b) provides that whoever is required to register under SORNA who knowingly fails to provide the above described information required by SORNA relating to intended travel in foreign commerce and who engages or attempts to engage in the intended travel, is subject to a 10-year statutory maximum penalty. Section 2250 offenses are referenced in Appendix A (Statutory Index) to §2A3.5 (Failure to Register as a Sex Offender).

Part B of the proposed amendment amends Appendix A (Statutory Index) so the new offenses at 18 U.S.C. § 2250(b) are referenced to §2A3.5. The proposed amendment also adds a new application note to the Commentary to §2A3.5 providing that for purposes of §2A3.5(b), a defendant shall be deemed to be in a “failure to register status” during the period in which the defendant engaged in conduct described in 18 U.S.C. § 2250(a) or (b).

Finally, Part B makes clerical changes to §2A3.6 (Aggravated Offenses Relating to Registration as a Sex Offender) to reflect the redesignation of 18 U.S.C. § 2250(c) by the International Megan’s Law.

Proposed Amendment:

§2A3.5. Failure to Register as a Sex Offender

- (a) Base Offense Level (Apply the greatest):
 - (1) **16**, if the defendant was required to register as a Tier III offender;

- (2) 14, if the defendant was required to register as a Tier II offender; or
- (3) 12, if the defendant was required to register as a Tier I offender.

(b) Specific Offense Characteristics

- (1) (Apply the greatest):

If, while in a failure to register status, the defendant committed—

- (A) a sex offense against someone other than a minor, increase by 6 levels;
- (B) a felony offense against a minor not otherwise covered by subdivision (C), increase by 6 levels; or
- (C) a sex offense against a minor, increase by 8 levels.

- (2) If the defendant voluntarily (A) corrected the failure to register; or (B) attempted to register but was prevented from registering by uncontrollable circumstances and the defendant did not contribute to the creation of those circumstances, decrease by 3 levels.

Commentary

Statutory Provision: 18 U.S.C. § 2250(a), (b).

Application Notes:

- 1. **Definitions.**—For purposes of this guideline:

“*Minor*” means (A) an individual who had not attained the age of 18 years; (B) an individual, whether fictitious or not, who a law enforcement officer represented to a participant (i) had not attained the age of 18 years; and (ii) could be provided for the purposes of engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or (C) an undercover law enforcement officer who represented to a participant that the officer had not attained the age of 18 years.

“*Sex offense*” has the meaning given that term in 42 U.S.C. § 16911(5).

“*Tier I offender*”, “*Tier II offender*”, and “*Tier III offender*” have the meaning given the terms “tier I sex offender”, “tier II sex offender”, and “tier III sex offender”, respectively, in 42 U.S.C. § 16911.

- 2. **Application of Subsection (b)(1).**—For purposes of subsection (b)(1), a defendant shall be deemed to be in a “failure to register status” during the period in which the defendant engaged in conduct described in 18 U.S.C. § 2250(a) or (b).

- 23. **Application of Subsection (b)(2).**—

- (A) **In General.**—In order for subsection (b)(2) to apply, the defendant’s voluntary attempt to register or to correct the failure to register must have occurred prior to the time the defendant knew or reasonably should have known a jurisdiction had detected the failure to register.
- (B) **Interaction with Subsection (b)(1).**—Do not apply subsection (b)(2) if subsection (b)(1) also applies.

* * *

§2A3.6. Aggravated Offenses Relating to Registration as a Sex Offender

If the defendant was convicted under—

- (a) 18 U.S.C. § 2250(e)(d), the guideline sentence is the minimum term of imprisonment required by statute; or
- (b) 18 U.S.C. § 2260A, the guideline sentence is the term of imprisonment required by statute.

Chapters Three (Adjustments) and Four (Criminal History and Criminal Livelihood) shall not apply to any count of conviction covered by this guideline.

Commentary

Statutory Provisions: 18 U.S.C. §§ 2250(e)(d), 2260A.

Application Notes:

1. **In General.**—Section 2250(e)(d) of title 18, United States Code, provides a mandatory minimum term of five years’ imprisonment and a statutory maximum term of 30 years’ imprisonment. The statute also requires a sentence to be imposed consecutively to any sentence imposed for a conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 2250(a) or (b). Section 2260A of title 18, United States Code, provides a term of imprisonment of 10 years that is required to be imposed consecutively to any sentence imposed for an offense enumerated under that section.
2. **Inapplicability of Chapters Three and Four.**—Do not apply Chapters Three (Adjustments) and Four (Criminal History and Criminal Livelihood) to any offense sentenced under this guideline. Such offenses are excluded from application of those chapters because the guideline sentence for each offense is determined only by the relevant statute. *See* §§3D1.1 (Procedure for Determining Offense Level on Multiple Counts) and 5G1.2 (Sentencing on Multiple Counts of Conviction).
3. **Inapplicability of Chapter Two Enhancement.**—If a sentence under this guideline is imposed in conjunction with a sentence for an underlying offense, do not apply any specific offense characteristic that is based on the same conduct as the conduct comprising the conviction under 18 U.S.C. § 2250(e)(d) or § 2260A.
4. **Upward Departure.**—In a case in which the guideline sentence is determined under subsection (a), a sentence above the minimum term required by 18 U.S.C. § 2250(e)(d) is an upward departure from the guideline sentence. A departure may be warranted, for example, in

a case involving a sex offense committed against a minor or if the offense resulted in serious bodily injury to a minor.

* * *

APPENDIX A

STATUTORY INDEX

* * *

18 U.S.C. § 2250(a), (b) 2A3.5

18 U.S.C. § 2250(e), (d) 2A3.6

* * *

(C) Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: Part C of the proposed amendment responds to the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, Pub. L. 114–182 (June 22, 2016). The Act, among other things, amended section 16 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. § 2615) to add a new subsection that provides that any person who knowingly and willfully violates certain provisions of the Toxic Substances Control Act and who knows at the time of the violation that the violation places an individual in imminent danger of death or bodily injury shall be subject to a fine up to \$250,000, imprisonment of up to 15 years, or both.

Part C of the proposed amendment amends Appendix A (Statutory Index) so that the new provision, 15 U.S.C. § 2615(b)(2), is referenced to §2Q1.1 (Knowing Endangerment Resulting From Mishandling Hazardous or Toxic Substances, Pesticides or Other Pollutants), while maintaining the reference to §2Q1.2 (Mishandling of Hazardous or Toxic Substances or Pesticides; Recordkeeping, Tampering, and Falsification; Unlawfully Transporting Hazardous Materials in Commerce) for 15 U.S.C. § 2615(b)(1).

Proposed Amendment:

APPENDIX A

STATUTORY INDEX

		* * *
15 U.S.C. § 2615(b)(1)	2Q1.2	
15 U.S.C. § 2615(b)(2)	2Q1.1	
15 U.S.C. § 6821	2B1.1	
		* * *

(D) Use of a Computer Enhancement in §2G1.3

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: Part D of the proposed amendment clarifies how the use of a computer enhancement at §2G1.3(b)(3) interacts with its corresponding commentary at Application Note 4. Section 2G1.3 (Promoting a Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct with a Minor; Transportation of Minors to Engage in a Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct; Travel to Engage in Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct with a Minor; Sex Trafficking of Children; Use of Interstate Facilities to Transport Information about a Minor) applies to several offenses involving the transportation of a minor for illegal sexual activity. Subsection (b)(3) of §2G1.3 provides a 2-level enhancement if—

the offense involved the use of a computer or an interactive computer service to (A) persuade, induce, entice, coerce, or facilitate the travel of, the minor to engage in prohibited sexual conduct; or (B) entice, encourage, offer, or solicit a person to engage in prohibited sexual conduct with the minor.

Application Note 4 to §2G1.3 sets forth guidance on this enhancement providing as follows:

Subsection (b)(3) is intended to apply only to the use of a computer or an interactive computer service to communicate directly with a minor or with a person who exercises custody, care, or supervisory control of the minor. Accordingly, the enhancement in subsection (b)(3) would not apply to the use of a computer or an interactive computer service to obtain airline tickets for the minor from an airline's Internet site.

An application issue has arisen as to whether Application Note 4, by failing to distinguish between the two prongs of subsection (b)(3), prohibits application of the enhancement where a computer was used to solicit a third party to engage in prohibited sexual conduct with a minor.

Most courts to have addressed this issue have concluded that Application Note 4 is inconsistent with the language of §2G1.3(b)(3), and have permitted the application of the enhancement for use of a computer in third party solicitation cases. *See, e.g., United States v. Cramer*, 777 F.3d 597, 606 (2d Cir. 2015) (“We conclude that Application Note 4 is plainly inconsistent with subsection (b)(3)(B) The plain language of subsection (b)(3)(B) is clear, and there is no indication that the drafters of the Guidelines intended to limit this plain language through Application Note 4.”); *United States v. McMillian*, 777 F.3d 444, 449–50 (7th Cir. 2015) (“[The defendant] points out that Application Note 4 states that ‘Subsection (b)(3) is intended to apply only to the use of a computer or an interactive computer service to communicate directly with a minor or with a person who exercises custody, care, or supervisory control of the minor.’] But the note is wrong. The guideline section provides a 2-level enhancement whenever the defendant uses a computer to ‘entice, encourage, offer, or solicit a person to engage in prohibited sexual conduct with the minor’ When an application note clashes with the guideline, the guideline prevails.”); *United States v. Hill*, 783 F.3d 842, 846 (11th Cir. 2015) (“Because the application note is inconsistent with the plain language of U.S.S.G. § 2G1.3(b)(3)(B), the plain language of the guideline controls.”); *United States v. Pringler*, 765 F.3d 445, 455 (5th Cir. 2014) (“[W]e hold that the commentary in application note 4 is ‘inconsistent with’

Guideline § 2G1.3(b)(3)(B), and we therefore follow the plain language of the Guideline alone.”).

Part D of the proposed amendment would amend the Commentary to §2G1.3 to clarify that the guidance contained in Application Note 4 refers only to subsection (b)(3)(A) and does not control the application of the enhancement for use of a computer in third party solicitation cases (as provided in subsection (b)(3)(B)).

Proposed Amendment:

2G1.3. Promoting a Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct with a Minor; Transportation of Minors to Engage in a Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct; Travel to Engage in Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct with a Minor; Sex Trafficking of Children; Use of Interstate Facilities to Transport Information about a Minor

(a) Base Offense Level:

- (1) **34**, if the defendant was convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 1591(b)(1);
- (2) **30**, if the defendant was convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 1591(b)(2);
- (3) **28**, if the defendant was convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b) or § 2423(a); or
- (4) **24**, otherwise.

(b) Specific Offense Characteristics

- (1) If (A) the defendant was a parent, relative, or legal guardian of the minor; or (B) the minor was otherwise in the custody, care, or supervisory control of the defendant, increase by **2** levels.
- (2) If (A) the offense involved the knowing misrepresentation of a participant’s identity to persuade, induce, entice, coerce, or facilitate the travel of, a minor to engage in prohibited sexual conduct; or (B) a participant otherwise unduly influenced a minor to engage in prohibited sexual conduct, increase by **2** levels.
- (3) If the offense involved the use of a computer or an interactive computer service to (A) persuade, induce, entice, coerce, or facilitate the travel of, the minor to engage in prohibited sexual conduct; or (B) entice, encourage, offer, or solicit a person to engage in prohibited sexual conduct with the minor, increase by **2** levels.

- (4) If (A) the offense involved the commission of a sex act or sexual contact; or (B) subsection (a)(3) or (a)(4) applies and the offense involved a commercial sex act, increase by **2** levels.
- (5) If (A) subsection (a)(3) or (a)(4) applies; and (B) the offense involved a minor who had not attained the age of 12 years, increase by **8** levels.

(c) Cross References

- (1) If the offense involved causing, transporting, permitting, or offering or seeking by notice or advertisement, a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct, apply §2G2.1 (Sexually Exploiting a Minor by Production of Sexually Explicit Visual or Printed Material; Custodian Permitting Minor to Engage in Sexually Explicit Conduct; Advertisement for Minors to Engage in Production), if the resulting offense level is greater than that determined above.
- (2) If a minor was killed under circumstances that would constitute murder under 18 U.S.C. § 1111 had such killing taken place within the territorial or maritime jurisdiction of the United States, apply §2A1.1 (First Degree Murder), if the resulting offense level is greater than that determined above.
- (3) If the offense involved conduct described in 18 U.S.C. § 2241 or § 2242, apply §2A3.1 (Criminal Sexual Abuse; Attempt to Commit Criminal Sexual Abuse), if the resulting offense level is greater than that determined above. If the offense involved interstate travel with intent to engage in a sexual act with a minor who had not attained the age of 12 years, or knowingly engaging in a sexual act with a minor who had not attained the age of 12 years, §2A3.1 shall apply, regardless of the “consent” of the minor.

(d) Special Instruction

- (1) If the offense involved more than one minor, Chapter Three, Part D (Multiple Counts) shall be applied as if the persuasion, enticement, coercion, travel, or transportation to engage in a commercial sex act or prohibited sexual conduct of each victim had been contained in a separate count of conviction.

Commentary

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Application Notes:

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4. **Application of Subsection (b)(3)(A).**—Subsection (b)(3)(A) is intended to apply only to the use of a computer or an interactive computer service to communicate directly with a minor or with a person who exercises custody, care, or supervisory control of the minor. Accordingly, the enhancement in subsection (b)(3)(A) would not apply to the use of a computer or an interactive computer service to obtain airline tickets for the minor from an airline’s Internet site.

* * *

(E) Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: Part E of the proposed amendment responds to the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016, Pub. L. 114–324 (Dec. 16, 2016). The Act made statutory changes to protect the rights of crime victims and to address the use of DNA and other forensic evidence. Among other things, the Act amended 18 U.S.C. § 3583, the statute addressing supervised release. Section 3583(d) requires a court, when imposing a sentence of supervised release, to impose certain specified conditions of supervised release. The Act amended section 3583(d) to require the court to include, as one of those conditions, “that the defendant make restitution in accordance with sections 3663 and 3663A [of Title 18, United States Code], or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution.”

Part E of the proposed amendment amends the “mandatory” condition of supervised release set forth in subsection (a)(6)(A) of §5D1.3 (Conditions of Supervised Release). It conforms §5D1.3(a)(6)(A) to section 3583(d) as amended by the Justice for All Reauthorization Act.

Proposed Amendment:

§5D1.3. Conditions of Supervised Release

(a) MANDATORY CONDITIONS

- (1) The defendant shall not commit another federal, state or local offense (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).
- (2) The defendant shall not unlawfully possess a controlled substance (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).
- (3) The defendant who is convicted for a domestic violence crime as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3561(b) for the first time shall attend a public, private, or private non-profit offender rehabilitation program that has been approved by the court, in consultation with a State Coalition Against Domestic Violence or other appropriate experts, if an approved program is available within a 50-mile radius of the legal residence of the defendant (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).
- (4) The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance and submit to one drug test within 15 days of release on probation and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter (as determined by the court) for use of a controlled substance, but the condition stated in this paragraph may be ameliorated or suspended by the court for any individual defendant if the defendant’s presentence report or other reliable information indicates a low risk of future substance abuse by the defendant (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).

- (5) If a fine is imposed and has not been paid upon release to supervised release, the defendant shall adhere to an installment schedule to pay that fine (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3624(e)).
- (6) The defendant shall (A) make restitution in accordance with ~~18 U.S.C. §§ 2248, 2259, 2264, 2327, 3663, 3663A, and 3664~~ 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A, or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution; and (B) pay the assessment imposed in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3013. If there is a court-established payment schedule for making restitution or paying the assessment (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3572(d)), the defendant shall adhere to the schedule.
- (7) If the defendant is required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, the defendant shall comply with the requirements of that Act (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).
- (8) The defendant shall submit to the collection of a DNA sample from the defendant at the direction of the United States Probation Office if the collection of such a sample is authorized pursuant to section 3 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. § 14135a).

* * *

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: TRIBAL ISSUES

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: This proposed amendment is the result of the Commission’s study of the May 2016 Report of the Commission’s Tribal Issues Advisory Group. *See* U.S. Sentencing Comm’n, “Notice of Final Priorities,” 82 FR 39949 (Aug. 22, 2017). *See also* Report of the Tribal Issues Advisory Group (May 16, 2016), at <http://www.ussc.gov/research/research-publications/report-tribal-issues-advisory-group>.

In 2015, the Commission established the Tribal Issues Advisory Group (TIAG) as an ad hoc advisory group to the Commission. Among other things, the Commission tasked the TIAG with studying the following issues—

- (A) the operation of the federal sentencing guidelines as they relate to American Indian defendants and victims and to offenses committed in Indian Country, and any viable methods for revising the guidelines to (i) improve their operation or (ii) address particular concerns of tribal communities and courts;
- (B) whether there are disparities in the application of the federal sentencing guidelines to American Indian defendants, and, if so, how to address them;
- (C) the impact of the federal sentencing guidelines on offenses committed in Indian Country in comparison with analogous offenses prosecuted in state courts and tribal courts;
- (D) the use of tribal court convictions in the computation of criminal history scores, risk assessment, and for other purposes;
- (E) how the federal sentencing guidelines should account for protection orders issued by tribal courts; and
- (F) any other issues relating to American Indian defendants and victims, or to offenses committed in Indian Country, that the TIAG considers appropriate. *See* Tribal Issues Advisory Group Charter § 1(b)(3).

The Commission also directed the TIAG to present a final report with its findings and recommendations, including any recommendations that the TIAG considered appropriate on potential amendments to the guidelines and policy statements. *See id.* § 6(a). On May 16, 2016, the TIAG presented to the Commission its final report. Among the recommendations suggested in the Report, the TIAG recommends revisions to the *Guidelines Manual* relating to the use of tribal court convictions in the computation of criminal history points and how the guidelines should account for protection orders issued by tribal courts.

The proposed amendment contains two parts (Parts A and B). The Commission is considering whether to promulgate one or both of these parts, as they are not mutually exclusive.

(A) Tribal Court Convictions

Pursuant to Chapter Four, Part A (Criminal History), sentences resulting from tribal court convictions are not counted for purposes of calculating criminal history points, but may be considered under §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category

(Policy Statement)). See USSG §4A1.2(i). The policy statement at §4A1.3 allows for upward departures if reliable information indicates that the defendant’s criminal history category substantially underrepresents the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history. Among the grounds for departure, the policy statement includes “[p]rior sentences not used in computing the criminal history category (e.g., sentences for foreign and tribal offenses).” USSG §4A1.3(a)(2)(A).

As noted in the TIAG’s report, in recent years there have been important changes in tribal criminal jurisdiction. In 2010, Congress enacted the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 (TLOA), Pub. L. 111–211, to address high rates of violent crime in Indian Country by improving criminal justice funding and infrastructure in tribal government, and expanding the sentencing authority of tribal court systems. In 2013, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA Reauthorization), Pub. L. 113–4, was enacted to expand the criminal jurisdiction of tribes to prosecute, sentence, and convict Indians and non-Indians who assault Indian spouses or dating partners or violate a protection order in Indian Country. It also established new assault offenses and enhanced existing assault offenses. Both statutes increased criminal jurisdiction for tribal courts, but also required more robust court procedures and provided more procedural protections for defendants.

The TIAG notes in its report that “[w]hile some tribes have exercised expanded jurisdiction under TLOA and the VAWA Reauthorization, most have not done so. Given the lack of tribal resources, and the absence of significant additional funding under TLOA and the VAWA Reauthorization to date, it is not certain that more tribes will be able to do so any time soon.” TIAG Report, at 10–11. Members of the TIAG describe their experience with tribal courts as “widely varied,” expressing among their findings certain concerns about funding, perceptions of judicial bias or political influence, due process protections, and access to tribal court records. *Id.* at 11–12.

The TIAG report highlights that “[t]ribal courts occupy a unique and valuable place in the criminal justice system,” while also recognizing that “[t]ribal courts range in style.” *Id.* at 13. According to the TIAG, the differences in style and the concerns expressed above “make it often difficult for a federal court to determine how to weigh tribal court convictions in rendering a sentencing decision.” *Id.* at 11. It also asserts that “taking a single approach to the consideration of tribal court convictions would be very difficult and could potentially lead to a disparate result among Indian defendants in federal courts.” *Id.* at 12. Thus, the TIAG concludes that tribal convictions should not be counted for purposes of determining criminal history points pursuant to Chapter Four, Part A, and that “the current use of USSG §4A1.3 to depart upward in individual cases continues to allow the best formulation of ‘sufficient but not greater than necessary’ sentences for defendants, while not increasing sentencing disparities or introducing due process concerns.” *Id.* Nevertheless, the TIAG recommends that the Commission amend §4A1.3 to provide guidance and a more structured analytical framework for courts to consider when determining whether a departure is appropriate based on a defendant’s record of tribal court convictions. The guidance recommended by the TIAG “collectively . . . reflect[s] important considerations for courts to balance the rights of defendants, the unique and important status of tribal courts, the need to avoid disparate sentences in light of disparate tribal court practices and circumstances, and the goal of accurately assessing the severity of any individual defendant’s criminal history.” *Id.* at 13.

The proposed amendment would amend the Commentary to §4A1.3 to set forth a non-exhaustive list of factors for the court to consider in determining whether, and to what extent, an upward departure based on a tribal court conviction is appropriate.

(B) Court Protection Orders

Under the *Guidelines Manual*, the violation of a court protection order is a specific offense characteristic in three Chapter Two offense guidelines. *See* USSG §§2A2.2 (Aggravated Assault), 2A6.1 (Threatening or Harassing Communications; Hoaxes; False Liens), and 2A6.2 (Stalking or Domestic Violence). The Commission has heard concerns that the term “court protection order” has not been defined in the guidelines and should be clarified.

The TIAG notes in its report the importance of defining “court protection order” in the guidelines, because—

[a] clear definition of that term will ensure that orders used for sentencing enhancements are the result of court proceedings assuring appropriate due process protections, that there is consistent identification and treatment of such orders, and that such orders issued by tribal courts receive treatment consistent with that of other issuing jurisdictions. TIAG Report, at 14.

The TIAG recommends that the Commission adopt a definition of “court protection order” that incorporates the statutory provisions at 18 U.S.C. §§ 2265 and 2266. Section 2266(5) provides that the term “protection order” includes:

(A) any injunction, restraining order, or any other order issued by a civil or criminal court for the purpose of preventing violent or threatening acts or harassment against, sexual violence, or contact or communication with or physical proximity to, another person, including any temporary or final order issued by a civil or criminal court whether obtained by filing an independent action or as a pendente lite order in another proceeding so long as any civil or criminal order was issued in response to a complaint, petition, or motion filed by or on behalf of a person seeking protection; and

(B) any support, child custody or visitation provisions, orders, remedies or relief issued as part of a protection order, restraining order, or injunction pursuant to State, tribal, territorial, or local law authorizing the issuance of protection orders, restraining orders, or injunctions for the protection of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. 18 U.S.C. § 2266(5).

Section 2265(b) provides that

A protection order issued by a State, tribal, or territorial court is consistent with this subsection if—

(1) such court has jurisdiction over the parties and matter under the law of such State, Indian tribe, or territory; and

(2) reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard is given to the person against whom the order is sought sufficient to protect that person's right to due process. In the case of ex parte orders, notice and opportunity to be heard must be provided within the time required by State, tribal, or territorial law, and in any event within a reasonable time after the order is issued, sufficient to protect the respondent's due process rights. 18 U.S.C. § 2265(b).

The proposed amendment would amend the Commentary to §1B1.1 (Application Instructions) to provide a definition of court protection order derived from 18 U.S.C. § 2266(5), with a provision that it must be consistent with 18 U.S.C. § 2265(b). It would also make conforming technical changes to the Commentary of §§2B1.3 (Robbery) and 2L1.1 (Smuggling, Transporting, or Harboring an Unlawful Alien).

Proposed Amendment:

(A) Tribal Court Convictions

§4A1.3. Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category (Policy Statement)

(a) UPWARD DEPARTURES.—

- (1) STANDARD FOR UPWARD DEPARTURE.—If reliable information indicates that the defendant's criminal history category substantially underrepresents the seriousness of the defendant's criminal history or the likelihood that the defendant will commit other crimes, an upward departure may be warranted.
- (2) TYPES OF INFORMATION FORMING THE BASIS FOR UPWARD DEPARTURE.—The information described in subsection (a)(1) may include information concerning the following:
 - (A) Prior sentence(s) not used in computing the criminal history category (e.g., sentences for foreign and tribal offenses convictions).
 - (B) Prior sentence(s) of substantially more than one year imposed as a result of independent crimes committed on different occasions.
 - (C) Prior similar misconduct established by a civil adjudication or by a failure to comply with an administrative order.

- (D) Whether the defendant was pending trial or sentencing on another charge at the time of the instant offense.
 - (E) Prior similar adult criminal conduct not resulting in a criminal conviction.
- (3) PROHIBITION.—A prior arrest record itself shall not be considered for purposes of an upward departure under this policy statement.
- (4) DETERMINATION OF EXTENT OF UPWARD DEPARTURE.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subdivision (B), the court shall determine the extent of a departure under this subsection by using, as a reference, the criminal history category applicable to defendants whose criminal history or likelihood to recidivate most closely resembles that of the defendant's.
 - (B) UPWARD DEPARTURES FROM CATEGORY VI.—In a case in which the court determines that the extent and nature of the defendant's criminal history, taken together, are sufficient to warrant an upward departure from Criminal History Category VI, the court should structure the departure by moving incrementally down the sentencing table to the next higher offense level in Criminal History Category VI until it finds a guideline range appropriate to the case.
- (b) DOWNWARD DEPARTURES.—
- (1) STANDARD FOR DOWNWARD DEPARTURE.—If reliable information indicates that the defendant's criminal history category substantially over-represents the seriousness of the defendant's criminal history or the likelihood that the defendant will commit other crimes, a downward departure may be warranted.
 - (2) PROHIBITIONS.—
 - (A) CRIMINAL HISTORY CATEGORY I.—A departure below the lower limit of the applicable guideline range for Criminal History Category I is prohibited.
 - (B) ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL AND REPEAT AND DANGEROUS SEX OFFENDER.—A downward departure under this subsection is prohibited for (i) an armed career criminal within the meaning of §4B1.4 (Armed Career Criminal); and (ii) a repeat and dangerous sex offender against minors within the meaning of §4B1.5 (Repeat and Dangerous Sex Offender Against Minors).

(3) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) LIMITATION ON EXTENT OF DOWNWARD DEPARTURE FOR CAREER OFFENDER.—The extent of a downward departure under this subsection for a career offender within the meaning of §4B1.1 (Career Offender) may not exceed one criminal history category.

(B) LIMITATION ON APPLICABILITY OF §5C1.2 IN EVENT OF DOWNWARD DEPARTURE TO CATEGORY I.—A defendant whose criminal history category is Category I after receipt of a downward departure under this subsection does not meet the criterion of subsection (a)(1) of §5C1.2 (Limitation on Applicability of Statutory Maximum Sentences in Certain Cases) if, before receipt of the downward departure, the defendant had more than one criminal history point under §4A1.1 (Criminal History Category).

(c) WRITTEN SPECIFICATION OF BASIS FOR DEPARTURE.—In departing from the otherwise applicable criminal history category under this policy statement, the court shall specify in writing the following:

(1) In the case of an upward departure, the specific reasons why the applicable criminal history category substantially under-represents the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history or the likelihood that the defendant will commit other crimes.

(2) In the case of a downward departure, the specific reasons why the applicable criminal history category substantially over-represents the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history or the likelihood that the defendant will commit other crimes.

Commentary

Application Notes:

1. **Definitions.**—For purposes of this policy statement, the terms “*depart*”, “*departure*”, “*downward departure*”, and “*upward departure*” have the meaning given those terms in Application Note 1 of the Commentary to §1B1.1 (Application Instructions).

2. **Upward Departures.**—

(A) **Examples.**—An upward departure from the defendant’s criminal history category may be warranted based on any of the following circumstances:

(i) A previous foreign sentence for a serious offense.

(ii) Receipt of a prior consolidated sentence of ten years for a series of serious assaults.

(iii) A similar instance of large scale fraudulent misconduct established by an adjudication in a Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement proceeding.

- (iv) Commission of the instant offense while on bail or pretrial release for another serious offense.

(B) **Upward Departures from Criminal History Category VI.**—In the case of an egregious, serious criminal record in which even the guideline range for Criminal History Category VI is not adequate to reflect the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history, a departure above the guideline range for a defendant with Criminal History Category VI may be warranted. In determining whether an upward departure from Criminal History Category VI is warranted, the court should consider that the nature of the prior offenses rather than simply their number is often more indicative of the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal record. For example, a defendant with five prior sentences for very large-scale fraud offenses may have 15 criminal history points, within the range of points typical for Criminal History Category VI, yet have a substantially more serious criminal history overall because of the nature of the prior offenses.

(C) **Upward Departures Based on Tribal Court Convictions.**—In determining whether, or to what extent, an upward departure based on a tribal court conviction is appropriate, the court shall consider the factors set forth in §4A1.3(a) above and, in addition, may consider relevant factors such as the following:

- (i) The defendant was represented by a lawyer, had the right to a trial by jury, and received other due process protections consistent with those provided to criminal defendants under the United States Constitution.
- (ii) The defendant received the due process protections required for criminal defendants under the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, Public Law 90–284, as amended.
- (iii) The tribe was exercising expanded jurisdiction under the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, Public Law 111–211.
- (iv) The tribe was exercising expanded jurisdiction under the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, Public Law 113–4.
- (v) The tribal court conviction is not based on the same conduct that formed the basis for a conviction from another jurisdiction that receives criminal history points pursuant to this Chapter.
- (vi) The tribal court conviction is for an offense that otherwise would be counted under §4A1.2 (Definitions and Instructions for Computing Criminal History).

3. **Downward Departures.**—A downward departure from the defendant’s criminal history category may be warranted if, for example, the defendant had two minor misdemeanor convictions close to ten years prior to the instant offense and no other evidence of prior criminal behavior in the intervening period. A departure below the lower limit of the applicable guideline range for Criminal History Category I is prohibited under subsection (b)(2)(~~BA~~), due to the fact that the lower limit of the guideline range for Criminal History Category I is set for a first offender with the lowest risk of recidivism.

Background: This policy statement recognizes that the criminal history score is unlikely to take into account all the variations in the seriousness of criminal history that may occur. For example, a defendant with an extensive record of serious, assaultive conduct who had received what might now be considered extremely lenient treatment in the past might have the same criminal history category

as a defendant who had a record of less serious conduct. Yet, the first defendant’s criminal history clearly may be more serious. This may be particularly true in the case of younger defendants (e.g., defendants in their early twenties or younger) who are more likely to have received repeated lenient treatment, yet who may actually pose a greater risk of serious recidivism than older defendants. This policy statement authorizes the consideration of a departure from the guidelines in the limited circumstances where reliable information indicates that the criminal history category does not adequately reflect the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history or likelihood of recidivism, and provides guidance for the consideration of such departures.

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(B) Court Protection Orders

§1B1.1. Application Instructions

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Commentary

Application Notes:

1. The following are definitions of terms that are used frequently in the guidelines and are of general applicability (except to the extent expressly modified in respect to a particular guideline or policy statement):

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(D) “*Court protection order*” means “protection order” as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 2266(5) and consistent with 18 U.S.C. § 2265(b).

(DE) “*Dangerous weapon*” means (i) an instrument capable of inflicting death or serious bodily injury; or (ii) an object that is not an instrument capable of inflicting death or serious bodily injury but (I) closely resembles such an instrument; or (II) the defendant used the object in a manner that created the impression that the object was such an instrument (e.g. a defendant wrapped a hand in a towel during a bank robbery to create the appearance of a gun).

(EF) “*Departure*” means (i) for purposes other than those specified in subdivision (ii), imposition of a sentence outside the applicable guideline range or of a sentence that is otherwise different from the guideline sentence; and (ii) for purposes of §4A1.3 (Departures Based on Inadequacy of Criminal History Category), assignment of a criminal history category other than the otherwise applicable criminal history category, in order to effect a sentence outside the applicable guideline range. “*Depart*” means grant a departure.

“*Downward departure*” means departure that effects a sentence less than a sentence that could be imposed under the applicable guideline range or a sentence that is otherwise less than the guideline sentence. “*Depart downward*” means grant a downward departure.

“*Upward departure*” means departure that effects a sentence greater than a sentence that could be imposed under the applicable guideline range or a sentence that is otherwise greater than the guideline sentence. “*Depart upward*” means grant an upward departure.

(FG) “**Destructive device**” means any article described in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(f) (including an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas — (i) bomb, (ii) grenade, (iii) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (iv) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (v) mine, or (vi) device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses).

(GH) “**Firearm**” means (i) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (ii) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (iii) any firearm muffler or silencer; or (iv) any destructive device. A weapon, commonly known as a “BB” or pellet gun, that uses air or carbon dioxide pressure to expel a projectile is a dangerous weapon but not a firearm.

(HI) “**Offense**” means the offense of conviction and all relevant conduct under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct) unless a different meaning is specified or is otherwise clear from the context. The term “*instant*” is used in connection with “offense,” “federal offense,” or “offense of conviction,” as the case may be, to distinguish the violation for which the defendant is being sentenced from a prior or subsequent offense, or from an offense before another court (*e.g.*, an offense before a state court involving the same underlying conduct).

(IJ) “**Otherwise used**” with reference to a dangerous weapon (including a firearm) means that the conduct did not amount to the discharge of a firearm but was more than brandishing, displaying, or possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapon.

(JK) “**Permanent or life-threatening bodily injury**” means injury involving a substantial risk of death; loss or substantial impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty that is likely to be permanent; or an obvious disfigurement that is likely to be permanent. In the case of a kidnapping, for example, maltreatment to a life-threatening degree (*e.g.*, by denial of food or medical care) would constitute life-threatening bodily injury.

(KL) “**Physically restrained**” means the forcible restraint of the victim such as by being tied, bound, or locked up.

(LM) “**Serious bodily injury**” means injury involving extreme physical pain or the protracted impairment of a function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty; or requiring medical intervention such as surgery, hospitalization, or physical rehabilitation. In addition, “serious bodily injury” is deemed to have occurred if the offense involved conduct constituting criminal sexual abuse under 18 U.S.C. § 2241 or § 2242 or any similar offense under state law.

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§2B3.1. Robbery

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Commentary

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Application Notes:

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2. Consistent with Application Note 1(D)(ii) of §1B1.1 (Application Instructions), an object shall be considered to be a dangerous weapon for purposes of subsection (b)(2)(E) if (A) the object closely resembles an instrument capable of inflicting death or serious bodily injury; or (B) the defendant used the object in a manner that created the impression that the object was an instrument capable of inflicting death or serious bodily injury (*e.g.*, a defendant wrapped a hand in a towel during a bank robbery to create the appearance of a gun).

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§2L1.1. Smuggling, Transporting, or Harboring an Unlawful Alien

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Commentary

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Application Notes:

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4. **Application of Subsection (b)(7) to Conduct Constituting Criminal Sexual Abuse.**— Consistent with Application Note 1(LM) of §1B1.1 (Application Instructions), “serious bodily injury” is deemed to have occurred if the offense involved conduct constituting criminal sexual abuse under 18 U.S.C. § 2241 or § 2242 or any similar offense under state law.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT: ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: This proposed amendment is the result of the Commission’s consideration of miscellaneous guideline application issues, including whether a defendant’s denial of relevant conduct should be considered in determining whether the defendant has accepted responsibility for purposes of §3E1.1.

See U.S. Sentencing Comm’n, “Notice of Final Priorities,” 82 FR 39949 (Aug. 22, 2017).

Section 3E1.1 (Acceptance of Responsibility) provides for a 2-level reduction for a defendant who clearly demonstrates acceptance of responsibility. Application Note 1(A) of §3E1.1 provides as one of the appropriate considerations in determining whether a defendant “clearly demonstrate[d] acceptance of responsibility” the following:

truthfully admitting the conduct comprising the offense(s) of conviction, and truthfully admitting or not falsely denying any additional relevant conduct for which the defendant is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct). Note that a defendant is not required to volunteer, or affirmatively admit, relevant conduct beyond the offense of conviction in order to obtain a reduction under subsection (a). A defendant may remain silent in respect to relevant conduct beyond the offense of conviction without affecting his ability to obtain a reduction under this subsection. However, a defendant who falsely denies, or frivolously contests, relevant conduct that the court determines to be true has acted in a manner inconsistent with acceptance of responsibility;

In addition, Application Note 3 provides further guidance on evidence that might demonstrate acceptance of responsibility, as follows:

Entry of a plea of guilty prior to the commencement of trial combined with truthfully admitting the conduct comprising the offense of conviction, and truthfully admitting or not falsely denying any additional relevant conduct for which he is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct) (*see* Application Note 1(A)), will constitute significant evidence of acceptance of responsibility for the purposes of subsection (a). However, this evidence may be outweighed by conduct of the defendant that is inconsistent with such acceptance of responsibility. A defendant who enters a guilty plea is not entitled to an adjustment under this section as a matter of right.

The Commission has heard concerns that the Commentary to §3E1.1 (particularly the provisions cited above) encourages courts to deny a reduction in sentence when a defendant pleads guilty and accepts responsibility for the offense of conviction, but unsuccessfully challenges the presentence report’s assessments of relevant conduct. These commenters suggest this has a chilling effect because defendants are concerned such objections may jeopardize their eligibility for a reduction for acceptance of responsibility.

The proposed amendment amends the Commentary to §3E1.1 to clarify how a defendant’s challenge to relevant conduct should be considered in determining whether the defendant has accepted responsibility. Specifically, the proposed amendment would revise Application

Note 1(A) to state that the fact that a defendant's challenge is unsuccessful does not necessarily establish that it was either a false denial or frivolous.

Proposed Amendment:

§3E1.1. Acceptance of Responsibility

- (a) If the defendant clearly demonstrates acceptance of responsibility for his offense, decrease the offense level by **2** levels.
- (b) If the defendant qualifies for a decrease under subsection (a), the offense level determined prior to the operation of subsection (a) is level **16** or greater, and upon motion of the government stating that the defendant has assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of his own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the government and the court to allocate their resources efficiently, decrease the offense level by **1** additional level.

Commentary

Application Notes:

1. In determining whether a defendant qualifies under subsection (a), appropriate considerations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (A) truthfully admitting the conduct comprising the offense(s) of conviction, and truthfully admitting or not falsely denying any additional relevant conduct for which the defendant is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct). Note that a defendant is not required to volunteer, or affirmatively admit, relevant conduct beyond the offense of conviction in order to obtain a reduction under subsection (a). A defendant may remain silent in respect to relevant conduct beyond the offense of conviction without affecting his ability to obtain a reduction under this subsection. However, a defendant who falsely denies, or frivolously contests, relevant conduct that the court determines to be true has acted in a manner inconsistent with acceptance of responsibility, but the fact that a defendant's challenge is unsuccessful does not necessarily establish that it was either a false denial or frivolous;
 - (B) voluntary termination or withdrawal from criminal conduct or associations;
 - (C) voluntary payment of restitution prior to adjudication of guilt;
 - (D) voluntary surrender to authorities promptly after commission of the offense;
 - (E) voluntary assistance to authorities in the recovery of the fruits and instrumentalities of the offense;
 - (F) voluntary resignation from the office or position held during the commission of the offense;
 - (G) post-offense rehabilitative efforts (*e.g.*, counseling or drug treatment); and

- (H) the timeliness of the defendant's conduct in manifesting the acceptance of responsibility.
2. This adjustment is not intended to apply to a defendant who puts the government to its burden of proof at trial by denying the essential factual elements of guilt, is convicted, and only then admits guilt and expresses remorse. Conviction by trial, however, does not automatically preclude a defendant from consideration for such a reduction. In rare situations a defendant may clearly demonstrate an acceptance of responsibility for his criminal conduct even though he exercises his constitutional right to a trial. This may occur, for example, where a defendant goes to trial to assert and preserve issues that do not relate to factual guilt (*e.g.*, to make a constitutional challenge to a statute or a challenge to the applicability of a statute to his conduct). In each such instance, however, a determination that a defendant has accepted responsibility will be based primarily upon pre-trial statements and conduct.
 3. Entry of a plea of guilty prior to the commencement of trial combined with truthfully admitting the conduct comprising the offense of conviction, and truthfully admitting or not falsely denying any additional relevant conduct for which he is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct) (*see* Application Note 1(A)), will constitute significant evidence of acceptance of responsibility for the purposes of subsection (a). However, this evidence may be outweighed by conduct of the defendant that is inconsistent with such acceptance of responsibility. A defendant who enters a guilty plea is not entitled to an adjustment under this section as a matter of right.
 4. Conduct resulting in an enhancement under §3C1.1 (Obstructing or Impeding the Administration of Justice) ordinarily indicates that the defendant has not accepted responsibility for his criminal conduct. There may, however, be extraordinary cases in which adjustments under both §§3C1.1 and 3E1.1 may apply.
 5. The sentencing judge is in a unique position to evaluate a defendant's acceptance of responsibility. For this reason, the determination of the sentencing judge is entitled to great deference on review.
 6. Subsection (a) provides a 2-level decrease in offense level. Subsection (b) provides an additional 1-level decrease in offense level for a defendant at offense level 16 or greater prior to the operation of subsection (a) who both qualifies for a decrease under subsection (a) and who has assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of his own misconduct by taking the steps set forth in subsection (b). The timeliness of the defendant's acceptance of responsibility is a consideration under both subsections, and is context specific. In general, the conduct qualifying for a decrease in offense level under subsection (b) will occur particularly early in the case. For example, to qualify under subsection (b), the defendant must have notified authorities of his intention to enter a plea of guilty at a sufficiently early point in the process so that the government may avoid preparing for trial and the court may schedule its calendar efficiently.

Because the Government is in the best position to determine whether the defendant has assisted authorities in a manner that avoids preparing for trial, an adjustment under subsection (b) may only be granted upon a formal motion by the Government at the time of sentencing. *See* section 401(g)(2)(B) of Public Law 108–21. The government should not withhold such a motion based on interests not identified in §3E1.1, such as whether the defendant agrees to waive his or her right to appeal.

If the government files such a motion, and the court in deciding whether to grant the motion also determines that the defendant has assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of his own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of his intention to enter a plea of guilty, thereby

permitting the government to avoid preparing for trial and permitting the government and the court to allocate their resources efficiently, the court should grant the motion.

Background: The reduction of offense level provided by this section recognizes legitimate societal interests. For several reasons, a defendant who clearly demonstrates acceptance of responsibility for his offense by taking, in a timely fashion, the actions listed above (or some equivalent action) is appropriately given a lower offense level than a defendant who has not demonstrated acceptance of responsibility.

Subsection (a) provides a 2-level decrease in offense level. Subsection (b) provides an additional 1-level decrease for a defendant at offense level 16 or greater prior to operation of subsection (a) who both qualifies for a decrease under subsection (a) and has assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of his own misconduct by taking the steps specified in subsection (b). Such a defendant has accepted responsibility in a way that ensures the certainty of his just punishment in a timely manner, thereby appropriately meriting an additional reduction. Subsection (b) does not apply, however, to a defendant whose offense level is level 15 or lower prior to application of subsection (a). At offense level 15 or lower, the reduction in the guideline range provided by a 2-level decrease in offense level under subsection (a) (which is a greater proportional reduction in the guideline range than at higher offense levels due to the structure of the Sentencing Table) is adequate for the court to take into account the factors set forth in subsection (b) within the applicable guideline range.

Section 401(g) of Public Law 108–21 directly amended subsection (b), Application Note 6 (including adding the first sentence of the second paragraph of that application note), and the Background Commentary, effective April 30, 2003.

* * *

PROPOSED AMENDMENT: BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: This proposed amendment responds to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, Pub. L. 114–74 (Nov. 2, 2015), which, among other things, amended three existing criminal statutes concerned with fraudulent claims under certain Social Security programs.

The three criminal statutes amended by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 are sections 208 (Penalties [for fraud involving the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund]), 811 (Penalties for fraud [involving special benefits for certain World War II veterans]), and 1632 (Penalties for fraud [involving supplemental security income for the aged, blind, and disabled]) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 408, 1011, and 1383a, respectively).

(A) Conspiracy to Commit Social Security Fraud

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 added new subdivisions prohibiting conspiracy to commit fraud for substantive offenses already contained in the three statutes (42 U.S.C. §§ 408, 1011, and 1383a). For each of the three statutes, the new subdivision provides that whoever “conspires to commit any offense described in any of [the] paragraphs” enumerated shall be imprisoned for not more than five years, the same statutory maximum penalty applicable to the substantive offense.

The three amended statutes are currently referenced in Appendix A (Statutory Index) to §2B1.1 (Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud). The proposed amendment would amend Appendix A so that sections 408, 1011, and 1383a of Title 42 are referenced not only to §2B1.1 but also to §2X1.1 (Attempt, Solicitation, or Conspiracy (Not Covered by a Specific Office Guideline)).

(B) Increased Penalties for Certain Individuals Violating Positions of Trust

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 also amended sections 408, 1011, and 1383a of Title 42 to add increased penalties for certain persons who commit fraud offenses under the relevant Social Security programs. The Act included a provision in all three statutes identifying such a person as:

a person who receives a fee or other income for services performed in connection with any determination with respect to benefits under this title (including a claimant representative, translator, or current or former employee of the Social Security Administration), or who is a physician or other health care provider who submits, or causes the submission of, medical or other evidence in connection with any such determination

A person who meets this requirement and is convicted of a fraud offense under one of the three amended statutes may be imprisoned for not more than ten years, double the otherwise applicable five-year penalty for other offenders. The new increased penalties apply to all of the fraudulent conduct in subsection (a) of the three statutes.

The proposed amendment would amend §2B1.1 to address cases in which the defendant was convicted under 42 U.S.C. § 408(a), § 1011(a), or § 1383a(a) and the statutory maximum term of ten years' imprisonment applies. It provides an enhancement of 4 levels and a minimum offense level of 12 for such cases. It also adds Commentary specifying that if this enhancement applies, the court should not apply an adjustment under §3B1.3 (Abuse of Position of Trust or Use of Special Skill).

The proposed amendment also makes technical, conforming changes to other provisions of §2B1.1 and the Commentary.

Proposed Amendment:

(A) Conspiracy to Commit Social Security Fraud

APPENDIX A

STATUTORY INDEX

* * *

42 U.S.C. § 408	2B1.1, 2X1.1
42 U.S.C. § 1011	2B1.1, 2X1.1
42 U.S.C. § 1307(a)	2B1.1
42 U.S.C. § 1307(b)	2B1.1
42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b	2B1.1, 2B4.1
42 U.S.C. § 1320a-8b	2X5.1, 2X5.2
42 U.S.C. § 1383(d)(2)	2B1.1
42 U.S.C. § 1383a(a)	2B1.1, 2X1.1

* * *

(B) Increased Penalties for Certain Individuals Violating Positions of Trust

§2B1.1. Larceny, Embezzlement, and Other Forms of Theft; Offenses Involving Stolen Property; Property Damage or Destruction; Fraud and Deceit; Forgery; Offenses Involving Altered or Counterfeit Instruments Other than Counterfeit Bearer Obligations of the United States

(a) Base Offense Level:

- (1) **7**, if (A) the defendant was convicted of an offense referenced to this guideline; and (B) that offense of conviction has a statutory maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years or more; or
- (2) **6**, otherwise.

(b) Specific Offense Characteristics

- (1) If the loss exceeded \$6,500, increase the offense level as follows:

	LOSS (APPLY THE GREATEST)	INCREASE IN LEVEL
(A)	\$6,500 or less	no increase
(B)	More than \$6,500	add 2
(C)	More than \$15,000	add 4
(D)	More than \$40,000	add 6
(E)	More than \$95,000	add 8
(F)	More than \$150,000	add 10
(G)	More than \$250,000	add 12
(H)	More than \$550,000	add 14
(I)	More than \$1,500,000	add 16
(J)	More than \$3,500,000	add 18
(K)	More than \$9,500,000	add 20
(L)	More than \$25,000,000	add 22
(M)	More than \$65,000,000	add 24
(N)	More than \$150,000,000	add 26
(O)	More than \$250,000,000	add 28
(P)	More than \$550,000,000	add 30 .

- (2) (Apply the greatest) If the offense—

- (A) (i) involved 10 or more victims; (ii) was committed through mass-marketing; or (iii) resulted in substantial financial hardship to one or more victims, increase by **2** levels;
- (B) resulted in substantial financial hardship to five or more victims, increase by **4** levels; or
- (C) resulted in substantial financial hardship to 25 or more victims, increase by **6** levels.

- (3) If the offense involved a theft from the person of another, increase by **2** levels.

- (4) If the offense involved receiving stolen property, and the defendant was a person in the business of receiving and selling stolen property, increase by **2** levels.
- (5) If the offense involved theft of, damage to, destruction of, or trafficking in, property from a national cemetery or veterans' memorial, increase by **2** levels.
- (6) If (A) the defendant was convicted of an offense under 18 U.S.C. § 1037; and (B) the offense involved obtaining electronic mail addresses through improper means, increase by **2** levels.
- (7) If (A) the defendant was convicted of a Federal health care offense involving a Government health care program; and (B) the loss under subsection (b)(1) to the Government health care program was (i) more than \$1,000,000, increase by **2** levels; (ii) more than \$7,000,000, increase by **3** levels; or (iii) more than \$20,000,000, increase by **4** levels.
- (8) (Apply the greater) If—
 - (A) the offense involved conduct described in 18 U.S.C. § 670, increase by **2** levels; or
 - (B) the offense involved conduct described in 18 U.S.C. § 670, and the defendant was employed by, or was an agent of, an organization in the supply chain for the pre-retail medical product, increase by **4** levels.
- (9) If the offense involved (A) a misrepresentation that the defendant was acting on behalf of a charitable, educational, religious, or political organization, or a government agency; (B) a misrepresentation or other fraudulent action during the course of a bankruptcy proceeding; (C) a violation of any prior, specific judicial or administrative order, injunction, decree, or process not addressed elsewhere in the guidelines; or (D) a misrepresentation to a consumer in connection with obtaining, providing, or furnishing financial assistance for an institution of higher education, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **10**, increase to level **10**.
- (10) If (A) the defendant relocated, or participated in relocating, a fraudulent scheme to another jurisdiction to evade law enforcement or regulatory officials; (B) a substantial part of a fraudulent scheme was committed from outside the United States; or (C) the offense otherwise involved sophisticated means and the defendant intentionally engaged in or caused the conduct constituting

sophisticated means, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **12**, increase to level **12**.

(11) If the offense involved (A) the possession or use of any (i) device-making equipment, or (ii) authentication feature; (B) the production or trafficking of any (i) unauthorized access device or counterfeit access device, or (ii) authentication feature; or (C)(i) the unauthorized transfer or use of any means of identification unlawfully to produce or obtain any other means of identification, or (ii) the possession of 5 or more means of identification that unlawfully were produced from, or obtained by the use of, another means of identification, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **12**, increase to level **12**.

(12) If the offense involved conduct described in 18 U.S.C. § 1040, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **12**, increase to level **12**.

(13) If the defendant was convicted under 42 U.S.C. § 408(a), § 1011(a), or § 1383a(a) and the statutory maximum term of ten years' imprisonment applies, increase by **4** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **12**, increase to level **12**.

(14) (Apply the greater) If the offense involved misappropriation of a trade secret and the defendant knew or intended—

(A) that the trade secret would be transported or transmitted out of the United States, increase by **2** levels; or

(B) that the offense would benefit a foreign government, foreign instrumentality, or foreign agent, increase by **4** levels.

If subparagraph (B) applies and the resulting offense level is less than level **14**, increase to level **14**.

(15) If the offense involved an organized scheme to steal or to receive stolen (A) vehicles or vehicle parts; or (B) goods or chattels that are part of a cargo shipment, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **14**, increase to level **14**.

(16) If the offense involved (A) the conscious or reckless risk of death or serious bodily injury; or (B) possession of a dangerous weapon (including a firearm) in connection with the offense, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **14**, increase to level **14**.

- (~~16~~**17**) (Apply the greater) If—
- (A) the defendant derived more than \$1,000,000 in gross receipts from one or more financial institutions as a result of the offense, increase by **2** levels; or
 - (B) the offense (i) substantially jeopardized the safety and soundness of a financial institution; or (ii) substantially endangered the solvency or financial security of an organization that, at any time during the offense, (I) was a publicly traded company; or (II) had 1,000 or more employees, increase by **4** levels.
 - (C) The cumulative adjustments from application of both subsections (b)(2) and (b)(~~16~~**17**)(B) shall not exceed **8** levels, except as provided in subdivision (D).
 - (D) If the resulting offense level determined under subdivision (A) or (B) is less than level **24**, increase to level **24**.
- (~~17~~**18**) If (A) the defendant was convicted of an offense under 18 U.S.C. § 1030, and the offense involved an intent to obtain personal information, or (B) the offense involved the unauthorized public dissemination of personal information, increase by **2** levels.
- (~~18~~**19**) (A) (Apply the greatest) If the defendant was convicted of an offense under:
- (i) 18 U.S.C. § 1030, and the offense involved a computer system used to maintain or operate a critical infrastructure, or used by or for a government entity in furtherance of the administration of justice, national defense, or national security, increase by **2** levels.
 - (ii) 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(5)(A), increase by **4** levels.
 - (iii) 18 U.S.C. § 1030, and the offense caused a substantial disruption of a critical infrastructure, increase by **6** levels.
- (B) If subdivision (A)(iii) applies, and the offense level is less than level **24**, increase to level **24**.
- (~~19~~**20**) If the offense involved—
- (A) a violation of securities law and, at the time of the offense, the defendant was (i) an officer or a director of a publicly traded company; (ii) a registered broker or dealer, or a person associated

with a broker or dealer; or (iii) an investment adviser, or a person associated with an investment adviser; or

- (B) a violation of commodities law and, at the time of the offense, the defendant was (i) an officer or a director of a futures commission merchant or an introducing broker; (ii) a commodities trading advisor; or (iii) a commodity pool operator,

increase by 4 levels.

(c) Cross References

- (1) If (A) a firearm, destructive device, explosive material, or controlled substance was taken, or the taking of any such item was an object of the offense; or (B) the stolen property received, transported, transferred, transmitted, or possessed was a firearm, destructive device, explosive material, or controlled substance, apply §2D1.1 (Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy), §2D2.1 (Unlawful Possession; Attempt or Conspiracy), §2K1.3 (Unlawful Receipt, Possession, or Transportation of Explosive Materials; Prohibited Transactions Involving Explosive Materials), or §2K2.1 (Unlawful Receipt, Possession, or Transportation of Firearms or Ammunition; Prohibited Transactions Involving Firearms or Ammunition), as appropriate.
- (2) If the offense involved arson, or property damage by use of explosives, apply §2K1.4 (Arson; Property Damage by Use of Explosives), if the resulting offense level is greater than that determined above.
- (3) If (A) neither subdivision (1) nor (2) of this subsection applies; (B) the defendant was convicted under a statute proscribing false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations generally (*e.g.*, 18 U.S.C. § 1001, § 1341, § 1342, or § 1343); and (C) the conduct set forth in the count of conviction establishes an offense specifically covered by another guideline in Chapter Two (Offense Conduct), apply that other guideline.
- (4) If the offense involved a cultural heritage resource or a paleontological resource, apply §2B1.5 (Theft of, Damage to, or Destruction of, Cultural Heritage Resources or Paleontological Resources; Unlawful Sale, Purchase, Exchange, Transportation, or Receipt of Cultural Heritage Resources or Paleontological Resources), if the resulting offense level is greater than that determined above.

Commentary

* * *

Application Notes:

* * *

10. Application of Subsection (b)(11).—

(A) Definitions.—For purposes of subsection (b)(11):

“*Authentication feature*” has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. § 1028(d)(1).

“*Counterfeit access device*” (i) has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. § 1029(e)(2); and (ii) includes a telecommunications instrument that has been modified or altered to obtain unauthorized use of telecommunications service.

“*Device-making equipment*” (i) has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. § 1029(e)(6); and (ii) includes (I) any hardware or software that has been configured as described in 18 U.S.C. § 1029(a)(9); and (II) a scanning receiver referred to in 18 U.S.C. § 1029(a)(8). “Scanning receiver” has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. § 1029(e)(8).

“*Produce*” includes manufacture, design, alter, authenticate, duplicate, or assemble. “*Production*” includes manufacture, design, alteration, authentication, duplication, or assembly.

“*Telecommunications service*” has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. § 1029(e)(9).

“*Unauthorized access device*” has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. § 1029(e)(3).

(B) Authentication Features and Identification Documents.—Offenses involving authentication features, identification documents, false identification documents, and means of identification, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028, also are covered by this guideline. If the primary purpose of the offense, under 18 U.S.C. § 1028, was to violate, or assist another to violate, the law pertaining to naturalization, citizenship, or legal resident status, apply §2L2.1 (Trafficking in a Document Relating to Naturalization) or §2L2.2 (Fraudulently Acquiring Documents Relating to Naturalization), as appropriate, rather than this guideline.

(C) Application of Subsection (b)(11)(C)(i).—

(i) **In General.**—Subsection (b)(11)(C)(i) applies in a case in which a means of identification of an individual other than the defendant (or a person for whose conduct the defendant is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct)) is used without that individual’s authorization unlawfully to produce or obtain another means of identification.

(ii) **Examples.**—Examples of conduct to which subsection (b)(11)(C)(i) applies are as follows:

(I) A defendant obtains an individual’s name and social security number from a source (e.g., from a piece of mail taken from the individual’s mailbox) and obtains a bank loan in that individual’s name. In this example, the account number of

the bank loan is the other means of identification that has been obtained unlawfully.

- (II) A defendant obtains an individual's name and address from a source (*e.g.*, from a driver's license in a stolen wallet) and applies for, obtains, and subsequently uses a credit card in that individual's name. In this example, the credit card is the other means of identification that has been obtained unlawfully.
- (iii) **Non-Applicability of Subsection (b)(11)(C)(i).**—Examples of conduct to which subsection (b)(11)(C)(i) does not apply are as follows:
 - (I) A defendant uses a credit card from a stolen wallet only to make a purchase. In such a case, the defendant has not used the stolen credit card to obtain another means of identification.
 - (II) A defendant forges another individual's signature to cash a stolen check. Forging another individual's signature is not producing another means of identification.
- (D) **Application of Subsection (b)(11)(C)(ii).**—Subsection (b)(11)(C)(ii) applies in any case in which the offense involved the possession of 5 or more means of identification that unlawfully were produced or obtained, regardless of the number of individuals in whose name (or other identifying information) the means of identification were so produced or so obtained.

11. Interaction of Subsection (b)(13) and §3B1.3 (Abuse of Position of Trust or Use of Special Skill).—If subsection (b)(13) applies, do not apply §3B1.3.

11.12. Application of Subsection (b)(14)(15).—Subsection (b)(14)(15) provides a minimum offense level in the case of an ongoing, sophisticated operation (*e.g.*, an auto theft ring or “chop shop”) to steal or to receive stolen (A) vehicles or vehicle parts; or (B) goods or chattels that are part of a cargo shipment. For purposes of this subsection, “*vehicle*” means motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft. A “*cargo shipment*” includes cargo transported on a railroad car, bus, steamboat, vessel, or airplane.

12.13. Gross Receipts Enhancement under Subsection (b)(16)(17)(A).—

- (A) **In General.**—For purposes of subsection (b)(16)(17)(A), the defendant shall be considered to have derived more than \$1,000,000 in gross receipts if the gross receipts to the defendant individually, rather than to all participants, exceeded \$1,000,000.
- (B) **Definition.**—“*Gross receipts from the offense*” includes all property, real or personal, tangible or intangible, which is obtained directly or indirectly as a result of such offense. See 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(4).

13.14. Application of Subsection (b)(16)(17)(B).—

- (A) **Application of Subsection (b)(16)(17)(B)(i).**—The following is a non-exhaustive list of factors that the court shall consider in determining whether, as a result of the offense, the safety and soundness of a financial institution was substantially jeopardized:
 - (i) The financial institution became insolvent.
 - (ii) The financial institution substantially reduced benefits to pensioners or insureds.

- (iii) The financial institution was unable on demand to refund fully any deposit, payment, or investment.
- (iv) The financial institution was so depleted of its assets as to be forced to merge with another institution in order to continue active operations.
- (v) One or more of the criteria in clauses (i) through (iv) was likely to result from the offense but did not result from the offense because of federal government intervention, such as a “bailout”.

(B) Application of Subsection (b)(1617)(B)(ii).—

- (i) **Definition.**—For purposes of this subsection, “*organization*” has the meaning given that term in Application Note 1 of §8A1.1 (Applicability of Chapter Eight).
- (ii) **In General.**—The following is a non-exhaustive list of factors that the court shall consider in determining whether, as a result of the offense, the solvency or financial security of an organization that was a publicly traded company or that had more than 1,000 employees was substantially endangered:
 - (I) The organization became insolvent or suffered a substantial reduction in the value of its assets.
 - (II) The organization filed for bankruptcy under Chapters 7, 11, or 13 of the Bankruptcy Code (title 11, United States Code).
 - (III) The organization suffered a substantial reduction in the value of its equity securities or the value of its employee retirement accounts.
 - (IV) The organization substantially reduced its workforce.
 - (V) The organization substantially reduced its employee pension benefits.
 - (VI) The liquidity of the equity securities of a publicly traded company was substantially endangered. For example, the company was delisted from its primary listing exchange, or trading of the company’s securities was halted for more than one full trading day.
 - (VII) One or more of the criteria in subclauses (I) through (VI) was likely to result from the offense but did not result from the offense because of federal government intervention, such as a “bailout”.

1415. Application of Subsection (b)(1819).—

- (A) **Definitions.**—For purposes of subsection (b)(1819):

“*Critical infrastructure*” means systems and assets vital to national defense, national security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of those matters. A critical infrastructure may be publicly or privately owned. Examples of critical infrastructures include gas and oil production, storage, and delivery systems, water supply systems, telecommunications networks, electrical power delivery systems, financing and banking systems, emergency services (including medical, police, fire, and rescue services),

transportation systems and services (including highways, mass transit, airlines, and airports), and government operations that provide essential services to the public.

“**Government entity**” has the meaning given that term in 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(9).

- (B) **Subsection (b)(1819)(A)(iii).**—If the same conduct that forms the basis for an enhancement under subsection (b)(1819)(A)(iii) is the only conduct that forms the basis for an enhancement under subsection (b)(1617)(B), do not apply the enhancement under subsection (b)(1617)(B).

1516. Application of Subsection (b)(1920).—

- (A) **Definitions.**—For purposes of subsection (b)(1920):

“**Commodities law**” means (i) the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*) and 18 U.S.C. § 1348; and (ii) includes the rules, regulations, and orders issued by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

“**Commodity pool operator**” has the meaning given that term in section 1a(11) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. § 1a(11)).

“**Commodity trading advisor**” has the meaning given that term in section 1a(12) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. § 1a(12)).

“**Futures commission merchant**” has the meaning given that term in section 1a(28) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. § 1a(28)).

“**Introducing broker**” has the meaning given that term in section 1a(31) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. § 1a(31)).

“**Investment adviser**” has the meaning given that term in section 202(a)(11) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. § 80b-2(a)(11)).

“**Person associated with a broker or dealer**” has the meaning given that term in section 3(a)(18) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(18)).

“**Person associated with an investment adviser**” has the meaning given that term in section 202(a)(17) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. § 80b-2(a)(17)).

“**Registered broker or dealer**” has the meaning given that term in section 3(a)(48) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(48)).

“**Securities law**” (i) means 18 U.S.C. §§ 1348, 1350, and the provisions of law referred to in section 3(a)(47) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(47)); and (ii) includes the rules, regulations, and orders issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the provisions of law referred to in such section.

- (B) **In General.**—A conviction under a securities law or commodities law is not required in order for subsection (b)(1920) to apply. This subsection would apply in the case of a defendant convicted under a general fraud statute if the defendant’s conduct violated a securities law or commodities law. For example, this subsection would apply if an officer of a publicly traded company violated regulations issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission by fraudulently influencing an independent audit of the company’s financial

statements for the purposes of rendering such financial statements materially misleading, even if the officer is convicted only of wire fraud.

- (C) **Nonapplicability of §3B1.3 (Abuse of Position of Trust or Use of Special Skill).**—If subsection (b)(1920) applies, do not apply §3B1.3.

1617 **Cross Reference in Subsection (c)(3).**—Subsection (c)(3) provides a cross reference to another guideline in Chapter Two (Offense Conduct) in cases in which the defendant is convicted of a general fraud statute, and the count of conviction establishes an offense involving fraudulent conduct that is more aptly covered by another guideline. Sometimes, offenses involving fraudulent statements are prosecuted under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, or a similarly general statute, although the offense involves fraudulent conduct that is also covered by a more specific statute. Examples include false entries regarding currency transactions, for which §2S1.3 (Structuring Transactions to Evade Reporting Requirements) likely would be more apt, and false statements to a customs officer, for which §2T3.1 (Evading Import Duties or Restrictions (Smuggling); Receiving or Trafficking in Smuggled Property) likely would be more apt. In certain other cases, the mail or wire fraud statutes, or other relatively broad statutes, are used primarily as jurisdictional bases for the prosecution of other offenses. For example, a state employee who improperly influenced the award of a contract and used the mails to commit the offense may be prosecuted under 18 U.S.C. § 1341 for fraud involving the deprivation of the intangible right of honest services. Such a case would be more aptly sentenced pursuant to §2C1.1 (Offering, Giving, Soliciting, or Receiving a Bribe; Extortion Under Color of Official Right; Fraud involving the Deprivation of the Intangible Right to Honest Services of Public Officials; Conspiracy to Defraud by Interference with Governmental Functions).

1718 **Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise.**—If the defendant is convicted under 18 U.S.C. § 225 (relating to a continuing financial crimes enterprise), the offense level is that applicable to the underlying series of offenses comprising the “continuing financial crimes enterprise”.

1819 **Partially Completed Offenses.**—In the case of a partially completed offense (*e.g.*, an offense involving a completed theft or fraud that is part of a larger, attempted theft or fraud), the offense level is to be determined in accordance with the provisions of §2X1.1 (Attempt, Solicitation, or Conspiracy) whether the conviction is for the substantive offense, the inchoate offense (attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy), or both. *See* Application Note 4 of the Commentary to §2X1.1.

1920 **Multiple-Count Indictments.**—Some fraudulent schemes may result in multiple-count indictments, depending on the technical elements of the offense. The cumulative loss produced by a common scheme or course of conduct should be used in determining the offense level, regardless of the number of counts of conviction. *See* Chapter Three, Part D (Multiple Counts).

2021 **Departure Considerations.**—

- (A) **Upward Departure Considerations.**—There may be cases in which the offense level determined under this guideline substantially understates the seriousness of the offense. In such cases, an upward departure may be warranted. The following is a non-exhaustive list of factors that the court may consider in determining whether an upward departure is warranted:
- (i) A primary objective of the offense was an aggravating, non-monetary objective. For example, a primary objective of the offense was to inflict emotional harm.
 - (ii) The offense caused or risked substantial non-monetary harm. For example, the offense caused physical harm, psychological harm, or severe emotional trauma, or

resulted in a substantial invasion of a privacy interest (through, for example, the theft of personal information such as medical, educational, or financial records). An upward departure would be warranted, for example, in an 18 U.S.C. § 1030 offense involving damage to a protected computer, if, as a result of that offense, death resulted. An upward departure also would be warranted, for example, in a case involving animal enterprise terrorism under 18 U.S.C. § 43, if, in the course of the offense, serious bodily injury or death resulted, or substantial scientific research or information were destroyed. Similarly, an upward departure would be warranted in a case involving conduct described in 18 U.S.C. § 670 if the offense resulted in serious bodily injury or death, including serious bodily injury or death resulting from the use of the pre-retail medical product.

- (iii) The offense involved a substantial amount of interest of any kind, finance charges, late fees, penalties, amounts based on an agreed-upon return or rate of return, or other similar costs, not included in the determination of loss for purposes of subsection (b)(1).
 - (iv) The offense created a risk of substantial loss beyond the loss determined for purposes of subsection (b)(1), such as a risk of a significant disruption of a national financial market.
 - (v) In a case involving stolen information from a “protected computer”, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(2), the defendant sought the stolen information to further a broader criminal purpose.
 - (vi) In a case involving access devices or unlawfully produced or unlawfully obtained means of identification:
 - (I) The offense caused substantial harm to the victim’s reputation, or the victim suffered a substantial inconvenience related to repairing the victim’s reputation.
 - (II) An individual whose means of identification the defendant used to obtain unlawful means of identification is erroneously arrested or denied a job because an arrest record has been made in that individual’s name.
 - (III) The defendant produced or obtained numerous means of identification with respect to one individual and essentially assumed that individual’s identity.
- (B) **Upward Departure for Debilitating Impact on a Critical Infrastructure.**—An upward departure would be warranted in a case in which subsection (b)(4819)(A)(iii) applies and the disruption to the critical infrastructure(s) is so substantial as to have a debilitating impact on national security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.
- (C) **Downward Departure Consideration.**—There may be cases in which the offense level determined under this guideline substantially overstates the seriousness of the offense. In such cases, a downward departure may be warranted.

For example, a securities fraud involving a fraudulent statement made publicly to the market may produce an aggregate loss amount that is substantial but diffuse, with relatively small loss amounts suffered by a relatively large number of victims. In such a case, the loss table in subsection (b)(1) and the victims table in subsection (b)(2) may

combine to produce an offense level that substantially overstates the seriousness of the offense. If so, a downward departure may be warranted.

- (D) **Downward Departure for Major Disaster or Emergency Victims.**—If (i) the minimum offense level of level 12 in subsection (b)(12) applies; (ii) the defendant sustained damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused by a major disaster or an emergency as those terms are defined in 42 U.S.C. § 5122; and (iii) the benefits received illegally were only an extension or overpayment of benefits received legitimately, a downward departure may be warranted.

Background: This guideline covers offenses involving theft, stolen property, property damage or destruction, fraud, forgery, and counterfeiting (other than offenses involving altered or counterfeit bearer obligations of the United States).

Because federal fraud statutes often are broadly written, a single pattern of offense conduct usually can be prosecuted under several code sections, as a result of which the offense of conviction may be somewhat arbitrary. Furthermore, most fraud statutes cover a broad range of conduct with extreme variation in severity. The specific offense characteristics and cross references contained in this guideline are designed with these considerations in mind.

The Commission has determined that, ordinarily, the sentences of defendants convicted of federal offenses should reflect the nature and magnitude of the loss caused or intended by their crimes. Accordingly, along with other relevant factors under the guidelines, loss serves as a measure of the seriousness of the offense and the defendant's relative culpability and is a principal factor in determining the offense level under this guideline.

Theft from the person of another, such as pickpocketing or non-forcible purse-snatching, receives an enhanced sentence because of the increased risk of physical injury. This guideline does not include an enhancement for thefts from the person by means of force or fear; such crimes are robberies and are covered under §2B3.1 (Robbery).

A minimum offense level of level 14 is provided for offenses involving an organized scheme to steal vehicles or vehicle parts. Typically, the scope of such activity is substantial, but the value of the property may be particularly difficult to ascertain in individual cases because the stolen property is rapidly resold or otherwise disposed of in the course of the offense. Therefore, the specific offense characteristic of "organized scheme" is used as an alternative to "loss" in setting a minimum offense level.

Use of false pretenses involving charitable causes and government agencies enhances the sentences of defendants who take advantage of victims' trust in government or law enforcement agencies or the generosity and charitable motives of victims. Taking advantage of a victim's self-interest does not mitigate the seriousness of fraudulent conduct; rather, defendants who exploit victims' charitable impulses or trust in government create particular social harm. In a similar vein, a defendant who has been subject to civil or administrative proceedings for the same or similar fraudulent conduct demonstrates aggravated criminal intent and is deserving of additional punishment for not conforming with the requirements of judicial process or orders issued by federal, state, or local administrative agencies.

Offenses that involve the use of financial transactions or financial accounts outside the United States in an effort to conceal illicit profits and criminal conduct involve a particularly high level of sophistication and complexity. These offenses are difficult to detect and require costly investigations and prosecutions. Diplomatic processes often must be used to secure testimony and evidence beyond

the jurisdiction of United States courts. Consequently, a minimum offense level of level 12 is provided for these offenses.

Subsection (b)(5) implements the instruction to the Commission in section 2 of Public Law 105–101 and the directive to the Commission in section 3 of Public Law 110–384.

Subsection (b)(7) implements the directive to the Commission in section 10606 of Public Law 111–148.

Subsection (b)(8) implements the directive to the Commission in section 7 of Public Law 112–186.

Subsection (b)(9)(D) implements, in a broader form, the directive in section 3 of the College Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act of 2000, Public Law 106–420.

Subsection (b)(10) implements, in a broader form, the instruction to the Commission in section 6(c)(2) of Public Law 105–184.

Subsections (b)(11)(A)(i) and (B)(i) implement the instruction to the Commission in section 4 of the Wireless Telephone Protection Act, Public Law 105–172.

Subsection (b)(11)(C) implements the directive to the Commission in section 4 of the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998, Public Law 105–318. This subsection focuses principally on an aggravated form of identity theft known as “affirmative identity theft” or “breeding”, in which a defendant uses another individual’s name, social security number, or some other form of identification (the “means of identification”) to “breed” (*i.e.*, produce or obtain) new or additional forms of identification. Because 18 U.S.C. § 1028(d) broadly defines “means of identification”, the new or additional forms of identification can include items such as a driver’s license, a credit card, or a bank loan. This subsection provides a minimum offense level of level 12, in part because of the seriousness of the offense. The minimum offense level accounts for the fact that the means of identification that were “bred” (*i.e.*, produced or obtained) often are within the defendant’s exclusive control, making it difficult for the individual victim to detect that the victim’s identity has been “stolen.” Generally, the victim does not become aware of the offense until certain harms have already occurred (*e.g.*, a damaged credit rating or an inability to obtain a loan). The minimum offense level also accounts for the non-monetary harm associated with these types of offenses, much of which may be difficult or impossible to quantify (*e.g.*, harm to the individual’s reputation or credit rating, inconvenience, and other difficulties resulting from the offense). The legislative history of the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998 indicates that Congress was especially concerned with providing increased punishment for this type of harm.

Subsection (b)(12) implements the directive in section 5 of Public Law 110–179.

Subsection (b)(~~13~~14) implements the directive in section 3 of Public Law 112–269.

Subsection (b)(~~15~~16)(B) implements, in a broader form, the instruction to the Commission in section 110512 of Public Law 103–322.

Subsection (b)(~~16~~17)(A) implements, in a broader form, the instruction to the Commission in section 2507 of Public Law 101–647.

Subsection (b)(~~16~~17)(B)(i) implements, in a broader form, the instruction to the Commission in section 961(m) of Public Law 101–73.

Subsection (b)(~~17~~18) implements the directive in section 209 of Public Law 110–326.

Subsection (b)(~~18~~19) implements the directive in section 225(b) of Public Law 107–296. The minimum offense level of level 24 provided in subsection (b)(~~18~~19)(B) for an offense that resulted in a substantial disruption of a critical infrastructure reflects the serious impact such an offense could have on national security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or a combination of any of these matters.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

ILLEGAL REENTRY GUIDELINE ENHANCEMENTS

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: This proposed amendment is a result of the Commission’s consideration of miscellaneous guidelines application issues. *See* U.S. Sentencing Comm’n, “Notice of Final Priorities,” 82 FR 39949 (Aug. 22, 2017). It responds to issues that have arisen regarding application of the illegal reentry guideline at §2L1.2 (Unlawfully Entering or Remaining in the United States). The proposed amendment contains two parts (Part A and Part B). The Commission is considering whether to promulgate either or both of these parts, as they are not mutually exclusive.

Part A of the proposed amendment responds to an issue brought to the Commission’s attention by the Department of Justice. *See* Annual Letter from the Department of Justice to the Commission (July 31, 2017), at <https://www.ussc.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/amendment-process/public-comment/20170731/DOJ.pdf>. In its annual letter to the Commission, the Department suggested that the illegal reentry guideline’s enhancements for prior convictions (other than convictions for illegal reentry) contain a gap in coverage. Subsection (b)(2) of the guideline provides for an increase in the defendant’s offense level if, before the defendant was ordered deported or ordered removed from the United States for the first time, the defendant “sustained . . . a conviction” for a felony offense (other than an illegal reentry offense) or “three or more convictions” for certain misdemeanor offenses. Subsection (b)(3) of the guideline provides for an increase in the defendant’s offense level, if after the defendant was ordered deported or ordered removed from the United States for the first time, the defendant “engaged in criminal conduct resulting in” such a felony conviction or three or more such misdemeanor convictions. Neither subsection (b)(2) nor subsection (b)(3), however, provides for an increase in the defendant’s offense level in the situation where a defendant engaged in criminal conduct before being ordered deported or ordered removed from the United States for the first time but did not sustain a conviction or convictions for that criminal conduct until after he or she was first ordered deported or ordered removed.

Part A of the proposed amendment would amend §2L1.2 to cover this situation by revising subsection (b)(2) so that its applicability turns on whether the defendant “engaged in criminal conduct” before he or she was first ordered deported or order removed, rather than whether the defendant sustained the resulting conviction or convictions before that event. Part A would also make non-substantive, conforming changes to the language of subsection (b)(3).

Part A also amends the Commentary to §2L1.2 to add an application note addressing cases in which the criminal conduct underlying a prior conviction occurred both before and after the defendant was ordered deported or ordered removed from the United States for the first time. The new note provides that, for purposes of subsections (b)(2) and (b)(3), a court should count such a conviction only under subsection (b)(2).

Finally, Part A makes conforming changes to the Commentary to §2L1.2.

Part B of the proposed amendment responds to an issue that has arisen in litigation concerning how §2L1.2’s enhancements for prior convictions apply in the situation where a defendant’s prior conviction included a term of probation, parole, or supervised release that was subsequently revoked and an additional term of imprisonment imposed.

As described above, subsections (b)(2) and (b)(3) of §2L1.2 provide for increases in a defendant’s offense level for prior convictions (other than convictions for illegal reentry). The magnitude of the offense level increase that the subsections provide for a prior felony conviction varies depending on the length of the “sentence imposed.” Application Note 2 of the Commentary to §2L1.2 states that “[s]entence imposed’ has the meaning given the term ‘sentence of imprisonment’ in Application Note 2 and subsection (b) of §4A1.2 (Definitions and Instructions for Computing Criminal History).” Under §4A1.2, the “sentence of imprisonment” includes not only the original term of imprisonment imposed but also any term of imprisonment imposed upon revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release. See USSG §4A1.2, comment. (n.11). Consistent with that approach, Application Note 2 of the Commentary to §2L1.2 states that, under §2L1.2, “[t]he length of the sentence imposed includes any term of imprisonment given upon revocation of probation, parole, or supervisory release.” Two courts of appeals have held, however, that, under §2L1.2(b)(2), the “sentence imposed” does not include a period of imprisonment imposed upon revocation of probation, parole, or supervisory release if that revocation occurred after the defendant was ordered deported or ordered removed from the United States for the first time. See *United States v. Martinez*, 870 F.3d 1163 (9th Cir. 2017); *United States v. Franco-Galvan*, 864 F.3d 338 (5th Cir. 2017).

Part B of the proposed amendment would revise the definition of “sentence imposed” in Application Note 2 of the Commentary to §2L1.2 to clarify that, consistent with the meaning of “sentence of imprisonment” under §4A1.2, the phrase “sentence imposed” in §2L1.2 includes any term of imprisonment given upon revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release, regardless of when the revocation occurred.

Proposed Amendment:

(A) Closing the Coverage Gap

§2L1.2. Unlawfully Entering or Remaining in the United States

- (a) Base Offense Level: **8**
- (b) Specific Offense Characteristics
 - (1) (Apply the Greater) If the defendant committed the instant offense after sustaining—
 - (A) a conviction for a felony that is an illegal reentry offense, increase by **4** levels; or
 - (B) two or more convictions for misdemeanors under 8 U.S.C. § 1325(a), increase by **2** levels.

- (2) (Apply the Greatest) If, before the defendant was ordered deported or ordered removed from the United States for the first time, the defendant ~~sustained~~ engaged in criminal conduct that, at any time, resulted in—
- (A) a conviction for a felony offense (other than an illegal reentry offense) for which the sentence imposed was five years or more, increase by **10** levels;
 - (B) a conviction for a felony offense (other than an illegal reentry offense) for which the sentence imposed was two years or more, increase by **8** levels;
 - (C) a conviction for a felony offense (other than an illegal reentry offense) for which the sentence imposed exceeded one year and one month, increase by **6** levels;
 - (D) a conviction for any other felony offense (other than an illegal reentry offense), increase by **4** levels; or
 - (E) three or more convictions for misdemeanors that are crimes of violence or drug trafficking offenses, increase by **2** levels.
- (3) (Apply the Greatest) If, ~~at any time~~ after the defendant was ordered deported or ordered removed from the United States for the first time, the defendant engaged in criminal conduct that, at any time, ~~resulting~~ resulted in—
- (A) a conviction for a felony offense (other than an illegal reentry offense) for which the sentence imposed was five years or more, increase by **10** levels;
 - (B) a conviction for a felony offense (other than an illegal reentry offense) for which the sentence imposed was two years or more, increase by **8** levels;
 - (C) a conviction for a felony offense (other than an illegal reentry offense) for which the sentence imposed exceeded one year and one month, increase by **6** levels;
 - (D) a conviction for any other felony offense (other than an illegal reentry offense), increase by **4** levels; or
 - (E) three or more convictions for misdemeanors that are crimes of violence or drug trafficking offenses, increase by **2** levels.

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Commentary

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Application Notes:

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4. **Cases in Which Sentences for An Illegal Reentry Offense and Another Felony Offense were Imposed at the Same Time.**—There may be cases in which the sentences for an illegal reentry offense and another felony offense were imposed at the same time and treated as a single sentence for purposes of calculating the criminal history score under §4A1.1(a), (b), and (c). In such a case, use the illegal reentry offense in determining the appropriate enhancement under subsection (b)(1), if it independently would have received criminal history points. In addition, use the prior sentence for the other felony offense in determining the appropriate enhancement under subsection (b)(2) or (b)(3), as appropriate, if it independently would have received criminal history points.
5. **Cases in Which the Criminal Conduct Underlying a Prior Conviction Occurred Both Before and After the Defendant Was First Ordered Deported or Ordered Removed.**—There may be cases in which the criminal conduct underlying a prior conviction occurred both before and after the defendant was ordered deported or ordered removed from the United States for the first time. For purposes of subsections (b)(2) and (b)(3), count such a conviction only under subsection (b)(2).
56. **Departure Based on Seriousness of a Prior Offense.**—There may be cases in which the offense level provided by an enhancement in subsection (b)(2) or (b)(3) substantially understates or overstates the seriousness of the conduct underlying the prior offense, because (A) the length of the sentence imposed does not reflect the seriousness of the prior offense; (B) the prior conviction is too remote to receive criminal history points (*see* §4A1.2(e)); or (C) the time actually served was substantially less than the length of the sentence imposed for the prior offense. In such a case, a departure may be warranted.
67. **Departure Based on Time Served in State Custody.**—In a case in which the defendant is located by immigration authorities while the defendant is serving time in state custody, whether pre- or post-conviction, for a state offense, the time served is not covered by an adjustment under §5G1.3(b) and, accordingly, is not covered by a departure under §5K2.23 (Discharged Terms of Imprisonment). *See* §5G1.3(a). In such a case, the court may consider whether a departure is appropriate to reflect all or part of the time served in state custody, from the time immigration authorities locate the defendant until the service of the federal sentence commences, that the court determines will not be credited to the federal sentence by the Bureau of Prisons. Any such departure should be fashioned to achieve a reasonable punishment for the instant offense.

Such a departure should be considered only in cases where the departure is not likely to increase the risk to the public from further crimes of the defendant. In determining whether such a departure is appropriate, the court should consider, among other things, (A) whether the defendant engaged in additional criminal activity after illegally reentering the United States; (B) the seriousness of any such additional criminal activity, including (1) whether the defendant used violence or credible threats of violence or possessed a firearm or other dangerous weapon (or induced another person to do so) in connection with the criminal activity, (2) whether the criminal activity resulted in death or serious bodily injury to any person, and (3) whether the defendant was an organizer, leader, manager, or supervisor of others in the criminal activity; and (C) the seriousness of the defendant's other criminal history.

78. **Departure Based on Cultural Assimilation.**—There may be cases in which a downward departure may be appropriate on the basis of cultural assimilation. Such a departure should be considered only in cases where (A) the defendant formed cultural ties primarily with the United States from having resided continuously in the United States from childhood, (B) those cultural ties provided the primary motivation for the defendant’s illegal reentry or continued presence in the United States, and (C) such a departure is not likely to increase the risk to the public from further crimes of the defendant.

In determining whether such a departure is appropriate, the court should consider, among other things, (1) the age in childhood at which the defendant began residing continuously in the United States, (2) whether and for how long the defendant attended school in the United States, (3) the duration of the defendant’s continued residence in the United States, (4) the duration of the defendant’s presence outside the United States, (5) the nature and extent of the defendant’s familial and cultural ties inside the United States, and the nature and extent of such ties outside the United States, (6) the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal history, and (7) whether the defendant engaged in additional criminal activity after illegally reentering the United States.

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(B) Treatment of Revocations of Probation, Parole, or Supervised Release

§2L1.2. Unlawfully Entering or Remaining in the United States

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Commentary

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Application Notes:

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2. **Definitions.**—For purposes of this guideline:

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“*Sentence imposed*” has the meaning given the term “sentence of imprisonment” in Application Note 2 and subsection (b) of §4A1.2 (Definitions and Instructions for Computing Criminal History). The length of the sentence imposed includes any term of imprisonment given upon revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release, **regardless of when the revocation occurred.**

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT: SYNTHETIC DRUGS

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: This proposed amendment is a result of the Commission's multiyear study of offenses involving synthetic cathinones (such as methylone, MDPV, and mephedrone) and synthetic cannabinoids (such as JWH-018 and AM-2201), as well as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), fentanyl, and fentanyl analogues, and consideration of appropriate guideline amendments, including simplifying the determination of the most closely related controlled substance under Application Note 6 of the Commentary to §2D1.1. *See* U.S. Sentencing Comm'n, "Notice of Final Priorities," 82 FR 39949 (Aug. 22, 2017). The proposed amendment contains three parts (Parts A through C). The Commission is considering whether to promulgate any or all of these parts, as they are not mutually exclusive.

Part A of the proposed amendment would amend the Drug Equivalency Tables in §2D1.1 (Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy) to adopt a class-based approach to account for synthetic cathinones. It sets forth a single marijuana equivalency applicable to synthetic cathinones (except Schedule III, IV, and V substances) of 1 gram = 380 grams of marijuana. The proposed amendment makes this class-based marijuana equivalency also applicable to methcathinone, by deleting the specific reference to this controlled substance in the Drug Equivalency Tables. It also establishes a minimum base offense level of 12 for cases involving synthetic cathinones (except Schedule III, IV, and V substances). Finally, the proposed amendment provides a departure provision based on the potency of a synthetic cathinone.

Part B of the proposed amendment would amend the Drug Equivalency Tables in §2D1.1 to adopt a class-based approach to account for synthetic cannabinoids. It sets a single marijuana equivalency applicable to synthetic cannabinoids (except Schedule III, IV, and V substances) of 1 gram = 167 grams of marijuana. It also adds a provision defining the term "synthetic cannabinoid." The proposed amendment also establishes a minimum base offense level of 12 for cases involving synthetic cannabinoids (except Schedule III, IV, and V substances). Finally, it provides a departure provision for certain cases involving synthetic cannabinoids.

Part C of the proposed amendment would amend §2D1.1 in several ways to account for fentanyl and fentanyl analogues. It provides a definition of the term "fentanyl analogue," sets forth a single marijuana equivalency applicable to any fentanyl analogue of 1 gram = 10 kilograms of marijuana, and specifies in the Drug Quantity Table that the penalties relating to "fentanyl" apply to the substance identified as "N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide." In addition, Part C of the proposed amendment amends §2D1.1 to provide an enhancement in cases in which fentanyl or a fentanyl analogue is misrepresented or marketed as another substance.

(A) Synthetic Cathinones

Synopsis of the Proposed Amendment: Synthetic cathinones are human-made drugs chemically related to cathinone, a stimulant found in the khat plant. *See* National Institute on Drug Abuse, DrugFacts: Synthetic Cathinones (“Bath Salts”) (January 2016), available at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/synthetic-cathinones-bath-salts>. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, synthetic variants of cathinone can be much stronger than the natural cathinone and, in some cases, very dangerous. *Id.* Abuse of synthetic cathinones, sometimes referred to as “bath salts,” has become more prevalent over the last decade.

Currently, §2D1.1 (Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy) specifically lists only one synthetic cathinone, Methcathinone. Because other synthetic cathinones are not specifically listed in either the Drug Quantity Table or the Drug Equivalency Tables in §2D1.1, cases involving these substances require courts to use Application Note 6 of the Commentary to §2D1.1 to “determine the base offense level using the marijuana equivalency of the most closely related controlled substance referenced in [§2D1.1].” The Commission has received comment suggesting that questions regarding “the most closely related controlled substance” arise frequently in cases involving synthetic cathinones, and that the Application Note 6 process requires courts to hold extensive hearings to receive expert testimony on behalf of the government and the defendant.

The Commission has also received comment indicating that a large number of synthetic cathinones are currently available on the illicit drug market and that new varieties are regularly developed for illegal trafficking. Given this information, it would likely be difficult and impracticable for the Commission to provide individual marijuana equivalencies for each synthetic cathinone in the *Guidelines Manual*. Testimony received by the Commission indicates that whether a substance is properly classified as a synthetic cathinone is not generally subject to debate, as there appears to be broad agreement that the basic chemical structure of cathinone remains present throughout all synthetic cathinones.

Part A of the proposed amendment would amend the Drug Equivalency Tables in §2D1.1 to adopt a class-based approach to account for synthetic cathinones. It sets forth a single marijuana equivalency applicable to synthetic cathinones (except Schedule III, IV, and V substances) of 1 gram = 380 grams of marijuana. The proposed amendment establishes a minimum base offense level of 12 for cases involving synthetic cathinones (except Schedule III, IV, and V substances). It makes this class-based marijuana equivalency also applicable to methcathinone, by deleting the specific reference to this controlled substance in the Drug Equivalency Tables.

Finally, the proposed amendment provides a departure provision for cases in which a substantially lesser or greater quantity of a synthetic cathinone is needed to produce an effect on the central nervous system similar to the effect produced by a typical synthetic cathinone in the class.

Proposed Amendment:

§2D1.1. Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy

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Commentary

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Application Notes:

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3. **Classification of Controlled Substances.**—Certain pharmaceutical preparations are classified as Schedule III, IV, or V controlled substances by the Drug Enforcement Administration under 21 C.F.R. § 1308.13–15 even though they contain a small amount of a Schedule I or II controlled substance. For example, Tylenol 3 is classified as a Schedule III controlled substance even though it contains a small amount of codeine, a Schedule II opiate. For the purposes of the guidelines, the classification of the controlled substance under 21 C.F.R. § 1308.13–15 is the appropriate classification.

* * *

6. **Analogues and Controlled Substances Not Referenced in this Guideline.**—Any reference to a particular controlled substance in these guidelines includes all salts, isomers, all salts of isomers, and, except as otherwise provided, any analogue of that controlled substance. Any reference to cocaine includes ecgonine and coca leaves, except extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine and ecgonine have been removed. For purposes of this guideline “*analogue*” has the meaning given the term “controlled substance analogue” in 21 U.S.C. § 802(32). In determining the appropriate sentence, the court also may consider whether the same quantity of analogue produces a greater effect on the central nervous system than the controlled substance for which it is an analogue.

In the case of a controlled substance that is not specifically referenced in this guideline, determine the base offense level using the marijuana equivalency of the most closely related controlled substance referenced in this guideline. In determining the most closely related controlled substance, the court shall, to the extent practicable, consider the following:

- (A) Whether the controlled substance not referenced in this guideline has a chemical structure that is substantially similar to a controlled substance referenced in this guideline.
- (B) Whether the controlled substance not referenced in this guideline has a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system that is substantially similar to the stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system of a controlled substance referenced in this guideline.
- (C) Whether a lesser or greater quantity of the controlled substance not referenced in this guideline is needed to produce a substantially similar effect on the central nervous system as a controlled substance referenced in this guideline.

8. **Use of Drug Equivalency Tables.—**

(A) **Controlled Substances Not Referenced in Drug Quantity Table.**—The Commission has used the sentences provided in, and equivalences derived from, the statute (21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)), as the primary basis for the guideline sentences. The statute, however, provides direction only for the more common controlled substances, *i.e.*, heroin, cocaine, PCP, methamphetamine, fentanyl, LSD and marihuana. In the case of a controlled substance that is not specifically referenced in the Drug Quantity Table, determine the base offense level as follows:

- (i) Use the Drug Equivalency Tables to convert the quantity of the controlled substance involved in the offense to its equivalent quantity of marihuana.
- (ii) Find the equivalent quantity of marihuana in the Drug Quantity Table.
- (iii) Use the offense level that corresponds to the equivalent quantity of marihuana as the base offense level for the controlled substance involved in the offense.

(*See also* Application Note 6.) For example, in the Drug Equivalency Tables set forth in this Note, 1 gram of a substance containing oxymorphone, a Schedule I opiate, converts to an equivalent quantity of 5 kilograms of marihuana. In a case involving 100 grams of oxymorphone, the equivalent quantity of marihuana would be 500 kilograms, which corresponds to a base offense level of 26 in the Drug Quantity Table.

(B) **Combining Differing Controlled Substances.**—The Drug Equivalency Tables also provide a means for combining differing controlled substances to obtain a single offense level. In each case, convert each of the drugs to its marihuana equivalent, add the quantities, and look up the total in the Drug Quantity Table to obtain the combined offense level.

For certain types of controlled substances, the marihuana equivalencies in the Drug Equivalency Tables are “capped” at specified amounts (*e.g.*, the combined equivalent weight of all Schedule V controlled substances shall not exceed 2.49 kilograms of marihuana). Where there are controlled substances from more than one schedule (*e.g.*, a quantity of a Schedule IV substance and a quantity of a Schedule V substance), determine the marihuana equivalency for each schedule separately (subject to the cap, if any, applicable to that schedule). Then add the marihuana equivalencies to determine the combined marihuana equivalency (subject to the cap, if any, applicable to the combined amounts).

Note: Because of the statutory equivalences, the ratios in the Drug Equivalency Tables do not necessarily reflect dosages based on pharmacological equivalents.

(C) **Examples for Combining Differing Controlled Substances.—**

- (i) The defendant is convicted of selling 70 grams of a substance containing PCP (Level 20) and 250 milligrams of a substance containing LSD (Level 16). The PCP converts to 70 kilograms of marihuana; the LSD converts to 25 kilograms of marihuana. The total is therefore equivalent to 95 kilograms of marihuana, for which the Drug Quantity Table provides an offense level of 22.

- (ii) The defendant is convicted of selling 500 grams of marihuana (Level 6) and 10,000 units of diazepam (Level 6). The diazepam, a Schedule IV drug, is equivalent to 625 grams of marihuana. The total, 1.125 kilograms of marihuana, has an offense level of 8 in the Drug Quantity Table.
- (iii) The defendant is convicted of selling 80 grams of cocaine (Level 14) and 2 grams of cocaine base (Level 12). The cocaine is equivalent to 16 kilograms of marihuana, and the cocaine base is equivalent to 7.142 kilograms of marihuana. The total is therefore equivalent to 23.142 kilograms of marihuana, which has an offense level of 16 in the Drug Quantity Table.
- (iv) The defendant is convicted of selling 76,000 units of a Schedule III substance, 200,000 units of a Schedule IV substance, and 600,000 units of a Schedule V substance. The marihuana equivalency for the Schedule III substance is 76 kilograms of marihuana (below the cap of 79.99 kilograms of marihuana set forth as the maximum equivalent weight for Schedule III substances). The marihuana equivalency for the Schedule IV substance is subject to a cap of 9.99 kilograms of marihuana set forth as the maximum equivalent weight for Schedule IV substances (without the cap it would have been 12.5 kilograms). The marihuana equivalency for the Schedule V substance is subject to the cap of 2.49 kilograms of marihuana set forth as the maximum equivalent weight for Schedule V substances (without the cap it would have been 3.75 kilograms). The combined equivalent weight, determined by adding together the above amounts, is subject to the cap of 79.99 kilograms of marihuana set forth as the maximum combined equivalent weight for Schedule III, IV, and V substances. Without the cap, the combined equivalent weight would have been 88.48 (76 + 9.99 + 2.49) kilograms.

(D) **Drug Equivalency Tables.—**

SCHEDULE I OR II OPIATES*

1 gm of Heroin =	1 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Alpha-Methylfentanyl =	10 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Dextromoramide =	670 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Dipipanone =	250 gm of marihuana
1 gm of 3-Methylfentanyl =	10 kg of marihuana
1 gm of 1-Methyl-4-phenyl-4-propionoxypiperidine/MPPP =	700 gm of marihuana
1 gm of 1-(2-Phenylethyl)-4-phenyl-4-acetyloxypiperidine/ PEPAP =	700 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Alphaprodine =	100 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4- piperidinyl] Propanamide) =	2.5 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Hydromorphone/Dihydromorphinone =	2.5 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Levorphanol =	2.5 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Meperidine/Pethidine =	50 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Methadone =	500 gm of marihuana
1 gm of 6-Monoacetylmorphine =	1 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Morphine =	500 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Oxycodone (actual) =	6700 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Oxymorphone =	5 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Racemorphan =	800 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Codeine =	80 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Dextropropoxyphene/Propoxyphene-Bulk =	50 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Ethylmorphine =	165 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Hydrocodone (actual) =	6700 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Mixed Alkaloids of Opium/Papaveretum =	250 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Opium =	50 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Levo-alpha-acetylmethadol (LAAM) =	3 kg of marihuana

**Provided*, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for any of these controlled substances individually, or in combination with another controlled substance, is level 12.

COCAINE AND OTHER SCHEDULE I AND II STIMULANTS (AND THEIR IMMEDIATE PRECURSORS)*

1 gm of Cocaine =	200 gm of marihuana
1 gm of N-Ethylamphetamine =	80 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Fenethylamine =	40 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Amphetamine =	2 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Amphetamine (Actual) =	20 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Methamphetamine =	2 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Methamphetamine (Actual) =	20 kg of marihuana
1 gm of "Ice" =	20 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Khat =	.01 gm of marihuana
1 gm of 4-Methylaminorex ("Euphoria") =	100 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Methylphenidate (Ritalin) =	100 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Phenmetrazine =	80 gm of marihuana
1 gm Phenylacetone/P ₂ P (when possessed for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine) =	416 gm of marihuana
1 gm Phenylacetone/P ₂ P (in any other case) =	75 gm of marihuana
1 gm Cocaine Base ("Crack") =	3,571 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Aminorex =	100 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Methathinone =	380 gm of marihuana
1 gm of N-N-Dimethylamphetamine =	40 gm of marihuana
1 gm of N-Benzylpiperazine =	100 gm of marihuana

*Provided, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for any of these controlled substances individually, or in combination with another controlled substance, is level 12.

SYNTHETIC CATHINONES (EXCEPT SCHEDULE III, IV, AND V SUBSTANCES)*

1 gm of a synthetic cathinone (except a Schedule III, IV, or V substance) =	380 gm of marihuana
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*Provided, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for any synthetic cathinone (except a Schedule III, IV, or V substance) individually, or in combination with another controlled substance, is level 12.

LSD, PCP, AND OTHER SCHEDULE I AND II HALLUCINOGENS (AND THEIR IMMEDIATE PRECURSORS)*

1 gm of Bufotenine =	70 gm of marihuana
1 gm of D-Lysergic Acid Diethylamide/Lysergide/LSD =	100 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Diethyltryptamine/DET =	80 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Dimethyltryptamine/DM =	100 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Mescaline =	10 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Mushrooms containing Psilocin and/or Psilocybin (Dry) =	1 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Mushrooms containing Psilocin and/or Psilocybin (Wet) =	0.1 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Peyote (Dry) =	0.5 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Peyote (Wet) =	0.05 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Phencyclidine/PCP =	1 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Phencyclidine (actual) /PCP (actual) =	10 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Psilocin =	500 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Psilocybin =	500 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Pyrrolidine Analog of Phencyclidine/PHP =	1 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Thiophene Analog of Phencyclidine/TCP =	1 kg of marihuana
1 gm of 4-Bromo-2,5-Dimethoxyamphetamine/DOB =	2.5 kg of marihuana
1 gm of 2,5-Dimethoxy-4-methylamphetamine/DOM =	1.67 kg of marihuana
1 gm of 3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine/MDA =	500 gm of marihuana
1 gm of 3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine/MDMA =	500 gm of marihuana
1 gm of 3,4-Methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine/MDEA =	500 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Paramethoxymethamphetamine/PMA =	500 gm of marihuana
1 gm of 1-Piperidinocyclohexanecarbonitrile/PCC =	680 gm of marihuana
1 gm of N-ethyl-1-phenylcyclohexylamine (PCE) =	1 kg of marihuana

**Provided*, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for any of these controlled substances individually, or in combination with another controlled substance, is level 12.

SCHEDULE I MARIHUANA

1 gm of Marihuana/Cannabis, granulated, powdered, etc. =	1 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Hashish Oil =	50 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Cannabis Resin or Hashish =	5 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Tetrahydrocannabinol, Organic =	167 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Tetrahydrocannabinol, Synthetic =	167 gm of marihuana

FLUNITRAZEPAM **

1 unit of Flunitrazepam =	16 gm of marihuana
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***Provided*, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for flunitrazepam individually, or in combination with any Schedule I or II depressants, Schedule III substances, Schedule IV substances, and Schedule V substances is level 8.

SCHEDULE I OR II DEPRESSANTS (EXCEPT GAMMA-HYDROXYBUTYRIC ACID)

1 unit of a Schedule I or II Depressant (except gamma-hydroxybutyric acid) =	1 gm of marihuana
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GAMMA-HYDROXYBUTYRIC ACID

1 ml of gamma-hydroxybutyric acid =	8.8 gm of marihuana
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SCHEDULE III SUBSTANCES (EXCEPT KETAMINE)***

1 unit of a Schedule III Substance =	1 gm of marihuana
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****Provided*, that the combined equivalent weight of all Schedule III substances (except ketamine), Schedule IV substances (except flunitrazepam), and Schedule V substances shall not exceed 79.99 kilograms of marihuana.

KETAMINE

1 unit of ketamine =	1 gm of marihuana
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SCHEDULE IV SUBSTANCES (EXCEPT FLUNITRAZEPAM)*****

1 unit of a Schedule IV Substance (except Flunitrazepam) =	0.0625 gm of marihuana
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******Provided*, that the combined equivalent weight of all Schedule IV (except flunitrazepam) and V substances shall not exceed 9.99 kilograms of marihuana.

SCHEDULE V SUBSTANCES*****

1 unit of a Schedule V Substance =	0.00625 gm of marihuana
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******Provided*, that the combined equivalent weight of Schedule V substances shall not exceed 2.49 kilograms of marihuana.

LIST I CHEMICALS (RELATING TO THE MANUFACTURE OF AMPHETAMINE OR METHAMPHETAMINE)*****

1 gm of Ephedrine =	10 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Phenylpropanolamine =	10 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Pseudoephedrine =	10 kg of marihuana

******Provided*, that in a case involving ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine tablets, use the weight of the ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine contained in the tablets, not the weight of the entire tablets, in calculating the base offense level.

DATE RAPE DRUGS (EXCEPT FLUNITRAZEPAM, GHB, OR KETAMINE)

1 ml of 1,4-butanediol =	8.8 gm marihuana
1 ml of gamma butyrolactone =	8.8 gm marihuana

To facilitate conversions to drug equivalencies, the following table is provided:

MEASUREMENT CONVERSION TABLE

1 oz = 28.35 gm
1 lb = 453.6 gm
1 lb = 0.4536 kg
1 gal = 3.785 liters
1 qt = 0.946 liters
1 gm = 1 ml (liquid)
1 liter = 1,000 ml
1 kg = 1,000 gm
1 gm = 1,000 mg
1 grain = 64.8 mg.

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27. **Departure Considerations.**—

- (A) **Downward Departure Based on Drug Quantity in Certain Reverse Sting Operations.**—If, in a reverse sting (an operation in which a government agent sells or negotiates to sell a controlled substance to a defendant), the court finds that the government agent set a price for the controlled substance that was substantially below the market value of the controlled substance, thereby leading to the defendant’s purchase of a significantly greater quantity of the controlled substance than his available resources would have allowed him to purchase except for the artificially low price set by the government agent, a downward departure may be warranted.
- (B) **Upward Departure Based on Drug Quantity.**—In an extraordinary case, an upward departure above offense level 38 on the basis of drug quantity may be warranted. For example, an upward departure may be warranted where the quantity is at least ten times the minimum quantity required for level 38. Similarly, in the case of a controlled substance for which the maximum offense level is less than level 38, an upward departure may be warranted if the drug quantity substantially exceeds the quantity for the highest offense level established for that particular controlled substance.
- (C) **Upward Departure Based on Unusually High Purity.**—Trafficking in controlled substances, compounds, or mixtures of unusually high purity may warrant an upward departure, except in the case of PCP, amphetamine, methamphetamine, hydrocodone, or oxycodone for which the guideline itself provides for the consideration of purity (*see the*

footnote to the Drug Quantity Table). The purity of the controlled substance, particularly in the case of heroin, may be relevant in the sentencing process because it is probative of the defendant's role or position in the chain of distribution. Since controlled substances are often diluted and combined with other substances as they pass down the chain of distribution, the fact that a defendant is in possession of unusually pure narcotics may indicate a prominent role in the criminal enterprise and proximity to the source of the drugs. As large quantities are normally associated with high purities, this factor is particularly relevant where smaller quantities are involved.

(D) Departure Based on Potency of Synthetic Cathinones.—In addition to providing marihuana equivalencies for specific controlled substances and groups of substances, the Drug Equivalency Tables provide marihuana equivalencies for certain classes of controlled substances, such as synthetic cathinones. In the case of a synthetic cathinone that is not specifically referenced in this guideline, the marihuana equivalency for the class should be used to determine the appropriate offense level. However, there may be cases in which a substantially lesser or greater quantity of a synthetic cathinone is needed to produce an effect on the central nervous system similar to the effect produced by a typical synthetic cathinone in the class, such as methcathinone or alpha-PVP. In such a case, a departure may be warranted. For example, an upward departure may be warranted in cases involving MDPV, a substance of which a lesser quantity is usually needed to produce an effect on the central nervous system similar to the effect produced by a typical synthetic cathinone. In contrast, a downward departure may be warranted in cases involving methylone, a substance of which a greater quantity is usually needed to produce an effect on the central nervous system similar to the effect produced by a typical synthetic cathinone.

* * *

(B) Synthetic Cannabinoids

Synopsis of the Proposed Amendment: Synthetic cannabinoids are human-made, mind-altering chemicals developed to mimic the effects of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive chemical found in the marijuana plant. Like THC, synthetic cannabinoids act as an agonist at a specific part of the central nervous system known as the cannabinoid receptors, binding to and activating these receptors to produce psychoactive effects. However, the available scientific literature on this subject suggests that some synthetic cannabinoids bind more strongly to cell receptors affected by THC, and may produce stronger effects. *See* National Institute of Drug Abuse, DrugFacts: Synthetic Cannabinoids (Revised November 2015) available at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/synthetic-cannabinoids>.

The Commission has received comment indicating that the synthetic cannabinoids encountered on the illicit market are predominantly potent cannabinoid agonists that are pharmacologically similar to THC, but may cause a more severe toxicity and more serious adverse effects than THC. According to commenters, THC is only a partial agonist at type 1 cannabinoid receptors (CB₁ receptors) and produces 30 to 50 percent (or less) of the highest possible response in receptor activation. Synthetic cannabinoids are full agonists at CB₁ receptors that elicit close to 100 percent response in receptor activation. Some commenters have argued that this high activation response may contribute to the increased toxicity and more severe adverse effects of synthetic cannabinoids when compared with THC. According to commenters, some of the adverse effects of synthetic cannabinoids are more prevalent or more severe than those produced by marijuana and THC, and may be produced at lower doses. The Commission was also informed by commenters that drug discrimination data is available on at least 26 different synthetic cannabinoids. JWH-018, one of the substances included in the Commission's study, was shown in the drug discrimination assay to be approximately three times as potent as THC. Another substance included in the Commission's study, AM-2201, was shown to be approximately five times as potent as THC using the same assay. Newer synthetic cannabinoids have been shown to be even more potent than these substances. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, on rare occasions synthetic cannabinoids have been shown to be less potent than THC, as substances with a lower potency are often abandoned by manufacturers following negative user reports relating to their effects.

Currently, §2D1.1 (Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy) specifically lists only one synthetic cannabinoid, synthetic THC. Synthetic THC has a marijuana equivalency of 1 gram = 167 grams of marijuana. Because other synthetic cannabinoids are not specifically listed in either the Drug Quantity Table or the Drug Equivalency Tables in §2D1.1, cases involving these substances require courts to use Application Note 6 of the Commentary to §2D1.1 to “determine the base offense level using the marijuana equivalency of the most closely related controlled substance referenced in [§2D1.1].” Although courts often rely on the synthetic THC equivalency in cases involving synthetic cannabinoids, the Commission has received comment suggesting that questions regarding “the most closely related controlled substance” arise frequently in such cases, and that the Application Note 6 process requires courts to hold extensive hearings to receive expert testimony on behalf of the government and the defendant.

The Commission has also received comment suggesting that, like synthetic cathinones, a large number of synthetic cannabinoids are currently available on the illicit drug market and new varieties are regularly developed for illegal trafficking. Given this information, it would likely be difficult and impracticable for the Commission to provide individual marihuana equivalencies for each synthetic cannabinoid in the *Guidelines Manual*. Unlike synthetic cathinones, synthetic cannabinoids cannot be defined as a single class based on a common chemical structure. Synthetic cannabinoids regularly developed for illegal trafficking come from several different structural classes. However, the Commission received testimony from experts indicating that, while synthetic cannabinoids may differ in chemical structure, these substances all produce the same pharmacological effects: they act as an agonist at type 1 cannabinoid receptors (CB₁ receptors).

Part B of the proposed amendment would amend the Drug Equivalency Tables in §2D1.1 to adopt a class-based approach to account for synthetic cannabinoids. It sets forth a single marihuana equivalency applicable to synthetic cannabinoids (except Schedule III, IV, and V substances) of 1 gram = 167 grams of marihuana. The proposed amendment establishes a minimum base offense level of 12 for cases involving synthetic cannabinoids (except Schedule III, IV, and V substances). It also adds a provision defining “synthetic cannabinoid” as “any synthetic substance (other than synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol) that binds to and activates type 1 cannabinoid receptors (CB₁ receptors).”

Finally, Part B of the proposed amendment provides two departure provisions. The first provides for a departure based on the concentration of a synthetic cannabinoid. The second provides for a downward departure based on the potency of a synthetic cannabinoid.

Proposed Amendment:

§2D1.1. Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy

* * *

Commentary

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Application Notes:

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(D) Drug Equivalency Tables.—

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SCHEDULE I MARIHUANA

1 gm of Marihuana/Cannabis, granulated, powdered, etc. =	1 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Hashish Oil =	50 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Cannabis Resin or Hashish =	5 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Tetrahydrocannabinol, Organic =	167 gm of marihuana

1 gm of Tetrahydrocannabinol, Synthetic = 167 gm of marihuana

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS (EXCEPT SCHEDULE III, IV, AND V SUBSTANCES)*
1 gm of a synthetic cannabinoid
(except a Schedule III, IV, or V substance) = 167 gm of marihuana

**Provided*, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for any synthetic cannabinoid (except a Schedule III, IV, or V substance) individually, or in combination with another controlled substance, is level 12.

“Synthetic cannabinoid.” for purposes of this guideline, means any synthetic substance (other than synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol) that binds to and activates type 1 cannabinoid receptors (CB₁ receptors).

FLUNITRAZEPAM **
1 unit of Flunitrazepam = 16 gm of marihuana

***Provided*, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for flunitrazepam individually, or in combination with any Schedule I or II depressants, Schedule III substances, Schedule IV substances, and Schedule V substances is level 8.

* * *

27. Departure Considerations.—

- (A) **Downward Departure Based on Drug Quantity in Certain Reverse Sting Operations.**—If, in a reverse sting (an operation in which a government agent sells or negotiates to sell a controlled substance to a defendant), the court finds that the government agent set a price for the controlled substance that was substantially below the market value of the controlled substance, thereby leading to the defendant’s purchase of a significantly greater quantity of the controlled substance than his available resources would have allowed him to purchase except for the artificially low price set by the government agent, a downward departure may be warranted.
- (B) **Upward Departure Based on Drug Quantity.**—In an extraordinary case, an upward departure above offense level 38 on the basis of drug quantity may be warranted. For example, an upward departure may be warranted where the quantity is at least ten times the minimum quantity required for level 38. Similarly, in the case of a controlled substance for which the maximum offense level is less than level 38, an upward departure may be warranted if the drug quantity substantially exceeds the quantity for the highest offense level established for that particular controlled substance.
- (C) **Upward Departure Based on Unusually High Purity.**—Trafficking in controlled substances, compounds, or mixtures of unusually high purity may warrant an upward departure, except in the case of PCP, amphetamine, methamphetamine, hydrocodone, or oxycodone for which the guideline itself provides for the consideration of purity (*see* the footnote to the Drug Quantity Table). The purity of the controlled substance, particularly in the case of heroin, may be relevant in the sentencing process because it is probative of the defendant’s role or position in the chain of distribution. Since controlled substances are often diluted and combined with other substances as they pass down the chain of distribution, the fact that a defendant is in possession of unusually pure narcotics may indicate a prominent role in the criminal enterprise and proximity to the source of the drugs. As large quantities are normally associated with high purities, this factor is particularly relevant where smaller quantities are involved.

(D) Departures for Certain Cases involving Synthetic Cannabinoids.—

- (i) **Departure Based on Concentration of Synthetic Cannabinoids.**—Synthetic cannabinoids are manufactured as powder or crystalline substances. The concentrated substance is then usually sprayed on or soaked into a plant or other base material, and trafficked as part of a mixture. Nonetheless, there may be cases in which the substance involved in the offense is a synthetic cannabinoid not combined with any other substance. In such a case, an upward departure would be warranted.

There also may be cases in which the substance involved in the offense is a mixture containing a synthetic cannabinoid diluted with an unusually high quantity of base material. In such a case, a downward departure may be warranted.

- (ii) **Downward Departure Based on Potency of Synthetic Cannabinoids.**—In the case of a synthetic cannabinoid that is not specifically referenced in this guideline, the marijuana equivalency for the class should be used to determine the appropriate offense level. However, there may be cases in which a substantially greater quantity of a synthetic cannabinoid is needed to produce an effect on the central nervous system similar to the effect produced by a typical synthetic cannabinoid in the class, such as JWH-018 or AM-2201. In such a case, a downward departure may be warranted.

(C) Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogues

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid analgesic that is similar to morphine but 50 to 100 times more potent. See National Institute on Drug Abuse, DrugFacts: Fentanyl (June 2016), available at <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/fentanyl>. Fentanyl is a prescription drug that can be diverted for illicit use. Fentanyl and analogues of fentanyl are also produced in clandestine laboratories for illicit use. See, e.g., U.N. Office on Drugs & Crime, *Fentanyl and Its Analogues – 50 Years On*, GLOBAL SMART UPDATE 17 (March 2017), available at https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/Global_SMART_Update_17_web.pdf. These substances are sold on the illicit drug market as powder, pills, absorbed on blotter paper, mixed with or substituted for heroin, or as tablets that may mimic the appearance of prescription opioids. While most fentanyl analogues are typically about as potent as fentanyl itself, some analogues, such as sufentanil and carfentanil, are reported to be many times more potent than fentanyl.

The Statutory and Guidelines Framework

The Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801 *et seq.*) classifies fentanyl as a Schedule II controlled substance, along with other opiates. While there is no other specific reference to the term “fentanyl” in Title 21, United States Code, a subsequent section establishes a mandatory minimum penalty for a substance identified as “N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide.” 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A)(vi). A Department of Justice regulation explains that N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide is the substance “commonly known as fentanyl.” 28 C.F.R. § 50.21(d)(4)(vii). The Controlled Substances Act prescribes a mandatory minimum penalty of five years for trafficking 40 or more grams of the substance, or ten or more grams of an analogue of the substance. 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A)(vi); (b)(1)(B)(vi).

The Drug Quantity Table in §2D1.1 (Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy) contains entries for both “fentanyl” and “fentanyl analogue,” at severity levels that reflect the mandatory minimum penalty structure. The Drug Equivalency Tables in the Commentary to §2D1.1 clearly identify fentanyl with the specific substance associated with the statutory minimum penalty by providing a marijuana equivalency for 1 gm of “Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide)” equal to 2.5 kg of marijuana (*i.e.*, a 1:2,500 ratio). The Drug Equivalency Tables also set forth the marijuana equivalencies for two other substances, alpha-methylfentanyl and 3-methylfentanyl. Both substances have the same marijuana equivalency ratio, 1:10,000, which corresponds with the penalties for fentanyl analogues. Alpha-methylfentanyl and 3-methylfentanyl are pharmaceutical analogues of fentanyl that were developed in the 1960s or 1970s. See, e.g., T.J. Gillespie, *et al.*, *Identification and Quantification of Alpha-Methylfentanyl in Post Mortem Specimens*, 6(3) J. OF ANALYTICAL TOXICOLOGY 139 (May-June 1982).

Issues Relating to “Fentanyl Analogues”

Part C of the proposed amendment would revise §2D1.1 to address several issues relating to offenses involving fentanyl analogues. The Commission has received comment that the

penalty for “fentanyl analogue” set forth in the guidelines interacts in a potentially confusing way with the guideline definition of the term “analogue.” Although the term “fentanyl analogue” is not defined by the guidelines, Application Note 6 states that, for purposes of §2D1.1, “analogue” has the meaning given the term “controlled substance analogue” in 21 U.S.C. § 802(32). Section 802(32) defines “controlled substance analogue” to exclude “a controlled substance” – that is, a substance that has been scheduled. Thus, once the Drug Enforcement Administration (or Congress) schedules a substance that is a “fentanyl analogue” in the scientific sense, that substance may not qualify as a “fentanyl analogue” for purposes of the Drug Quantity Table. Hence, in cases involving a scheduled “fentanyl analogue” other than the two fentanyl analogues listed by name in the Drug Equivalency Tables, courts would be required by Application Note 6 of the Commentary to §2D1.1 to “determine the base offense level using the marijuana equivalency of the most closely related controlled substance referenced in [§2D1.1].”

The Commission has received comment suggesting that the Application Note 6 process requires courts to hold extensive hearings to receive expert testimony on behalf of the government and the defendant. This process is likely to determine that fentanyl, rather than one of the two listed variants in the guideline, is the most closely related controlled substance to a scheduled “fentanyl analogue.” This will result in a substance that would scientifically be considered a fentanyl analogue being punished under the 1:2,500 fentanyl ratio, rather than the 1:10,000 “fentanyl analogue” ratio.

Part C of the proposed amendment would address this situation by revising §2D1.1 to define “fentanyl analogue” as “any substance (including any salt, isomer, or salt of isomer thereof), whether a controlled substance or not, that has a chemical structure that is similar to fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide).” It would also amend the Drug Equivalency Tables in §2D1.1 to provide a single marijuana equivalency applicable to any fentanyl analogue of 1 gram = 10 kilograms of marijuana. The proposed amendment makes this new marijuana equivalency also applicable to alpha-methylfentanyl and 3-methylfentanyl by deleting the specific references to these controlled substances in the Drug Equivalency Tables. In addition, the proposed amendment would amend the Drug Quantity Table to specify that the penalties relating to “fentanyl” apply to the substance identified in the statute as “N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide.”

Increased Penalties for Offenses Involving Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogues Misrepresented as Another Substance

Part C of the proposed amendment also would amend §2D1.1 to address cases involving fentanyl and fentanyl analogues misrepresented as another substance. The Commission has received comment that fentanyl and fentanyl analogues are being mixed with, and in some instances substituted for, other drugs, such as heroin and cocaine. According to commenters, fentanyl and fentanyl analogues are also being pressed into pills that resemble prescription opioids, such as oxycodone and hydrocodone. Commenters have also suggested that the harms associated with the use of fentanyl and fentanyl analogues are heightened by the fact that users may unknowingly consume fentanyl or fentanyl analogues in products misrepresented or sold as other substances, such as heroin or counterfeit prescription pills. Because such users may be unaware that what they believe to be a certain substance, such as heroin, is either fentanyl or has been laced with fentanyl, they may not mitigate against the added risks of use, including overdose.

Part C of the proposed amendment would add a new specific offense characteristic at §2D1.1(b)(13) providing a 4-level enhancement to address these cases. The enhancement would apply if the defendant knowingly misrepresented or knowingly marketed as another substance a mixture or substance containing fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide) or a fentanyl analogue.

Finally, Part C of the proposed amendment would also make conforming technical changes to §§2D1.6 (Use of Communication Facility in Committing Drug Offense; Attempt or Conspiracy), 2D1.14 (Narco-Terrorism), 3B1.4 (Using a Minor To Commit a Crime), and 3C1.1 (Obstructing or Impeding the Administration of Justice).

Proposed Amendment:

§2D1.1. Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy

- (a) Base Offense Level (Apply the greatest):
- (1) **43**, if the defendant is convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), or (b)(1)(C), or 21 U.S.C. § 960(b)(1), (b)(2), or (b)(3), and the offense of conviction establishes that death or serious bodily injury resulted from the use of the substance and that the defendant committed the offense after one or more prior convictions for a similar offense; or
 - (2) **38**, if the defendant is convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), or (b)(1)(C), or 21 U.S.C. § 960(b)(1), (b)(2), or (b)(3), and the offense of conviction establishes that death or serious bodily injury resulted from the use of the substance; or
 - (3) **30**, if the defendant is convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(E) or 21 U.S.C. § 960(b)(5), and the offense of conviction establishes that death or serious bodily injury resulted from the use of the substance and that the defendant committed the offense after one or more prior convictions for a similar offense; or
 - (4) **26**, if the defendant is convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(E) or 21 U.S.C. § 960(b)(5), and the offense of conviction establishes that death or serious bodily injury resulted from the use of the substance; or
 - (5) the offense level specified in the Drug Quantity Table set forth in subsection (c), except that if (A) the defendant receives an adjustment under §3B1.2 (Mitigating Role); and (B) the base offense level under

subsection (c) is (i) level **32**, decrease by **2** levels; (ii) level **34** or level **36**, decrease by **3** levels; or (iii) level **38**, decrease by **4** levels. If the resulting offense level is greater than level **32** and the defendant receives the 4-level (“minimal participant”) reduction in §3B1.2(a), decrease to level **32**.

(b) Specific Offense Characteristics

- (1) If a dangerous weapon (including a firearm) was possessed, increase by **2** levels.
- (2) If the defendant used violence, made a credible threat to use violence, or directed the use of violence, increase by **2** levels.
- (3) If the defendant unlawfully imported or exported a controlled substance under circumstances in which (A) an aircraft other than a regularly scheduled commercial air carrier was used to import or export the controlled substance, (B) a submersible vessel or semi-submersible vessel as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2285 was used, or (C) the defendant acted as a pilot, copilot, captain, navigator, flight officer, or any other operation officer aboard any craft or vessel carrying a controlled substance, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **26**, increase to level **26**.
- (4) If the object of the offense was the distribution of a controlled substance in a prison, correctional facility, or detention facility, increase by **2** levels.
- (5) If (A) the offense involved the importation of amphetamine or methamphetamine or the manufacture of amphetamine or methamphetamine from listed chemicals that the defendant knew were imported unlawfully, and (B) the defendant is not subject to an adjustment under §3B1.2 (Mitigating Role), increase by **2** levels.
- (6) If the defendant is convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 865, increase by **2** levels.
- (7) If the defendant, or a person for whose conduct the defendant is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct), distributed a controlled substance through mass-marketing by means of an interactive computer service, increase by **2** levels.
- (8) If the offense involved the distribution of an anabolic steroid and a masking agent, increase by **2** levels.

- (9) If the defendant distributed an anabolic steroid to an athlete, increase by **2** levels.
- (10) If the defendant was convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(g)(1)(A), increase by **2** levels.
- (11) If the defendant bribed, or attempted to bribe, a law enforcement officer to facilitate the commission of the offense, increase by **2** levels.
- (12) If the defendant maintained a premises for the purpose of manufacturing or distributing a controlled substance, increase by **2** levels.
- (13) If the defendant knowingly misrepresented or knowingly marketed as another substance a mixture or substance containing fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide) or a fentanyl analogue, increase by **4** levels.
- (~~13~~**14**) (Apply the greatest):
 - (A) If the offense involved (i) an unlawful discharge, emission, or release into the environment of a hazardous or toxic substance; or (ii) the unlawful transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal of a hazardous waste, increase by **2** levels.
 - (B) If the defendant was convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 860a of distributing, or possessing with intent to distribute, methamphetamine on premises where a minor is present or resides, increase by **2** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **14**, increase to level **14**.
 - (C) If—
 - (i) the defendant was convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 860a of manufacturing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, methamphetamine on premises where a minor is present or resides; or
 - (ii) the offense involved the manufacture of amphetamine or methamphetamine and the offense created a substantial risk of harm to (I) human life other than a life described in subdivision (D); or (II) the environment,
 increase by **3** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **27**, increase to level **27**.

- (D) If the offense (i) involved the manufacture of amphetamine or methamphetamine; and (ii) created a substantial risk of harm to the life of a minor or an incompetent, increase by **6** levels. If the resulting offense level is less than level **30**, increase to level **30**.
- (1415) If (A) the offense involved the cultivation of marihuana on state or federal land or while trespassing on tribal or private land; and (B) the defendant receives an adjustment under §3B1.1 (Aggravating Role), increase by **2** levels.
- (1516) If the defendant receives an adjustment under §3B1.1 (Aggravating Role) and the offense involved 1 or more of the following factors:
 - (A) (i) the defendant used fear, impulse, friendship, affection, or some combination thereof to involve another individual in the illegal purchase, sale, transport, or storage of controlled substances, (ii) the individual received little or no compensation from the illegal purchase, sale, transport, or storage of controlled substances, and (iii) the individual had minimal knowledge of the scope and structure of the enterprise;
 - (B) the defendant, knowing that an individual was (i) less than 18 years of age, (ii) 65 or more years of age, (iii) pregnant, or (iv) unusually vulnerable due to physical or mental condition or otherwise particularly susceptible to the criminal conduct, distributed a controlled substance to that individual or involved that individual in the offense;
 - (C) the defendant was directly involved in the importation of a controlled substance;
 - (D) the defendant engaged in witness intimidation, tampered with or destroyed evidence, or otherwise obstructed justice in connection with the investigation or prosecution of the offense;
 - (E) the defendant committed the offense as part of a pattern of criminal conduct engaged in as a livelihood,increase by **2** levels.
- (1617) If the defendant receives the 4-level (“minimal participant”) reduction in §3B1.2(a) and the offense involved all of the following factors:
 - (A) the defendant was motivated by an intimate or familial relationship or by threats or fear to commit the offense and was otherwise unlikely to commit such an offense;

(B) the defendant received no monetary compensation from the illegal purchase, sale, transport, or storage of controlled substances; and

(C) the defendant had minimal knowledge of the scope and structure of the enterprise,

decrease by **2** levels.

(1718) If the defendant meets the criteria set forth in subdivisions (1)–(5) of subsection (a) of §5C1.2 (Limitation on Applicability of Statutory Minimum Sentences in Certain Cases), decrease by **2** levels.

[Subsection (c) (Drug Quantity Table) is set forth on the following pages.]

(d) Cross References

(1) If a victim was killed under circumstances that would constitute murder under 18 U.S.C. § 1111 had such killing taken place within the territorial or maritime jurisdiction of the United States, apply §2A1.1 (First Degree Murder) or §2A1.2 (Second Degree Murder), as appropriate, if the resulting offense level is greater than that determined under this guideline.

(2) If the defendant was convicted under 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(7) (of distributing a controlled substance with intent to commit a crime of violence), apply §2X1.1 (Attempt, Solicitation, or Conspiracy) in respect to the crime of violence that the defendant committed, or attempted or intended to commit, if the resulting offense level is greater than that determined above.

(e) Special Instruction

(1) If (A) subsection (d)(2) does not apply; and (B) the defendant committed, or attempted to commit, a sexual offense against another individual by distributing, with or without that individual's knowledge, a controlled substance to that individual, an adjustment under §3A1.1(b)(1) shall apply.

(c) DRUG QUANTITY TABLE

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND QUANTITY*	BASE OFFENSE LEVEL
(1) ● 90 KG or more of Heroin; ● 450 KG or more of Cocaine; ● 25.2 KG or more of Cocaine Base;	Level 38

- 90 KG or more of PCP, or 9 KG or more of PCP (actual);
- 45 KG or more of Methamphetamine, or
4.5 KG or more of Methamphetamine (actual), or
4.5 KG or more of “Ice”;
- 45 KG or more of Amphetamine, or
4.5 KG or more of Amphetamine (actual);
- 900 G or more of LSD;
- 36 KG or more of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
- 9 KG or more of a Fentanyl Analogue;
- 90,000 KG or more of Marihuana;
- 18,000 KG or more of Hashish;
- 1,800 KG or more of Hashish Oil;
- 90,000,000 units or more of Ketamine;
- 90,000,000 units or more of Schedule I or II Depressants;
- 5,625,000 units or more of Flunitrazepam.

- (2) **Level 36**
- At least 30 KG but less than 90 KG of Heroin;
 - At least 150 KG but less than 450 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 8.4 KG but less than 25.2 KG of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 30 KG but less than 90 KG of PCP, or
at least 3 KG but less than 9 KG of PCP (actual);
 - At least 15 KG but less than 45 KG of Methamphetamine, or
at least 1.5 KG but less than 4.5 KG of Methamphetamine (actual), or
at least 1.5 KG but less than 4.5 KG of “Ice”;
 - At least 15 KG but less than 45 KG of Amphetamine, or
at least 1.5 KG but less than 4.5 KG of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 300 G but less than 900 G of LSD;
 - At least 12 KG but less than 36 KG of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-
4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
 - At least 3 KG but less than 9 KG of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 30,000 KG but less than 90,000 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 6,000 KG but less than 18,000 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 600 KG but less than 1,800 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 30,000,000 units but less than 90,000,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 30,000,000 units but less than 90,000,000 units of
Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 1,875,000 units but less than 5,625,000 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (3) **Level 34**
- At least 10 KG but less than 30 KG of Heroin;
 - At least 50 KG but less than 150 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 2.8 KG but less than 8.4 KG of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 10 KG but less than 30 KG of PCP, or
at least 1 KG but less than 3 KG of PCP (actual);
 - At least 5 KG but less than 15 KG of Methamphetamine, or
at least 500 G but less than 1.5 KG of Methamphetamine (actual), or
at least 500 G but less than 1.5 KG of “Ice”;
 - At least 5 KG but less than 15 KG of Amphetamine, or
at least 500 G but less than 1.5 KG of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 100 G but less than 300 G of LSD;
 - At least 4 KG but less than 12 KG of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-
4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
 - At least 1 KG but less than 3 KG of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 10,000 KG but less than 30,000 KG of Marihuana;

- At least 2,000 KG but less than 6,000 KG of Hashish;
- At least 200 KG but less than 600 KG of Hashish Oil;
- At least 10,000,000 but less than 30,000,000 units of Ketamine;
- At least 10,000,000 but less than 30,000,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
- At least 625,000 but less than 1,875,000 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (4) **Level 32**
- At least 3 KG but less than 10 KG of Heroin;
 - At least 15 KG but less than 50 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 840 G but less than 2.8 KG of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 3 KG but less than 10 KG of PCP, or at least 300 G but less than 1 KG of PCP (actual);
 - At least 1.5 KG but less than 5 KG of Methamphetamine, or at least 150 G but less than 500 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 150 G but less than 500 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 1.5 KG but less than 5 KG of Amphetamine, or at least 150 G but less than 500 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 30 G but less than 100 G of LSD;
 - At least 1.2 KG but less than 4 KG of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
 - At least 300 G but less than 1 KG of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 3,000 KG but less than 10,000 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 600 KG but less than 2,000 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 60 KG but less than 200 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 3,000,000 but less than 10,000,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 3,000,000 but less than 10,000,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 187,500 but less than 625,000 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (5) **Level 30**
- At least 1 KG but less than 3 KG of Heroin;
 - At least 5 KG but less than 15 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 280 G but less than 840 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 1 KG but less than 3 KG of PCP, or at least 100 G but less than 300 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 500 G but less than 1.5 KG of Methamphetamine, or at least 50 G but less than 150 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 50 G but less than 150 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 500 G but less than 1.5 KG of Amphetamine, or at least 50 G but less than 150 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 10 G but less than 30 G of LSD;
 - At least 400 G but less than 1.2 KG of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
 - At least 100 G but less than 300 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 1,000 KG but less than 3,000 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 200 KG but less than 600 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 20 KG but less than 60 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 1,000,000 but less than 3,000,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 1,000,000 but less than 3,000,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 62,500 but less than 187,500 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (6) **Level 28**
- At least 700 G but less than 1 KG of Heroin;
 - At least 3.5 KG but less than 5 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 196 G but less than 280 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 700 G but less than 1 KG of PCP, or at least 70 G but less than 100 G of PCP (actual);

- At least 350 G but less than 500 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 35 G but less than 50 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 35 G but less than 50 G of “Ice”;
- At least 350 G but less than 500 G of Amphetamine, or at least 35 G but less than 50 G of Amphetamine (actual);
- At least 7 G but less than 10 G of LSD;
- At least 280 G but less than 400 G of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
- At least 70 G but less than 100 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
- At least 700 KG but less than 1,000 KG of Marihuana;
- At least 140 KG but less than 200 KG of Hashish;
- At least 14 KG but less than 20 KG of Hashish Oil;
- At least 700,000 but less than 1,000,000 units of Ketamine;
- At least 700,000 but less than 1,000,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
- At least 43,750 but less than 62,500 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (7) **Level 26**
- At least 400 G but less than 700 G of Heroin;
 - At least 2 KG but less than 3.5 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 112 G but less than 196 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 400 G but less than 700 G of PCP, or at least 40 G but less than 70 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 200 G but less than 350 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 20 G but less than 35 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 20 G but less than 35 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 200 G but less than 350 G of Amphetamine, or at least 20 G but less than 35 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 4 G but less than 7 G of LSD;
 - At least 160 G but less than 280 G of Fentanyl ((N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
 - At least 40 G but less than 70 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 400 KG but less than 700 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 80 KG but less than 140 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 8 KG but less than 14 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 400,000 but less than 700,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 400,000 but less than 700,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 25,000 but less than 43,750 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (8) **Level 24**
- At least 100 G but less than 400 G of Heroin;
 - At least 500 G but less than 2 KG of Cocaine;
 - At least 28 G but less than 112 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 100 G but less than 400 G of PCP, or at least 10 G but less than 40 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 50 G but less than 200 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 5 G but less than 20 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 5 G but less than 20 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 50 G but less than 200 G of Amphetamine, or at least 5 G but less than 20 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 1 G but less than 4 G of LSD;
 - At least 40 G but less than 160 G of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
 - At least 10 G but less than 40 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 100 KG but less than 400 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 20 KG but less than 80 KG of Hashish;

- At least 2 KG but less than 8 KG of Hashish Oil;
- At least 100,000 but less than 400,000 units of Ketamine;
- At least 100,000 but less than 400,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
- At least 6,250 but less than 25,000 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (9) **Level 22**
- At least 80 G but less than 100 G of Heroin;
 - At least 400 G but less than 500 G of Cocaine;
 - At least 22.4 G but less than 28 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 80 G but less than 100 G of PCP, or at least 8 G but less than 10 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 40 G but less than 50 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 4 G but less than 5 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 4 G but less than 5 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 40 G but less than 50 G of Amphetamine, or at least 4 G but less than 5 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 800 MG but less than 1 G of LSD;
 - At least 32 G but less than 40 G of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
 - At least 8 G but less than 10 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 80 KG but less than 100 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 16 KG but less than 20 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 1.6 KG but less than 2 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 80,000 but less than 100,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 80,000 but less than 100,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 5,000 but less than 6,250 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (10) **Level 20**
- At least 60 G but less than 80 G of Heroin;
 - At least 300 G but less than 400 G of Cocaine;
 - At least 16.8 G but less than 22.4 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 60 G but less than 80 G of PCP, or at least 6 G but less than 8 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 30 G but less than 40 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 3 G but less than 4 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 3 G but less than 4 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 30 G but less than 40 G of Amphetamine, or at least 3 G but less than 4 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 600 MG but less than 800 MG of LSD;
 - At least 24 G but less than 32 G of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
 - At least 6 G but less than 8 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 60 KG but less than 80 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 12 KG but less than 16 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 1.2 KG but less than 1.6 KG of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 60,000 but less than 80,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 60,000 but less than 80,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - 60,000 units or more of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - At least 3,750 but less than 5,000 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (11) **Level 18**
- At least 40 G but less than 60 G of Heroin;
 - At least 200 G but less than 300 G of Cocaine;
 - At least 11.2 G but less than 16.8 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 40 G but less than 60 G of PCP, or at least 4 G but less than 6 G of PCP (actual);

- At least 20 G but less than 30 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 2 G but less than 3 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 2 G but less than 3 G of “Ice”;
- At least 20 G but less than 30 G of Amphetamine, or at least 2 G but less than 3 G of Amphetamine (actual);
- At least 400 MG but less than 600 MG of LSD;
- At least 16 G but less than 24 G of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
- At least 4 G but less than 6 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
- At least 40 KG but less than 60 KG of Marihuana;
- At least 8 KG but less than 12 KG of Hashish;
- At least 800 G but less than 1.2 KG of Hashish Oil;
- At least 40,000 but less than 60,000 units of Ketamine;
- At least 40,000 but less than 60,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
- At least 40,000 but less than 60,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
- At least 2,500 but less than 3,750 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (12) **Level 16**
- At least 20 G but less than 40 G of Heroin;
 - At least 100 G but less than 200 G of Cocaine;
 - At least 5.6 G but less than 11.2 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 20 G but less than 40 G of PCP, or at least 2 G but less than 4 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 10 G but less than 20 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 1 G but less than 2 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 1 G but less than 2 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 10 G but less than 20 G of Amphetamine, or at least 1 G but less than 2 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 200 MG but less than 400 MG of LSD;
 - At least 8 G but less than 16 G of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide);
 - At least 2 G but less than 4 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 20 KG but less than 40 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 5 KG but less than 8 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 500 G but less than 800 G of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 20,000 but less than 40,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 20,000 but less than 40,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 20,000 but less than 40,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - At least 1,250 but less than 2,500 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (13) **Level 14**
- At least 10 G but less than 20 G of Heroin;
 - At least 50 G but less than 100 G of Cocaine;
 - At least 2.8 G but less than 5.6 G of Cocaine Base;
 - At least 10 G but less than 20 G of PCP, or at least 1 G but less than 2 G of PCP (actual);
 - At least 5 G but less than 10 G of Methamphetamine, or at least 500 MG but less than 1 G of Methamphetamine (actual), or at least 500 MG but less than 1 G of “Ice”;
 - At least 5 G but less than 10 G of Amphetamine, or at least 500 MG but less than 1 G of Amphetamine (actual);
 - At least 100 MG but less than 200 MG of LSD;
 - At least 4 G but less than 8 G of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-

4-piperidiny] Propanamide);

- At least 1 G but less than 2 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
- At least 10 KG but less than 20 KG of Marihuana;
- At least 2 KG but less than 5 KG of Hashish;
- At least 200 G but less than 500 G of Hashish Oil;
- At least 10,000 but less than 20,000 units of Ketamine;
- At least 10,000 but less than 20,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
- At least 10,000 but less than 20,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
- At least 625 but less than 1,250 units of Flunitrazepam.

- (14) ● Less than 10 G of Heroin; **Level 12**
- Less than 50 G of Cocaine;
 - Less than 2.8 G of Cocaine Base;
 - Less than 10 G of PCP, or less than 1 G of PCP (actual);
 - Less than 5 G of Methamphetamine, or less than 500 MG of Methamphetamine (actual), or less than 500 MG of “Ice”;
 - Less than 5 G of Amphetamine, or less than 500 MG of Amphetamine (actual);
 - Less than 100 MG of LSD;
 - Less than 4 G of Fentanyl (**N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidiny] Propanamide);**
 - Less than 1 G of a Fentanyl Analogue;
 - At least 5 KG but less than 10 KG of Marihuana;
 - At least 1 KG but less than 2 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 100 G but less than 200 G of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 5,000 but less than 10,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 5,000 but less than 10,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 5,000 but less than 10,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - At least 312 but less than 625 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - 80,000 units or more of Schedule IV substances (except Flunitrazepam).

- (15) ● At least 2.5 KG but less than 5 KG of Marihuana; **Level 10**
- At least 500 G but less than 1 KG of Hashish;
 - At least 50 G but less than 100 G of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 2,500 but less than 5,000 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 2,500 but less than 5,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 2,500 but less than 5,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - At least 156 but less than 312 units of Flunitrazepam;
 - At least 40,000 but less than 80,000 units of Schedule IV substances (except Flunitrazepam).

- (16) ● At least 1 KG but less than 2.5 KG of Marihuana; **Level 8**
- At least 200 G but less than 500 G of Hashish;
 - At least 20 G but less than 50 G of Hashish Oil;
 - At least 1,000 but less than 2,500 units of Ketamine;
 - At least 1,000 but less than 2,500 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - At least 1,000 but less than 2,500 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - Less than 156 units of Flunitrazepam;

- At least 16,000 but less than 40,000 units of Schedule IV substances (except Flunitrazepam);
- 160,000 units or more of Schedule V substances.

- (17) **Level 6**
- Less than 1 KG of Marihuana;
 - Less than 200 G of Hashish;
 - Less than 20 G of Hashish Oil;
 - Less than 1,000 units of Ketamine;
 - Less than 1,000 units of Schedule I or II Depressants;
 - Less than 1,000 units of Schedule III substances (except Ketamine);
 - Less than 16,000 units of Schedule IV substances (except Flunitrazepam);
 - Less than 160,000 units of Schedule V substances.
-

***Notes to Drug Quantity Table:**

- (A) Unless otherwise specified, the weight of a controlled substance set forth in the table refers to the entire weight of any mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of the controlled substance. If a mixture or substance contains more than one controlled substance, the weight of the entire mixture or substance is assigned to the controlled substance that results in the greater offense level.
- (B) The terms “**PCP (actual)**”, “**Amphetamine (actual)**”, and “**Methamphetamine (actual)**” refer to the weight of the controlled substance, itself, contained in the mixture or substance. For example, a mixture weighing 10 grams containing PCP at 50% purity contains 5 grams of PCP (actual). In the case of a mixture or substance containing PCP, amphetamine, or methamphetamine, use the offense level determined by the entire weight of the mixture or substance, or the offense level determined by the weight of the PCP (actual), amphetamine (actual), or methamphetamine (actual), whichever is greater.

The terms “**Hydrocodone (actual)**” and “**Oxycodone (actual)**” refer to the weight of the controlled substance, itself, contained in the pill, capsule, or mixture.

- (C) “**Ice**,” for the purposes of this guideline, means a mixture or substance containing d-methamphetamine hydrochloride of at least 80% purity.
- (D) “**Cocaine base**,” for the purposes of this guideline, means “crack.” “**Crack**” is the street name for a form of cocaine base, usually prepared by processing cocaine hydrochloride and sodium bicarbonate, and usually appearing in a lumpy, rocklike form.
- (E) In the case of an offense involving marihuana plants, treat each plant, regardless of sex, as equivalent to 100 grams of marihuana. *Provided*, however, that if the actual weight of the marihuana is greater, use the actual weight of the marihuana.

- (F) In the case of Schedule I or II Depressants (except gamma-hydroxybutyric acid), Schedule III substances, Schedule IV substances, and Schedule V substances, one “*unit*” means one pill, capsule, or tablet. If the substance (except gamma-hydroxybutyric acid) is in liquid form, one “*unit*” means 0.5 milliliters. For an anabolic steroid that is not in a pill, capsule, tablet, or liquid form (e.g., patch, topical cream, aerosol), the court shall determine the base offense level using a reasonable estimate of the quantity of anabolic steroid involved in the offense. In making a reasonable estimate, the court shall consider that each 25 milligrams of an anabolic steroid is one “unit”.
- (G) In the case of LSD on a carrier medium (e.g., a sheet of blotter paper), do not use the weight of the LSD/carrier medium. Instead, treat each dose of LSD on the carrier medium as equal to 0.4 milligrams of LSD for the purposes of the Drug Quantity Table.
- (H) **Hashish**, for the purposes of this guideline, means a resinous substance of cannabis that includes (i) one or more of the tetrahydrocannabinols (as listed in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11(d)(31)), (ii) at least two of the following: cannabiniol, cannabidiol, or cannabichromene, and (iii) fragments of plant material (such as cystolith fibers).
- (I) **Hashish oil**, for the purposes of this guideline, means a preparation of the soluble cannabinoids derived from cannabis that includes (i) one or more of the tetrahydrocannabinols (as listed in 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11(d)(31)), (ii) at least two of the following: cannabiniol, cannabidiol, or cannabichromene, and (iii) is essentially free of plant material (e.g., plant fragments). Typically, hashish oil is a viscous, dark colored oil, but it can vary from a dry resin to a colorless liquid.
- (J) **Fentanyl analogue**, for the purposes of this guideline, means any substance (including any salt, isomer, or salt of isomer thereof), whether a controlled substance or not, that has a chemical structure that is similar to fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide).

* * *

Commentary

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Application Notes:

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6. **Analogues and Controlled Substances Not Referenced in this Guideline.**—Any **Except as otherwise provided, any** reference to a particular controlled substance in these guidelines includes all salts, isomers, all salts of isomers, and, ~~except as otherwise provided,~~ any analogue of that controlled substance. Any reference to cocaine includes ecgonine and coca leaves, except extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine and ecgonine have been removed. ~~For purposes of this guideline~~ **Unless otherwise specified, “analogue,”** for purposes of this guideline, has the meaning given the term “controlled substance analogue” in 21 U.S.C. § 802(32). In determining the appropriate sentence, the court also may consider whether the same quantity of analogue

produces a greater effect on the central nervous system than the controlled substance for which it is an analogue.

In the case of a controlled substance that is not specifically referenced in this guideline, determine the base offense level using the marihuana equivalency of the most closely related controlled substance referenced in this guideline. In determining the most closely related controlled substance, the court shall, to the extent practicable, consider the following:

- (A) Whether the controlled substance not referenced in this guideline has a chemical structure that is substantially similar to a controlled substance referenced in this guideline.
- (B) Whether the controlled substance not referenced in this guideline has a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system that is substantially similar to the stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogenic effect on the central nervous system of a controlled substance referenced in this guideline.
- (C) Whether a lesser or greater quantity of the controlled substance not referenced in this guideline is needed to produce a substantially similar effect on the central nervous system as a controlled substance referenced in this guideline.

* * *

8. Use of Drug Equivalency Tables.—

* * *

(D) Drug Equivalency Tables.—

SCHEDULE I OR II OPIATES*	
1 gm of Heroin =	1 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Alpha-Methylfentanyl =	10 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Dextromoramide =	670 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Dipipanone =	250 gm of marihuana
1 gm of 3-Methylfentanyl =	10 kg of marihuana
1 gm of 1-Methyl-4-phenyl-4-propionoxypiperidine/MPPP =	700 gm of marihuana
1 gm of 1-(2-Phenylethyl)-4-phenyl-4-acetyloxypiperidine/PEPAP =	700 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Alphaprodine =	100 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide) =	2.5 kg of marihuana
1 gm of a Fentanyl Analogue =	10 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Hydromorphone/Dihydromorphinone =	2.5 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Levorphanol =	2.5 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Meperidine/Pethidine =	50 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Methadone =	500 gm of marihuana
1 gm of 6-Monoacetylmorphine =	1 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Morphine =	500 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Oxycodone (actual) =	6700 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Oxymorphone =	5 kg of marihuana
1 gm of Racemorphan =	800 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Codeine =	80 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Dextropropoxyphene/Propoxyphene-Bulk =	50 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Ethylmorphine =	165 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Hydrocodone (actual) =	6700 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Mixed Alkaloids of Opium/Papaveretum =	250 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Opium =	50 gm of marihuana
1 gm of Levo-alpha-acetylmethadol (LAAM) =	3 kg of marihuana

**Provided, that the minimum offense level from the Drug Quantity Table for any of these controlled substances individually, or in combination with another controlled substance, is level 12.*

* * *

16. **Application of Subsection (b)(11).**—Subsection (b)(11) does not apply if the purpose of the bribery was to obstruct or impede the investigation, prosecution, or sentencing of the defendant. Such conduct is covered by §3C1.1 (Obstructing or Impeding the Administration of Justice) and, if applicable, §2D1.1(b)(15)(D).

* * *

18. **Application of Subsection (b)(1314).**—

(A) **Hazardous or Toxic Substances (Subsection (b)(1314)(A)).**—Subsection (b)(1314)(A) applies if the conduct for which the defendant is accountable under §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct) involved any discharge, emission, release, transportation, treatment, storage, or disposal violation covered by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(d); the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(c); the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. § 9603(b); or 49 U.S.C. § 5124 (relating to violations of laws and regulations enforced by the Department of Transportation with respect to the transportation of hazardous material). In some cases, the enhancement under subsection (b)(1314)(A) may not account adequately for the seriousness of the environmental harm or other threat to public health or safety (including the health or safety of law enforcement and cleanup personnel). In such cases, an upward departure may be warranted. Additionally, in determining the amount of restitution under §5E1.1 (Restitution) and in fashioning appropriate conditions of probation and supervision under §§5B1.3 (Conditions of Probation) and 5D1.3 (Conditions of Supervised Release), respectively, any costs of environmental cleanup and harm to individuals or property shall be considered by the court in cases involving the manufacture of amphetamine or methamphetamine and should be considered by the court in cases involving the manufacture of a controlled substance other than amphetamine or methamphetamine. *See* 21 U.S.C. § 853(q) (mandatory restitution for cleanup costs relating to the manufacture of amphetamine and methamphetamine).

(B) **Substantial Risk of Harm Associated with the Manufacture of Amphetamine and Methamphetamine (Subsection (b)(1314)(C)–(D)).**—

- (i) **Factors to Consider.**—In determining, for purposes of subsection (b)(1314)(C)(ii) or (D), whether the offense created a substantial risk of harm to human life or the environment, the court shall include consideration of the following factors:

* * *

- (ii) **Definitions.**—For purposes of subsection (b)(1314)(D):

* * *

19. **Application of Subsection (b)(1415).**—Subsection (b)(1415) applies to offenses that involve the cultivation of marijuana on state or federal land or while trespassing on tribal or private land. Such offenses interfere with the ability of others to safely access and use the area and also pose or risk a range of other harms, such as harms to the environment.

The enhancements in subsection (b)(1314)(A) and (b)(1415) may be applied cumulatively (added together), as is generally the case when two or more specific offense characteristics each apply. See §1B1.1 (Application Instructions), Application Note 4(A).

20. **Application of Subsection (b)(1516).**—

(A) **Distributing to a Specified Individual or Involving Such an Individual in the Offense (Subsection (b)(1516)(B)).**—If the defendant distributes a controlled substance to an individual or involves an individual in the offense, as specified in subsection (b)(1516)(B), the individual is not a “vulnerable victim” for purposes of §3A1.1(b).

(B) **Directly Involved in the Importation of a Controlled Substance (Subsection (b)(1516)(C)).**—Subsection (b)(1516)(C) applies if the defendant is accountable for the importation of a controlled substance under subsection (a)(1)(A) of §1B1.3 (Relevant Conduct (Factors that Determine the Guideline Range)), *i.e.*, the defendant committed, aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, procured, or willfully caused the importation of a controlled substance.

If subsection (b)(3) or (b)(5) applies, do not apply subsection (b)(1516)(C).

(C) **Pattern of Criminal Conduct Engaged in as a Livelihood (Subsection (b)(1516)(E)).**—For purposes of subsection (b)(1516)(E), “*pattern of criminal conduct*” and “*engaged in as a livelihood*” have the meaning given such terms in §4B1.3 (Criminal Livelihood).

21. **Applicability of Subsection (b)(1718).**—The applicability of subsection (b)(1718) shall be determined without regard to whether the defendant was convicted of an offense that subjects the defendant to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment. Section §5C1.2(b), which provides a minimum offense level of level 17, is not pertinent to the determination of whether subsection (b)(1718) applies.

* * *

Background: Offenses under 21 U.S.C. §§ 841 and 960 receive identical punishment based upon the quantity of the controlled substance involved, the defendant’s criminal history, and whether death or serious bodily injury resulted from the offense.

* * *

Subsection (b)(1314)(A) implements the instruction to the Commission in section 303 of Public Law 103–237.

Subsections (b)(1314)(C)(ii) and (D) implement, in a broader form, the instruction to the Commission in section 102 of Public Law 106–310.

Subsection (b)(1516) implements the directive to the Commission in section 6(3) of Public Law 111–220.

Subsection (b)(1617) implements the directive to the Commission in section 7(2) of Public Law 111–220.

* * *

§2D1.6. Use of Communication Facility in Committing Drug Offense; Attempt or Conspiracy

* * *

Commentary

Statutory Provision: 21 U.S.C. § 843(b).

Application Note:

1. Where the offense level for the underlying offense is to be determined by reference to §2D1.1, *see* Application Note 5 of the Commentary to §2D1.1 for guidance in determining the scale of the offense. Note that the Drug Quantity Table in §2D1.1 provides a minimum offense level of 12 where the offense involves heroin (or other Schedule I or II opiates), cocaine (or other Schedule I or II stimulants), cocaine base, PCP, methamphetamine, LSD (or other Schedule I or II hallucinogens), fentanyl (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] Propanamide), or fentanyl analogue (§2D1.1(c)(14)); a minimum offense level of 8 where the offense involves flunitrazepam (§2D1.1(c)(16)); and a minimum offense level of 6 otherwise (§2D1.1(c)(17)).

* * *

§2D1.14. Narco-Terrorism

(a) Base Offense Level:

- (1) The offense level from §2D1.1 (Unlawful Manufacturing, Importing, Exporting, or Trafficking (Including Possession with Intent to Commit These Offenses); Attempt or Conspiracy) applicable to the underlying offense, except that §2D1.1(a)(5)(A), (a)(5)(B), and (b)(17)(18) shall not apply.

* * *

§3B1.4. Using a Minor To Commit a Crime

* * *

Commentary

Application Notes:

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2. Do not apply this adjustment if the Chapter Two offense guideline incorporates this factor. For example, if the defendant receives an enhancement under §2D1.1(b)(15)(16)(B) for involving an individual less than 18 years of age in the offense, do not apply this adjustment.

* * *

§3C1.1. Obstructing or Impeding the Administration of Justice

* * *

Commentary

Application Notes:

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- Inapplicability of Adjustment in Certain Circumstances.**—If the defendant is convicted of an offense covered by §2J1.1 (Contempt), §2J1.2 (Obstruction of Justice), §2J1.3 (Perjury or Subornation of Perjury; Bribery of Witness), §2J1.5 (Failure to Appear by Material Witness), §2J1.6 (Failure to Appear by Defendant), §2J1.9 (Payment to Witness), §2X3.1 (Accessory After the Fact), or §2X4.1 (Misprision of Felony), this adjustment is not to be applied to the offense level for that offense except if a significant further obstruction occurred during the investigation, prosecution, or sentencing of the obstruction offense itself (*e.g.*, if the defendant threatened a witness during the course of the prosecution for the obstruction offense).

Similarly, if the defendant receives an enhancement under §2D1.1(b)(1~~5~~16)(D), do not apply this adjustment.

* * *

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION
FOR NONVIOLENT FIRST OFFENDERS

Synopsis of Proposed Amendment: This proposed amendment is a result of the Commission’s continued study of alternatives to incarceration. See U.S. Sentencing Comm’n, “Notice of Final Priorities,” 82 FR 39949 (Aug. 22, 2017).

The *Guidelines Manual* defines and allocates sentencing options in Chapter Five (Determining the Sentence). This chapter sets forth “zones” in the Sentencing Table based on the minimum months of imprisonment in each cell. The Sentencing Table sorts all sentencing ranges into four zones, labeled A through D. Each zone allows for different sentencing options. Zones A and B provide for the following options:

Zone A.—All sentence ranges within Zone A, regardless of the underlying offense level or criminal history category, are zero to six months. A sentencing court has the discretion to impose a sentence that is a fine-only, probation-only, probation with a confinement condition (home detention, community confinement, or intermittent confinement), a split sentence (term of imprisonment with term of supervised release with condition of confinement), or imprisonment. Zone A allows for probation without any conditions of confinement.

Zone B.—Sentence ranges in Zone B are from one to 15 months of imprisonment. Zone B allows for a probation term to be substituted for imprisonment, contingent upon the probation term including conditions of confinement. Zone B allows for non-prison sentences, which technically result in sentencing ranges larger than six months, because the minimum term of imprisonment is one month and the maximum terms begin at seven months. To avoid sentencing ranges exceeding six months, the guidelines require that probationary sentences in Zone B include conditions of confinement. Zone B also allows for a term of imprisonment (of at least one month) followed by a term of supervised release with a condition of confinement (*i.e.*, a “split sentence”) or a term of imprisonment only.

The proposed amendment amends the Commentary to §5C1.1 to add a new application note stating that if the defendant is a nonviolent first offender and the applicable guideline range is in Zone A or B of the Sentencing Table, the court should consider imposing a sentence other than a sentence of imprisonment. For purposes of this application note, a nonviolent first offender is a defendant who has no prior convictions or other comparable judicial dispositions of any kind and who did not use violence or credible threats of violence or possess a firearm or other dangerous weapon in connection with the offense of conviction. This new application note accords with 28 U.S.C. § 994(j), which provides that the guidelines should reflect the general appropriateness of imposing a sentence other than imprisonment in cases in which the defendant is a first offender who has not been convicted of a crime of violence or an otherwise serious offense.

In addition, the proposed amendment amends the Commentary to §5F1.2 (Home Detention) to remove the language instructing that (1) electronic monitoring “ordinarily should be used in connection with” home detention; (2) alternative means of surveillance may be used “so

long as they are as effective as electronic monitoring;” and (3) “surveillance necessary for effective use of home detention ordinarily requires” electronic monitoring.

Finally, the proposed amendment makes conforming changes to other provisions in Chapter 5.

Proposed Amendment:

§5C1.1. Imposition of a Term of Imprisonment

* * *

Commentary

Application Notes:

1. Subsection (a) provides that a sentence conforms with the guidelines for imprisonment if it is within the minimum and maximum terms of the applicable guideline range specified in the Sentencing Table in Part A of this Chapter. For example, if the defendant has an Offense Level of 20 and a Criminal History Category of I, the applicable guideline range is 33–41 months of imprisonment. Therefore, a sentence of imprisonment of at least thirty-three months, but not more than forty-one months, is within the applicable guideline range.
2. Subsection (b) provides that where the applicable guideline range is in Zone A of the Sentencing Table (*i.e.*, the minimum term of imprisonment specified in the applicable guideline range is zero months), the court is not required to impose a sentence of imprisonment unless a sentence of imprisonment or its equivalent is specifically required by the guideline applicable to the offense. Where imprisonment is not required, the court, for example, may impose a sentence of probation. In some cases, a fine appropriately may be imposed as the sole sanction.
3. Subsection (c) provides that where the applicable guideline range is in Zone B of the Sentencing Table (*i.e.*, the minimum term of imprisonment specified in the applicable guideline range is at least one but not more than nine months), the court has three options:
 - (A) It may impose a sentence of imprisonment.
 - (B) It may impose a sentence of probation provided that it includes a condition of probation requiring a period of intermittent confinement, community confinement, or home detention, or combination of intermittent confinement, community confinement, and home detention, sufficient to satisfy the minimum period of imprisonment specified in the guideline range. For example, where the guideline range is 4–10 months, a sentence of probation with a condition requiring at least four months of intermittent confinement, community confinement, or home detention would satisfy the minimum term of imprisonment specified in the guideline range.
 - (C) Or, it may impose a sentence of imprisonment that includes a term of supervised release with a condition that requires community confinement or home detention. In such case, at least one month must be satisfied by actual imprisonment and the remainder of the minimum term specified in the guideline range must be satisfied by community confinement or home detention. For example, where the guideline range is 4–10 months, a sentence of imprisonment of one month followed by a term of supervised release with a

condition requiring three months of community confinement or home detention would satisfy the minimum term of imprisonment specified in the guideline range.

The preceding examples illustrate sentences that satisfy the minimum term of imprisonment required by the guideline range. The court, of course, may impose a sentence at a higher point within the applicable guideline range. For example, where the guideline range is 4–10 months, both a sentence of probation with a condition requiring six months of community confinement or home detention (under subsection (c)(3)) and a sentence of two months imprisonment followed by a term of supervised release with a condition requiring four months of community confinement or home detention (under subsection (c)(2)) would be within the guideline range.

4. If the defendant is a nonviolent first offender and the applicable guideline range is in Zone A or B of the Sentencing Table, the court should consider imposing a sentence other than a sentence of imprisonment, in accordance with subsection (b) or (c)(3). *See* 28 U.S.C. § 994(j). For purposes of this application note, a “*nonviolent first offender*” is a defendant who has no prior convictions or other comparable judicial dispositions of any kind and who did not use violence or credible threats of violence or possess a firearm or other dangerous weapon in connection with the offense of conviction. The phrase “comparable judicial dispositions of any kind” includes diversionary or deferred dispositions resulting from a finding or admission of guilt or a plea of *nolo contendere* and juvenile adjudications.
45. Subsection (d) provides that where the applicable guideline range is in Zone C of the Sentencing Table (*i.e.*, the minimum term specified in the applicable guideline range is ten or twelve months), the court has two options:
 - (A) It may impose a sentence of imprisonment.
 - (B) Or, it may impose a sentence of imprisonment that includes a term of supervised release with a condition requiring community confinement or home detention. In such case, at least one-half of the minimum term specified in the guideline range must be satisfied by imprisonment, and the remainder of the minimum term specified in the guideline range must be satisfied by community confinement or home detention. For example, where the guideline range is 10–16 months, a sentence of five months imprisonment followed by a term of supervised release with a condition requiring five months community confinement or home detention would satisfy the minimum term of imprisonment required by the guideline range.

The preceding example illustrates a sentence that satisfies the minimum term of imprisonment required by the guideline range. The court, of course, may impose a sentence at a higher point within the guideline range. For example, where the guideline range is 10–16 months, both a sentence of five months imprisonment followed by a term of supervised release with a condition requiring six months of community confinement or home detention (under subsection (d)), and a sentence of ten months imprisonment followed by a term of supervised release with a condition requiring four months of community confinement or home detention (also under subsection (d)) would be within the guideline range.

56. Subsection (e) sets forth a schedule of imprisonment substitutes.
67. There may be cases in which a departure from the sentencing options authorized for Zone C of the Sentencing Table (under which at least half the minimum term must be satisfied by imprisonment) to the sentencing options authorized for Zone B of the Sentencing Table (under which all or most of the minimum term may be satisfied by intermittent confinement, community confinement, or home detention instead of imprisonment) is appropriate to accomplish a specific

treatment purpose. Such a departure should be considered only in cases where the court finds that (A) the defendant is an abuser of narcotics, other controlled substances, or alcohol, or suffers from a significant mental illness, and (B) the defendant's criminality is related to the treatment problem to be addressed.

In determining whether such a departure is appropriate, the court should consider, among other things, (1) the likelihood that completion of the treatment program will successfully address the treatment problem, thereby reducing the risk to the public from further crimes of the defendant, and (2) whether imposition of less imprisonment than required by Zone C will increase the risk to the public from further crimes of the defendant.

Examples: The following examples both assume the applicable guideline range is 12–18 months and the court departs in accordance with this application note. Under Zone C rules, the defendant must be sentenced to at least six months imprisonment. (1) The defendant is a nonviolent drug offender in Criminal History Category I and probation is not prohibited by statute. The court departs downward to impose a sentence of probation, with twelve months of intermittent confinement, community confinement, or home detention and participation in a substance abuse treatment program as conditions of probation. (2) The defendant is convicted of a Class A or B felony, so probation is prohibited by statute (*see* §5B1.1(b)). The court departs downward to impose a sentence of one month imprisonment, with eleven months in community confinement or home detention and participation in a substance abuse treatment program as conditions of supervised release.

78. The use of substitutes for imprisonment as provided in subsections (c) and (d) is not recommended for most defendants with a criminal history category of III or above.
89. In a case in which community confinement in a residential treatment program is imposed to accomplish a specific treatment purpose, the court should consider the effectiveness of the residential treatment program.
910. Subsection (f) provides that, where the applicable guideline range is in Zone D of the Sentencing Table (*i.e.*, the minimum term of imprisonment specified in the applicable guideline range is 15 months or more), the minimum term must be satisfied by a sentence of imprisonment without the use of any of the imprisonment substitutes in subsection (e).

* * *

§5F1.2. Home Detention

Home detention may be imposed as a condition of probation or supervised release, but only as a substitute for imprisonment.

Commentary

Application Notes:

1. “*Home detention*” means a program of confinement and supervision that restricts the defendant to his place of residence continuously, except for authorized absences, enforced by appropriate means of surveillance by the probation office. When an order of home detention is imposed, the defendant is required to be in his place of residence at all times except for approved absences for gainful employment, community service, religious services, medical care, educational or training programs, and such other times as may be specifically authorized. Electronic monitoring is an appropriate means of surveillance ~~and ordinarily should be used in connection with~~ **for** home

detention. However, alternative means of surveillance may be used ~~so long as they are as effective as electronic monitoring~~ if appropriate.

2. The court may impose other conditions of probation or supervised release appropriate to effectuate home detention. If the court concludes that the amenities available in the residence of a defendant would cause home detention not to be sufficiently punitive, the court may limit the amenities available.
3. The defendant's place of residence, for purposes of home detention, need not be the place where the defendant previously resided. It may be any place of residence, so long as the owner of the residence (and any other person(s) from whom consent is necessary) agrees to any conditions that may be imposed by the court, *e.g.*, conditions that a monitoring system be installed, that there will be no "call forwarding" or "call waiting" services, or that there will be no cordless telephones or answering machines.

Background: The Commission has concluded that ~~the surveillance necessary for effective use of home detention ordinarily requires~~ electronic monitoring is an appropriate means of surveillance for home detention. However, in some cases home detention may effectively be enforced without electronic monitoring, *e.g.*, when the defendant is physically incapacitated, or where some other effective means of surveillance is available. Accordingly, the Commission has not required that electronic monitoring be a necessary condition for home detention. Nevertheless, before ordering home detention without electronic monitoring, the court should be confident that an alternative form of surveillance ~~will be equally effective~~ is appropriate considering the facts and circumstances of the defendant's case.

In the usual case, the Commission assumes that a condition requiring that the defendant seek and maintain gainful employment will be imposed when home detention is ordered.

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§5H1.3. Mental and Emotional Conditions (Policy Statement)

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In certain cases a downward departure may be appropriate to accomplish a specific treatment purpose. *See* §5C1.1, Application Note 67.

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§5H1.4. Physical Condition, Including Drug or Alcohol Dependence or Abuse; Gambling Addiction (Policy Statement)

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In certain cases a downward departure may be appropriate to accomplish a specific treatment purpose. *See* §5C1.1, Application Note 67.

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