



## Week in Regulation

# The Week in Regulation: September 12-16

**SAM BATKINS | SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

A \$10 billion week. One EPA rule regulating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for heavy-duty engines contributed \$8.1 billion to the week's regulatory tally. For the year, the combined cost of proposed and final rules stands at \$79.4 billion.

Administrative agencies proposed 54 rules and implemented 79 final rules. Federal agencies issued 7 new documents "deemed significant under [Executive Order] 12866," bringing the yearly total to 443 according to the *Federal Register*; the federal government has issued 57,896 pages of regulations in 2011.

In a new feature, the Forum is introducing a series of regulatory graphs tracking federal rulemakings. The figure below tracks the number of proposed and final rules, as well as monthly net job creation.



EPA's GHG standards final rule establishes regulations for carbon dioxide emissions for three classes of heavy-duty vehicles: combination tractors, heavy-duty pickup trucks, and vocational vehicles. The rule adds more than 58,000 annual paperwork burden hours and will cost \$8.1 billion during the life of the rule, although administration officials maintain

that fuel savings alone could eclipse the cost figure. For a more thorough Forum review of the rule, click [here](#).

The Department of Energy also added a pricey final rule this week, in the form of efficiency standards for residential refrigerators. The rule adopts more stringent energy conservation standards and could cost more than \$1.5 billion.

Congress and the White House actually piled on new regulations this week with the signing of patent reform legislation (Public Law No. [112-29](#)). Because most regulations are mandates from Congress, the Forum also tracks legislation that imposes private-sector and unfunded mandates. The patent reform legislation, H.R. 1249, contained up to \$350 million in private-sector mandates, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Dodd-Frank added no new costs or burden hours this week. [Click here](#) to view the total estimated compliance costs from Dodd-Frank; since passage the legislation has produced (in proposed and enacted rules) more than 24.8 million new paperwork burden hours.

The Affordable Care Act added 8,008 new paperwork burden hours this week; since passage the [law has imposed](#) an estimated \$8.2 billion in private-sector burdens, approximately \$2.2 billion in costs to states, and 27 million annual paperwork hours.

At the current pace, the total regulatory burden for 2011 (proposed and final) will exceed \$108.6 billion. Since January 1, the federal government has imposed more than 80.8 million annual paperwork burden hours and \$79.4 billion in compliance costs.

[Click here](#) for our comprehensive database of regulations and rulemakings promulgated in 2011.