

It is not feasible and prudent to avoid Section 4(f) lands by constructing at a new location because:

(a) A new location would not address or correct the problems cited in the Purpose and Need, which necessitated the proposed project;

(b) A new location would result in substantial adverse social, economic, or environmental impacts (including such impacts as extensive severing of productive farmlands, displacement of a substantial number of families or businesses, serious disruption of community cohesion, substantial damage to wetlands or other sensitive natural areas, or greater impacts to other Section 4(f) lands);

(c) A new location would substantially increase costs or cause substantial engineering difficulties (such as an inability to achieve minimum design standards, or to meet the requirements of various permitting agencies such as those involved with navigation, pollution, or the environment); or

(d) Problems, impacts, costs, or difficulties would be truly unusual or unique, or of extraordinary magnitude when compared with the proposed use of the Section 4(f) property after taking into account proposed measures to minimize use, mitigation for adverse uses, and the enhancement of the Section 4(f) property's functions and value.

Flexibility in the use of applicable standards is encouraged during the analysis of this alternative.

Measures To Minimize Harm and Mitigation

This programmatic evaluation and approval may be used only for projects where the Administration, in accordance with this evaluation, ensures that the proposed action includes all possible planning to minimize harm and includes mitigation measures, and that the agency with jurisdiction agrees in writing with the assessment that the project, including measures to minimize harm, will have a net benefit and contribute towards the preservation and enhancement of the function and values of the Section 4(f) property.

Coordination

In early stages of project development, each project will require coordination with the Federal, State, and/or local agency officials having jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) property. For non-Federal Section 4(f) properties, *i.e.* State or local properties, the official with jurisdiction will be asked to identify any Federal encumbrances. When

encumbrances exist, coordination will be required with the Federal agency responsible for such encumbrances.

Copies of the final written support required under this programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation shall be provided to the official(s) having jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) property and to other interested parties as part of the normal NEPA documentation process, or upon request.

The Administration will coordinate with the appropriate U.S. Coast Guard District Commander before applying this programmatic evaluation to projects requiring a Section 9 Bridge Permit.

Public Involvement

The project includes public involvement activities that are consistent with the specific requirements of 23 CFR 771.111—Early coordination, public involvement and project development. For a project where one or more public hearings are held, information on the proposed use of the Section 4(f) land is communicated at the public hearing(s).

Approval Procedure

This programmatic Section 4(f) approval applies only after the Administration has:

1. Determined that the project meets the applicability criteria set forth in *Applicability* section;
2. Determined that all of the alternatives set forth in the Findings section have been fully evaluated;
3. Determined that the findings in this document (which conclude that the alternative recommended is the only feasible and prudent alternative) results in a clear net benefit to the function and value of the Section 4(f) property;
4. Determined that the project complies with the *Measures to Minimize Harm and Mitigation* section of this document;
5. Determined that the coordination and public involvement indicated in this programmatic evaluation have been successfully completed and necessary written agreements have been obtained; and
6. Documented the information that clearly identifies the basis for the above determinations and assurances.

Pursuant to Section 4(f), this statement has been coordinated with the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

[FR Doc. 02-31888 Filed 12-17-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2002-14063]

Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD's) intentions to request extension of approval for three years of a currently approved information collection.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before February 18, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Christensen, Maritime Administration, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-5909; fax: 202-493-2180, or e-mail: tom.christensen@marad.dot.gov. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: EUSC/Parent Company.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0511.

Form Numbers: None.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from date of approval.

Summary of Collection of Information: The Effective U.S. Control (EUSC)/Parent Company collection consists of an inventory of foreign-registered vessels owned by U.S. citizens. Specifically, the collection consists of responses from vessel owners verifying or correcting vessel ownership data and characteristics found in commercial publications. The information obtained could be vital in a national or international emergency, and is essential to the logistical support planning operations conducted by MARAD officials.

Need and Use of the Information: The information is used in contingency planning and provides data related to potential sealift capacity to support movement of fuel and military equipment to crisis zones.

Description of Respondents: U.S. citizens who own foreign-registered vessels.

Annual Responses: 80 responses.

Annual Burden: 40 hours.

Comments: Comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document. Written comments

may be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Specifically address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT (or EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Dated: December 13, 2002.

By Order of the Maritime Administration.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 02-31839 Filed 12-17-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The nature of the information collection is described as well as its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on September 25, 2002 (67 FR 60279).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 17, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean McKeever, Associate Administrator for Shipbuilding, Maritime Administration, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-5737; FAX: 202-366-7901, or E-mail: jean.mckeever@marad.dot.gov. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Title: Capital Construction Fund and Exhibits.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0027.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Owners and operators of U.S.-flag vessels.

Form(s): None.

Abstract: This information collection consists of application for a Capital Construction Fund (CCF) agreement under Section 607 of the Merchant Marine Act, and annual submissions of appropriate schedules and exhibits. The Capital Construction Fund is a tax-deferred ship construction fund that was created to assist owners and operators of U.S.-flag vessels in accumulating the large amount of capital necessary for the modernization and expansion of the U.S. merchant marine. The program encourages construction, reconstruction, or acquisition of vessels through the deferment of Federal income taxes on certain deposits of money or other property placed into a CCF.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 2130 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

Comments are Invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 13, 2002.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 02-31838 Filed 12-17-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2002-13933]

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) passenger cars are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This document announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) passenger cars that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because: (1) They are substantially similar to vehicles that were originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and that were certified by their manufacturer as complying with the safety standards, and (2) they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is January 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to the docket number and notice number, and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. [Docket hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Luke Loy, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5308).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30141(a)(1)(A), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards shall be refused admission into the United States unless NHTSA has decided that the motor vehicle is substantially similar to a motor vehicle originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States, certified under 49 U.S.C. § 30115, and of the same model year as the model of the motor vehicle to be compared, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.