

What Action Is the Coast Guard Taking?

Table A-II/4 of the Code accompanying the treaty on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended in 1995, articulates qualifications for merchant mariners' attaining the minimum standard of competence for ratings forming part of a navigational watch. The Coast Guard tasked MERPAC with referring to the Table, modifying and specifying it as it deemed necessary, and recommending national performance measures. The Coast Guard has adapted the measures recommended by MERPAC and is proposing them now for use as guidelines when assessing mariners' proficiency in skills for ratings forming part of a navigational watch.

Here follow the five skills that a mariner must demonstrate respecting ratings forming part of a navigational watch, with an example of a Performance Condition, a Performance Behavior, and four Performance Standards for one of those five skills:

Five Skills: Use magnetic and gyro-compasses; Respond to standard rudder orders (hard right [starboard] or left [port]; ease the rudder; midships; shift your rudder; meet her; steady as she goes; and steer on the range); Change over from automatic pilot to hand steering; Discharge certain responsibilities of the lookout (reporting sounds, lights and objects); and Know watch procedures that contribute to a safe watch (relief, maintenance and handover).

The Performance Condition for the skill entitled, "Change over from automatic pilot to hand steering" is: At sea speed, when hearing the command, "Put the steering into hand steering, * * *." This calls for, in the case of this skill, one Performance Behavior.

The Performance Behavior for the same skill is: The candidate will change the steering mode from automatic pilot to hand steering. This calls for, in the case of this skill, four Performance Standards.

The Performance Standards for the same skill are: Repeat order; Switch the steering mode from automatic pilot to hand steering; Test that the new steering mode is responding; and State, "She's in hand steering."

If the mariner properly meets all of the Performance Standards, he or she passes the practical demonstration. If he or she fails to properly carry out any of the Performance Standards, he or she fails the demonstration.

Why Is the Coast Guard Taking This Action?

The Coast Guard is taking this action to comply with STCW, as amended in 1995 and incorporated into domestic law at 46 CFR parts 10, 12, and 15 in 1997. Guidance from the International Maritime Organization on shipboard assessments of proficiency suggests that Parties develop standards and measures of performance for practical tests as part of their programs for training and assessing seafarers.

How May I Participate in This Action?

You may participate in this action by submitting comments and related material on the national performance measures proposed here. (Although the Coast Guard does not seek public comment on the measures recommended by MERPAC, as distinct from the measures proposed here, those measures are available on the Internet at the Homepage of MERPAC, <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/advisory/merpac/merpac.htm>.) These measures are available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. They are also available from Mr. Mark Gould where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. If you submit written comments please include—

- Your name and address;
- The docket number for this Notice [USCG 2000-7373];
- The specific section of the performance measures to which each comment applies; and
- The reason for each comment.

You may mail, deliver, fax, or electronically submit your comments and related material to the Docket Management Facility, using an address or fax number listed in **ADDRESSES**. Please do not submit the same comment or material more than once. If you mail or deliver your comments and material, they must be on 8½ by 11-inch paper, and the quality of the copy should be clear enough for copying and scanning. If you mail your comments and material and would like to know whether the Docket Management Facility received them, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. The Coast Guard will consider all comments and material received during the 60-day comment period.

Once we have considered all comments and related material, we will publish a final version of the national performance measures for use as guidelines by the general public. Individuals and institutions assessing the competence of mariners may refine the final version of these measures and develop innovative alternatives. If you vary from the final version of these

measures, however, you must submit your alternative to the National Maritime Center for approval by the Coast Guard under 46 CFR 10.303(e) before you use it as part of an approved course or training program.

Dated: May 16, 2000.

Howard L. Hime,

Acting, Director of Standards.

[FR Doc. 00-13869 Filed 6-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Program Management Committee; Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for Program Management Committee (PMC) meeting to be held June 20, 2000, starting at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, Inc., 140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036.

The agenda will include: (1) Welcome and Introductions; (2) Review and Approve Summary of Previous Meeting; (3) Consider and Approval Publication of: (a) Final Draft, Requirements Specification for Avionics Computer Resource (RTCA Paper No. 131-00/SC182-105), prepared by SC-182; (b) Final Draft, Minimum Human Factors Standards for Air Traffic Services Provided Via Data Communications Utilizing the Aeronautical Telecommunications Network (ATN), Builds I and IA (RTCA Paper No. 132-00/SC194-021), prepared by SC-194; (4) Review Action Item 00-04, Update on NEXCOM; (5) Discuss SC-159 Work Program—GNSS Application to Airport Surface Operations; (6) Discuss Document Production; (7) Other Business; (8) Date and Location of Next Meeting; (9) Closing.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax); or <http://www.rtca.org> (web site). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 25, 2000.

Janice L. Peters,
Designated Official.

[FR Doc. 00-13835 Filed 6-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Special Committee 186; Automatic Dependent Surveillance— Broadcast (ADS-B)

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for Special Committee (SC)-186 meeting to be held June 19-23, 2000, starting at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036.

The agenda will include: (1) Welcome and Introductory Remarks; (2) Review of Meeting Agenda; (3) Review and Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes; (4) Review SC-186 Activity Reports for the following Working Groups (WG): (a) WG-1, Operations & Implementation; (b) WG-2, Traffic Information Services—Broadcast (TIS-B) which is a new activity to develop Minimum Aviation System Performance Standards for TIS-B, (c) WG-3, 1090 MHz Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS); (d) WG-4, Application Technical Requirements; (5) Free Flight Select Committee Surveillance Working Group Update; (6) Review EUROCAE WG-51 Reports for Subgroups 1 and 2; (7) Review/Approve MOPS for 1090 Mhz Automatic Dependent Surveillance—Broadcast (RTCA Paper No. 145-00/SC186-152); (8) Review/Approve MOPS for Cockpit Display of Traffic Information (RTCA Paper NO. 146-00/SC186-153); (9) Review Revision to Terms of Reference for SC-186; (10) Review Action Items/Work Program; (12) Date and Location of Next Meeting; (13) Closing.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 25, 2000.

Janice L. Peters,
Designated Official.

[FR Doc. 00-13836 Filed 6-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Dubois County, Indiana

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Dubois County, Indiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Dirks, Environmental Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, Room 254, Federal Office Building, 575 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Telephone (317) 226-7492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), will prepare an EIS for a proposed project to improve the transportation system in the U.S. 231 corridor between Interstate 64 and State Road 56 in Dubois County, Indiana. The proposed project will involve the study of potential bypasses around Huntingburg and Jasper.

The proposed EIS and accompanying engineering analysis are the result of INDOT's identification of U.S. 231 in southwest Indiana for improvements as part of the current and ongoing transportation program. Given the current and projected traffic volumes and the existing geometric deficiencies, improvements to U.S. 231 are considered necessary to provide for a safe, efficient, and economical transportation network that will meet traffic demands in the area. The proposed improvements are also intended to be environmentally sound. System improvements will be examined based on the purposes of addressing roadway deficiencies, improving safety, reducing congestion, and enhancing system linkage.

Alternatives under consideration include: (1) Taking no action, (2) transportation system management, (3) upgrading and improving existing roadways, and (4) construction of two additional lanes adjacent to the existing two-lane roadway with bypasses of

Huntingburg and Jasper on new alignment. Design variations of grade and alignment will be incorporated into and studied for the various build alternatives.

A scoping process has been initiated that involves all appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, and private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this project. Several public meetings were held during the location study for the proposed project to engage the regional community in the decision making process and to obtain public comment. A resource agency scoping meeting will be held in Indianapolis when appropriate. Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to all appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, and private organizations and citizens who have expressed or are known to have interest in this project. A public meeting will be held in Jasper when appropriate. In addition, public hearings will be held to present the findings of the draft EIS (DEIS) and engineering analysis. Public notice will be given of the time and place of informational meetings and public hearing. The DEIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearings.

To ensure the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12373 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: May 22, 2000.

Robert Dirks,

Environmental Specialist, Indianapolis, Indiana.

[FR Doc. 00-13870 Filed 6-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.