

Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, 202-366-5149, for questions on the docket.

#### Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to submit comments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this document [USCG 2003-14496], and give the reasons for the comments. Please submit all comments and attachments in an unbound format no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. Persons wanting acknowledgment of receipt of comments should enclose stamped self-addressed postcards or envelopes.

#### Information Collection Requests

1. *Title:* Marine Occupational Health and Safety Standards for Benzene—46 CFR part 197, subpart C.

*OMB Control Number:* 2115-0586.

*Summary:* To protect marine workers from exposure to toxic benzene vapor, the Coast Guard implemented 46 CFR part 197, subpart C.

*Need:* This information collection is vital to verifying compliance.

*Respondents:* Owners and operators of vessels.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Burden:* The estimated burden is 59,766 hours a year.

2. *Title:* Request for Designation and Exemption of Oceanographic Research Vessels.

*OMB Control Number:* 2115-0053.

*Summary:* 46 U.S.C. 2113 authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to exempt Oceanographic Research Vessels, by rule, from certain parts of Subtitle II of Title 46, Shipping, of the United States Code, concerning vessels and seamen.

*Need:* This information is necessary to ensure that a vessel qualifies for exemption.

*Respondents:* Owners or operators of vessels.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Burden:* The estimated burden is 21 hours a year.

3. *Title:* Oil Record Book for Ships.

*OMB Control Number:* 2115-0025.

*Summary:* The Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS) and the International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the 1978 Protocol relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78), require the entry into an Oil Record Book (CG-4602A) of information about oil carried as cargo or fuel. The maintenance of the Book constitutes the collection of information. The requirement for it appears at 33 CFR 151.25.

*Need:* This information helps to verify sightings of actual violations of the APPS, to determine the level of compliance with MARPOL 73/78, and to reinforce the provisions against discharge.

*Respondents:* Operators of vessels.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Burden:* The estimated burden is 29,048 hours a year.

4. *Title:* Application for Vessel Inspection and Waiver.

*OMB Control Number:* 2115-0007.

*Summary:* The collection of information requires the owner, operator, agent, or master of a vessel to apply in writing to the Coast Guard before the commencement of the inspection for certification, or when, in the interest of national defense, a waiver from the requirements of navigation and vessel inspection seems desirable.

*Need:* 46 U.S.C. 3306 and 3309 authorize the Coast Guard to establish rules to protect life, property, and the environment by inspecting vessels. The reporting requirements of the Application for Inspection of U.S. Vessels and the Application for Waiver and Waiver Order are part of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Program.

*Respondents:* Owners, operators, agents, or masters of vessels, or interested Federal agencies.

*Frequency:* On occasion, yearly, or on a 5-year cycle.

*Burden:* The estimated burden is 677 hours a year.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

**Clifford I. Pearson,**

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Director of Information and Technology.*

[FR Doc. 03-4147 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-15-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

[USCG-2003-14495]

### Towing Safety Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) and its working groups will meet as required to discuss various issues relating to shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. All meetings will be open to the public.

**DATES:** TSAC will meet on Wednesday, March 19, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The working groups will meet on Tuesday, March 18, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. These meetings may close

early if all business is finished. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before February 28, 2003. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the Committee or working groups should reach the Coast Guard on or before February 28, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** On March 19, 2003, TSAC will meet in the East and West Meeting Rooms, the Hotel Monteleone hotel, 214 Rue Royale New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-2201. On March 18, 2003, the working groups will meet in the Vieux Carre Room at the same address and then, if necessary, move to separate spaces designated at that time. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to Mr. Gerald P. Miente, Commandant (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice and a draft task statement are available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Gerald P. Miente, Assistant Executive Director, or Petty Officer Bryan Wick, telephone 202-267-0214, fax 202-267-4570, or e-mail at: [gmiente@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:gmiente@comdt.uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of these meetings is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

### Agenda of Committee Meeting

The agenda tentatively includes the following:

- (1) Status Report of the Crew Alertness Working Group;
- (2) Status Report of the Towing Vessel Regulatory Review Working Group;
- (3) Status Report of the Maritime Security Working Group and Consideration of any Recommendations to the Coast Guard Regarding Potential Rules;
- (4) Status Report of the Study Group on Adequacy of Navigation Lights for Inland River Barge Tows; and
- (5) Consideration of a draft Task Statement regarding the issue of travel, or "deadhead," time.

### Procedural

All meetings are open to the public. Please note that the meetings may close early if all business is finished. Members of the public may make oral presentations during the meetings. If you would like to make an oral presentation at a meeting, please notify the Assistant Executive Director no later than February 28, 2003. Written material for distribution at a meeting should reach the Coast Guard no later

than February 28, 2003. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or working groups in advance of a meeting, please submit 17 copies to the Assistant Executive Director no later than February 28, 2003. You may also submit this material electronically to the e-mail address in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, no later than February 28, 2003.

#### **Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities**

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact the Assistant Executive Director as soon as possible.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

**Howard L. Hime,**

*Acting Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security & Environmental Protection.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Coast Guard**

[USCG-2003-14500]

#### **Merchant Mariners' Documents: Forms and Procedures for Renewals and Issuances**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of policy.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard suspended renewing and issuing Merchant Mariners' Documents (MMDs) using the previously issued form and has begun renewing and reissuing MMDs using a new form. The new MMD form is more tamper-resistant and facilitates verification of an MMD holder's identity, citizenship, and qualifications to work aboard U.S.-flagged vessels. MMDs in the new form will enhance maritime security.

**DATES:** The Coast Guard began renewing MMDs using the new form on February 3, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions on this notice, call Mr. Donald J. Kerlin, Deputy Director, Coast Guard National Maritime Center (NMC), (202) 493-1006.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

MMDs both serve as identity cards for merchant mariners and provide information about the mariners' professional qualifications. MMDs, in the previously issued form (CG-2838 [Rev. 7-94]), serve the second of these

purposes well enough; however, they no longer serve the first with sufficient confidence. The Coast Guard is replacing them using a new form (CG-2838 [Rev 09/02]) that will be issued through a more secure process. The Coast Guard will make every effort to effect a smooth and easy transition from the previously issued form to the new form. The Coast Guard will begin issuing MMDs in the new form to new applicants as soon as possible.

The Coast Guard also is considering whether to allow mariners to replace their previously issued MMDs with new MMDs on an accelerated basis, *i.e.*, at an earlier date than current expiration date. To ensure that only eligible mariners receive MMDs, the Coast Guard will conduct a criminal-record review of mariners seeking renewal or re-issuance of a previously issued MMD, or issuance of an original MMD. The review may include verification of identities; criminal histories; and sobriety (as gauged from, among other sources, the National Drivers' Register). This review will be consistent with applicable law and Coast Guard regulations set forth in Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (46 CFR 12.02-4). Because of the importance of establishing positive proof of identity to facilitate the background investigation, it will be necessary for holders of, and applicants for, an MMD to be present at a Regional Examination Center (REC) to be fingerprinted.

Mariners may encounter delays incident to the new processes' going into practice and the delays may persist for some weeks. Holders and new applicants seeking re-issuance, renewal, and original issuance of their MMDs should inquire at their nearest REC, a list of which appears at 46 CFR 12.01-7, or contact Mr. Donald Kerlin at the National Maritime Center, 4200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 630, Arlington, VA 22203-1804, (202) 493-1006.

#### **Authority**

46 U.S.C. 7301, 7302, 7303, 7304, 7305, 7503, 7505, and 49 CFR 1.46.

Dated: February 13, 2003.

**Kevin J. Eldridge,**

*Rear Admiral, Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Governmental and Public Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 03-4145 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **Harmonization Initiatives**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Aviation Administration and the Joint Aviation Authorities will convene meetings to accept input from the public on the Harmonization Work Program. The Federal Aviation Administration and the Joint Aviation Authorities use the Harmonization Work Program to carry out a commitment to harmonize, to the maximum extent possible, various rules. These rules include the operation and maintenance of civil aircraft, and the standards, practices, and procedures governing the design materials, workmanship, and construction of civil aircraft, aircraft engines, and other components. The purpose of this meeting is to give the public an opportunity to provide input to the Harmonization Work Program. This notice announces the date, time, location, and procedures for the public meeting.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on March 4, 2003, starting at 10:30 a.m. Written comments are invited and must be received by February 24, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at Central Joint Aviation Authorities, 8-10 Statuussstraat, Hoofddorp, The Netherlands. Persons unable to attend the meeting may mail their comments in triplicate to: Florence Hamn, Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking, ARM-200, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests to attend and present a statement at the meeting or questions about the logistics of the meeting should be directed to Florence Hamn, Office of Rulemaking, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3625, telefax (202) 267-5075.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Federal Aviation Administration and the Joint Aviation Authorities will convene meetings to accept input from the public on the Harmonization Work Program. On March 3, there will be an authorities only meeting that addresses various certification, operations, maintenance, and harmonization issues. The March 4 public meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the agenda will include: