

Administration's (FTA) drug and alcohol rules.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 8, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Snider, Drug and Alcohol Program Manager for the Office of Safety and Security, (202) 366-2896 (telephone) and (202) 366-7951 (fax). Electronic access to this and other documents concerning FTA's drug and alcohol testing rules may be obtained through the FTA World Wide Web home page at <http://www.fta.dot.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FTA required large transit employers to begin drug and alcohol testing employees performing safety-sensitive functions on January 1, 1995, and to report, annually by March 15 of each year beginning in 1996, the number of such employees who had a verified positive for the use of prohibited drugs, and the number of such employees who tested positive for the misuse of alcohol. Small employers commenced their FTA-required testing on January 1, 1996, and began reporting the same information as the large employers beginning March 15, 1997. Employers are required annually to submit other data, not relevant here, in the same report; these data are available from the FTA as discussed below.

The 1994 rules established a random testing rate for prohibited drugs and the misuse of alcohol; specifically, the rules require that employers conduct random drug tests at a rate equivalent to at least 50 percent of their total number of safety-sensitive employees for prohibited drug use and at least 25 percent of the misuse of alcohol. The rules provide that the drug random testing rate may be lowered to 25 percent if the "positive rate" for the entire transit industry is less than one percent for two consecutive years. Once lowered, it may be raised to 50 percent if the positive rate equals or exceeds one percent for any one year ("Positive rate" means the number of positive results for random drug tests conducted under part 653 plus the number of refusals of random tests required by part 653, divided by the total number of random drug tests, plus the number of refusals of random tests required by part 653.)

The alcohol rule provides that the random rate may be lowered to 10 percent if the "violation rate" for the entire transit industry is less than .5 percent for two consecutive years. It will remain at 25 percent if the "violation rate" is equal to or greater than .5 percent but less than one percent, and it will be raised to 50 percent if the "violation rate" is one percent or greater for any one year. ("Violation rate" means the number of covered employees found during random tests given under part 654 to have an alcohol concentration of .04 or greater, plus the number of employees who refuse a random test required by part 654, divided by the total reported number of random alcohol tests conducted under part 654, plus the total number of refusals of random tests, required by part 654.)

FTA has received and analyzed the 1999 data from large and small transit employers. The "positive rate" for random drug tests was 1.004 percent and the "violation rate" for random alcohol tests was 0.18 percent; therefore, for 2001, transit employers will continue to be required to conduct random drug tests at a rate equivalent to at least 50 percent of the total number of their "safety-sensitive" employees for prohibited drugs. In 2000, the FTA retained the random alcohol testing rate at 10 percent. Because the random alcohol violation rate was lower than .5 percent for two consecutive years (0.22 percent for 1998 and 0.18 for 1999), the random alcohol testing rate will remain at 10 percent for 2001.

FTA will be publishing a detailed report on the 1999 data collected from large and small employers. This report may be obtained from the Office of Safety and Security, Federal Transit Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 9301, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-2896.

Dated: March 2, 2001.

Hiram J. Walker,

Acting Deputy Administrator.

[FR Doc. 01-5677 Filed 3-7-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

Office of Hazardous Materials Safety; Notice of Delays in Processing of Exemption Applications

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: List of applications delayed more than 180 days.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5117(c), RSPA is publishing the following list of exemption applications that have been in process for 180 days or more. The reason(s) for delay and the expected completion data for action on each application is provided in association with each identified application.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J. Suzanne Hedgepeth, Director, Office of Hazardous Materials, Exemptions and Approvals, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4535.

Key to "Reasons for Delay"

1. Awaiting additional information from applicant.
2. Extensive public comment under review.
3. Application is technically complex and is of significant impact or precedent-setting and requires extensive analysis.
4. Staff review delayed by other priority issues or volume of exemption applications.

Meaning of Application Number Suffixes

N—New application
M—Modification request
PM—Party to application with modification request

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 5, 2001.

J. Suzanne Hedgepeth,

*Director, Office of Hazardous Materials
Exemptions and Approvals.*

NEW EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

| Application No. | Applicant | Reason for delay | Estimated date of completion |
|-----------------|--|------------------|------------------------------|
| 11862-N | The BOC Group, Murray Hill, NJ | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 11927-N | Alaska Marine Lines, Inc., Seattle, WA | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12142-N | Aristech Chemical Corp., Pittsburgh, PA | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12158-N | Hickson Corporation, Conley, GA | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12181-N | Aristech, Pittsburgh, PA | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12248-N | Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corp., High Point, NC | 1, 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12290-N | Savage Industries, Inc., Pottstown, PA | 4 | 03/30/2001 |

NEW EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS—Continued

| Application No. | Applicant | Reason for delay | Estimated date of completion |
|-----------------|--|------------------|------------------------------|
| 12339-N | BOC Gases, Murray Hill, NJ | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12353-N | Monson Companies, South Portland, ME | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12355-N | Union Tank Car Company, East Chicago, IN | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12381-N | Ideal Chemical & Supply Co., Memphis, TN | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12406-N | Occidental Chemical Corporation, Dallas, TX | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12412-N | Great Western Chemical Company, Portland, OR | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12422-N | Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Co., East Hampton, CT | 1, 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12434-N | Salmon Air, Salmon, ID | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12440-N | Luxfer Inc., Riverside, CA | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12454-N | Ethyl Corp., Richmond, VA | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12456-N | Baker Hughes, Houston, TX | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12469-N | Department of Energy, Germantown, MD | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12476-N | Fisher-Rosemount Petroleum, Tulsa, OK | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12479-N | Luxfer Gas Cylinders, Riverside, CA | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12495-N | South Carolina Electric & Gas Co., Jenkinsville, SC | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12497-N | Henderson International Technologies, Inc., Richardson, TX | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12515-N | FIBA Technologies, Inc., Westboro, MA | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12516-N | Poly-Coat Systems, Inc., Houston, TX | 4 | 04/30/2001 |

MODIFICATIONS TO EXEMPTIONS

| Application No. | Applicant | Reason for delay | Estimated date of completion |
|-----------------|---|------------------|------------------------------|
| 7060-M | Federal Express, Memphis, TN | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 8013-M | Praxair, Inc., Danbury, CT | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 8086-M | The Boeing Co (Mil Aircraft & Missiles Sys Group), Seattle, WA | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 8308-M | Tradewind Enterprises, Inc., Hillsboro, OR | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 8554-M | Orica USA Inc., Englewood, CO | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 8698-M | Taylor-Wharton Gas Equipment (Div of Harsco Corp), Theodore, AL | 1 | 03/30/2001 |
| 9048-M | Sulton Group—Div. of Daniel/Brooks Petroleum Opns, Tulsa, OK | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 10656-M | Conf. of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc., Frankfort, KY | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 10672-M | Burlington Packaging, Inc., Brooklyn, NY | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 11316-M | TRW Automotive, Queen Creek, AZ | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 11537-M | JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc., Milford, VA | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 11769-M | Great Western Chemical Company, Portland, OR | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 11769-M | Great Western Chemical Company, Portland, OR | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 11769-M | Hydrite Chemical Company, Brookfield, WI | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 11798-M | Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Allentown, PA | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 11798-M | Anderson Development Company, Adrian, MI | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 11911-M | Transfer Flow, Inc., Chico, CA | 4 | 04/30/2001 |
| 12130-M | FIBA Technologies, Inc., Westboro, MA | 4 | 03/30/2001 |
| 12178-M | STC Technologies, Inc., Bethlehem, PA | 1 | 04/30/2001 |

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BILLING CODE 4910-60-M

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE**Sunshine Act, Notice of Meeting****DATE/TIME:** Thursday, March 22, 2001, 9 a.m.—5:30 p.m.**LOCATION:** 1200 17th Street, NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036**STATUS:** Open Session—Portions may be closed pursuant to Subsection (c) of Section 552(b) of Title 5, United States Code, as provided in subsection 1706(h)(3) of the United States Institutes of Peace Act, Public Law 98-525.**AGENDA:** March 2001 Board Meeting; Approval of Minutes of the Ninety-

Eighth Meeting (January 18, 2001) of the Board of Directors; Chairman's Report; President's Report; Committee Reports; Consideration of fellowship applications and individual Grants; Other General Issues

CONTACT: Dr. Sheryl Brown, Director, Office of Communications, Telephone: (202) 457-1700.

Dated: March 4, 2001.

Charles E. Nelson,
Vice President for Management and Finance,
United States Institute of Peace.

[FR Doc. 01-5866 Filed 3-6-01; 2:04 pm]

BILLING CODE 6820-AR-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0118]

Proposed Information Collection
Activity: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register**