

Committee Act and 5 U.S.C. Section 552b(c)(9).

Requests for further information on the meeting should be directed to Ms. Sally Cochran, International Relations Officer, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), Room 5806, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818. Ms. Cochran can be reached by telephone on (202) 647-1073 or by FAX (202) 736-7350.

Dated: October 5, 2001.

**Mary Beth West,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, Department of State.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. OST-01-10380]

#### **Hazardous Materials: Knowledge Required for Civil Penalty Enforcement Proceedings; Postponement of Public Meeting and Extension of Comment Period**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, DOT.

**ACTION:** Postponement of public meeting and extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** Due to exigencies following the events of September 11, 2001, DOT is postponing a public meeting that had been scheduled for November 14, 2001 and extending the comment period to February 28, 2002. The purpose of the public meeting was to solicit comments for consideration by DOT in developing additional guidance as to when a reasonable person, offering, accepting, or transporting a hazardous material in commerce would be deemed to have knowledge of facts giving rise to a violation of the Federal Hazardous Materials law or the Hazardous Materials regulations.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by February 28, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments to the Dockets Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL 401, 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Comments should identify Docket Number OST-01-10380 and be submitted in two copies. You may also submit comments by e-mail by accessing the DOT Dockets Management System website at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** LCDR Thomas Sherman, Intermodal Hazardous Materials Program, Office of Intermodalism, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street SW,

Washington, DC 20590. Telephone (202) 366-5846; E-Mail:

*Tom.Sherman@ost.dot.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On August 15, 2001, at the request of industry, we published a notice announcing plans to host a public meeting to solicit comments for consideration by DOT in developing additional guidance as to when a reasonable person, offering, accepting, or transporting a hazardous material in commerce would be deemed to have knowledge of facts giving rise to a violation of the Federal Hazardous Materials law or the Hazardous Materials regulations, 66 FR 42909. Due to exigencies following the events of September 11, 2001, DOT has received a request from the Air Transport Association to postpone the meeting. DOT agrees and hereby postpones the meeting that had been scheduled for November 14, 2001. DOT intends to reschedule a public meeting on the same topic in 2002. We are also extending the comment period to February 28, 2002.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 15, 2001.

**Jackie A. Goff,**

*Director, Intermodal Hazardous Materials Program, Office of Intermodalism.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### **Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee; Air Carrier and General Aviation Maintenance Issues—New Tasks**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of new tasks assigned to the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC).

**SUMMARY:** The FAA has assigned two new tasks to the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee. The tasks are related to aeronautical repair station regulations. The first task involves evaluating the current system of ratings and classes for aeronautical repair stations and, if appropriate, recommending a new system. The second task involves evaluating the current requirements for quality assurance programs for aeronautical repair stations and recommending whether the FAA should include such systems in the regulations. The Committee has elected to work these tasks itself rather than establish working groups to develop recommendations.

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

James J. Ballough, Manager, Continuous Airworthiness Maintenance Division, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591, (202) 267-3546.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

The FAA established the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the FAA Administrator on the FAA's rulemaking activities with respect to aviation-related issues. The Committee addresses a wide range of aviation issues. The committee will address these tasks under Air Carrier and General Aviation Maintenance Issues.

On July 30, 2001, the FAA issued a final rule that revised part 145 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (66 FR 41088). In Notice of Proposed Rulemaking No. 99-09 (64 FR 33142; June 21, 1999), the FAA proposed a new system of rating and classes and solicited comments on requirements for a quality assurance program for aeronautical repair stations. Commenters overwhelmingly objected to these proposals. The FAA is seeking advice and recommendations from the Committee before promulgating additional rulemaking on these topics.

#### **Task 1—Repair Station Ratings System Recommendations**

##### *Task Summary*

Recommend a system to rate aeronautical repair stations that mitigates problems associated with the existing system of ratings and accommodate the growth of the aviation industry.

##### *Committee Activity*

- Review the existing system of ratings and classes contained in the current part 145 and any other documents issued by the FAA pertaining to aeronautical repair stations.
- Review comments submitted to FAA in response to the public meetings held in 1989 and the system of ratings proposed in June 1999 in Notice No. 99-09.
- Review challenges reported by Aviation Safety Inspectors (ASIs) under the existing system of ratings.
- Identify the challenges that aeronautical repair stations encounter under the existing system of rating and classes, including those pertaining to:
  - Current business practices that are not regulated that may require some form of control;