

§ 1204.1600 Issuance of motor vehicle for home-to-work.

When a NASA employee on temporary duty travel is authorized to travel by Government motor vehicle and the official authorizing the travel determines that there will be a significant savings in time, a Government motor vehicle may be issued at the close of the preceding working day and taken to the employee's residence prior to the commencement of official travel. Similarly, when a NASA employee is scheduled to return from temporary duty travel after the close of working hours and the official authorizing the travel determines that there will be a significant savings in time, the motor vehicle may be taken to the employee's residence and returned the next regular working day.

Dated: October 10, 2003.

Sean O'Keefe,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117****Drawbridge Operation Regulations***CFR Correction*

In Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations, parts 1 to 124, revised as of July 1, 2003, on page 603, § 117.869 is corrected by removing paragraphs (a)(1) and (2).

[FR Doc. 03-55526 Filed 10-23-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117****[CGD01-03-101]****Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Mianus River, CT**

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, First Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operation regulations for the Metro-North Bridge, mile 1.0, across the Mianus River at

Greenwich, Connecticut. Under this temporary deviation, the bridge may remain in the closed position, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. on October 20, 2003 through 7 p.m. on November 26, 2003. On Saturdays during this period, the draw shall open after at a least three-hour advance notice is given. In addition, the draw shall open on signal on Sundays during this period, and from 5 p.m. through midnight, on Friday, October 31, 2003. This temporary deviation is necessary to facilitate structural repairs at the bridge and the bridge.

DATES: This deviation is effective from October 20, 2003 through November 26, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph Schmied, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, at (212) 668-7165.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Metro-North Bridge has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 20 feet at mean high water and 27 feet at mean low water. The existing drawbridge operation regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.209.

The bridge owner, Metro-North Railroad, requested a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operation regulations to facilitate vital structural maintenance at the bridge. The bridge must remain in the closed position to perform these necessary repairs.

Under this temporary deviation, the Metro-North Bridge may remain in the closed position, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. on October 20, 2003 through 7 p.m. on November 26, 2003. On Saturdays during this period, the draw shall open on signal after at least a three-hour advance notice is given. Also, the draw shall open on signal on Sundays during this period and from 5 p.m. through midnight, on Friday, October 31, 2003.

The Coast Guard and the bridge owner coordinated this bridge closure with the mariners who normally use this waterway to help facilitate this necessary bridge repair and to minimize any disruption to the marine transportation system.

This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35(a), and will be performed with all due speed in order to return the bridge to normal operation as soon as possible.

Dated: October 15, 2003.

Vivien S. Crea,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, First Coast Guard District.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117****[CGD08-03-035]****RIN 1625-AA09****Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Mississippi River, Iowa and Illinois**

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, is temporarily changing the regulation governing the Clinton Railroad Drawbridge, Mile 518.0, Upper Mississippi River. From December 15, 2003, until March 15, 2004, the drawbridge shall open on signal if at least 24 hours advance notice is given. This temporary rule is issued to facilitate annual maintenance and repair on the bridge.

DATES: This temporary rule is effective from 12:01 a.m. December 15, 2003 until 9 a.m. on March 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Documents referred to in this rule are available for inspection or copying at room 2.107f in the Robert A. Young Federal Building at Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Branch, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, MO 63103-2832, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (314) 539-3900, extension 2378. The Bridge Branch maintains the public docket for this rulemaking.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Roger K. Wiebusch, Bridge Administrator, (314) 539-3900, extension 2378.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Good Cause for Not Publishing an NPRM**

We did not publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for this regulation. Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing an NPRM. This rule is being promulgated without an NPRM because the limited effect on vessel traffic makes notice and comment unnecessary. Maintenance on the bridge will not begin until after the closure of Lock 22 on the Mississippi River. After that time, only commercial vessels left in the pool above Lock 22 will be able to transit through the bridge. Both the bridge and lock closure recur at the same time each year, and local vessel operators plan for the closures in advance. Prompt publication of this rule is also necessary to protect the public

from safety hazards associated with conducting maintenance on the bridge.

Background and Purpose

On August 19, 2003, the Union Pacific Railroad Company requested a temporary change to the operation of the Clinton Railroad Drawbridge across the Upper Mississippi River, Mile 518.0 at Clinton, Iowa. Union Pacific Railroad Company requested that 24 hours advance notice be required to open the bridge during the maintenance period. The maintenance is necessary to ensure the continued safe operation of the drawbridge. Advance notice may be given by calling the Clinton Yardmaster's office at (319) 244-3204 at anytime; or (319) 244-3269 weekdays between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.; or Mr. Tomaz Gawronski, office (515) 263-4536 or cell phone (515) 710-6829.

The Clinton Railroad Drawbridge navigation span has a vertical clearance of 18.7 feet above normal pool in the closed to navigation position. Navigation on the waterway consists primarily of commercial tows and recreational watercraft. Presently, the draw opens on signal for passage of river traffic. The Union Pacific Railroad Company requested the drawbridge be permitted to remain closed to navigation from 12:01 a.m., December 15, 2003, until 9 a.m., March 15, 2004 unless 24 hours advance notice is given to open the drawbridge to allow time to make repairs. Winter freezing of the Upper Mississippi River coupled with the closure of Army Corps of Engineer's Lock No. 22 (Mile 301.2 UMR) until 7:30 a.m. March 15, 2004 will reduce any significant navigation demands for the drawspan opening. The Clinton Railroad Drawbridge, Mile 518.0, Upper Mississippi River, is located upstream from Lock 22. Performing maintenance on the bridge during the winter when the number of vessels likely to be impacted is minimal is preferred to restricting vessel traffic during the commercial navigation season.

Regulatory Evaluation

This rule is not a "significant regulatory action" under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. The Office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under that Order. It is not "significant" under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Because vessel traffic in the area of Clinton, Iowa will be greatly reduced by winter icing of the Upper Mississippi

River and the closure of Lock 22, it is expected that this rule will have minimal economic or budgetary effects on the local community.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612), we have considered whether this rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term "small entities" comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. This temporary rule will have a negligible impact on vessel traffic. The primary users of the Upper Mississippi River in Clinton, Iowa are commercial towboat operators. With the onset of winter conditions on the Upper Mississippi River coupled with the closure of Army Corps of Engineers' Lock No. 22 (Mile 301.2 UMR) until March 15, 2004, there will be few, if any, significant navigation demands for the drawspan opening. Vessels may still transit through the bridge with 24-hour advanced notification.

The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-121), we offered to assist small entities in understanding the rule so that they can better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process. Any individual that qualifies or, believes he or she qualifies as a small entity and requires assistance with the provisions of this rule, may contact Mr. Roger K. Wiebusch, Bridge Administrator, Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Branch, at (314) 539-3900, extension 2378.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1-888-REF-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Collection of Information

This rule contains no new collection-of-information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520).

Federalism

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on State or local governments and would either preempt State law or impose a substantial direct cost of compliance on them. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it does not have implications for federalism.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

Taking of Private Property

This rule will not affect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under Executive Order 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Indian Tribal Governments

This rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it would not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and

responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

Energy Effects

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13211, Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use. We have determined that it is not a "significant energy action" under that order because it is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866 and is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy. It has not been designated by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs as a significant energy action. Therefore, it does not require a Statement of Energy Effects under Executive Order 13211.

Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Commandant Instruction M16475.1D, which guides the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have concluded that there are no factors in this case that would limit the use of a categorical exclusion under section 2.B.2 of the Instruction. Therefore, this rule is categorically excluded, under figure 2–1, paragraph 32(e), of the Instruction, from further documentation.

A final "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

Regulations

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Coast Guard is amending Part 117 of Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 49; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102–587, 106 Stat. 5039.

■ 2. From 12:01 a.m. on December 15, 2003, through 9 a.m. on March 15, 2004, § 117.7409 is added to read as follows:

§ 117.7409 Upper Mississippi River.

Clinton Railroad Drawbridge, Mile 518.0, Upper Mississippi River. From 12:01 a.m., December 15, 2003 through

9 a.m., March 15, 2004, the drawspan requires 24 hours advance notice for bridge operation. Bridge opening requests must be made 24 hours in advance by calling Clinton Yardmaster's office at (319) 244–3204 at anytime; or (319) 244–3269 weekdays between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.; or Mr. Tomaz Gawronski, office (515) 263–4536 or cell phone (515) 710–6829.

Dated: September 22, 2003.

R.F. Duncan,

*Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard,
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District.*

[FR Doc. 03–26866 Filed 10–23–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

37 CFR Parts 2 and 7

[Docket No. 2003–T–010]

RIN 0651–AB45

Temporary Postponement of Electronic Filing and Payment Rules for Certain Madrid Protocol-Related Rules

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule; suspension of applicability dates.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is temporarily postponing those provisions of the Trademark Rules of Practice that require electronic transmission to the USPTO of applications for international registration, responses to irregularity notices, and subsequent designations submitted pursuant to the Madrid Protocol.

In conjunction with the postponement of the requirement for electronic submission of international applications, subsequent designations and responses to irregularity notices, the USPTO is also temporarily suspending those provisions of the Rules of Practice that allow payment of fees charged by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (IB) to be submitted through the USPTO, and those provisions of the Trademark Rules of Practice that require that all fees for international trademark applications and subsequent designations be paid at the time of filing.

Finally, as explained below, the USPTO is temporarily waiving the requirement that all trademark-related documents submitted on paper must be mailed to 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington,

Virginia 22202–3514. Pursuant to that waiver, international applications, subsequent designations and responses to irregularity notices should be mailed to an alternative address, provided below. This waiver applies solely to Madrid-related submissions. Any other trademark-related correspondence that is sent to the alternative address will not be accepted, and will be returned to the sender.

The applicability dates for certain rules in 37 CFR parts 2 and 7, published September 26, 2003, are suspended from November 2, 2003, to January 2, 2004. If this postponement is required to be extended, the USPTO will issue a notice announcing these extensions at least 10 business days before the extensions commence.

The postponement and waivers are procedural in nature and do not affect any substantive rights.

DATES: The applicability date for regulations at 37 CFR 2.190(a), 2.198(a)(1), 7.7(a) and (b), 7.11(a) introductory text and (a)(9), 7.14(e), 7.21(b) introductory text and (b)(7) is suspended from November 2, 2003, to January 2, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ari Leifman, Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks, by telephone at (703) 308–8910, ext. 155, or by e-mail to ari.leifman@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Madrid Protocol provides a system for obtaining an international trademark registration. The Madrid Protocol Implementation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107–273, 116 Stat. 1758, 1913–1921 (MPIA) amends the Trademark Act of 1946 to implement the provisions of the Madrid Protocol in the United States.

On September 26, 2003, the USPTO published new regulations to implement the MPIA. 68 FR 55748, posted on the USPTO Web site at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/68fr55748.pdf>. These regulations take effect on November 2, 2003. The regulations require that certain submissions that are made to the USPTO in connection with the Madrid Protocol be transmitted using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). Specifically, 37 CFR 7.11(a) requires that an international application be submitted through TEAS; 37 CFR 7.21(b) requires that a subsequent designation (a request that protection be extended to countries not identified in the original international application) be submitted through TEAS; and 37 CFR 7.14(e) requires that