

Issued in Hawthorne, California, on April 13, 2001.

Herman C. Bliss,

Manager, Airports Division, Western-Pacific Region.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the information collection abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The nature of the information collection is described as well as its expected burden. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on February 12, 2001. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 25, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Taylor Jones, Maritime Administration, MAR-250, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-5755 or FAX 202-493-2288.

Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Title: Merchant Marine Medals and Awards.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0506.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Eligible merchant mariners.

Form(s): None.

Abstract: This information collection provides the Maritime Administration with a method for documenting and processing requests for merchant marine medals and decorations to masters, officers, and crew members of U.S. ships in recognition of their service in areas of danger during World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Operation DESERT STORM, and the replacement of previously issued awards.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 1500 hours.

Addressee: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

Comments Are Invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC on April 19, 2001.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 01-10282 Filed 4-24-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket Number: MARAD-2000-7798]

Criteria for Granting Waivers of Requirement for Exclusive U.S.-Flag Vessel Carriage of Certain Export Cargoes

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of policy revision.

Statement of Policy on Public Resolution 17—73rd Congress

The Maritime Administrator has authorized the following statement describing the policies and procedures in administration of Public Resolution 17, 73rd Congress, 48 Stat. 500, 46 App. U.S.C. § 1241-1, as it applies to credits of the Export-Import Bank of the United States or similar government instrumentalities.

1. Scope of Applicability

Public Resolution No. 17 provides that where an instrumentality of the Government makes loans or credit guarantees to foster the export of agricultural or other products, such products must be carried exclusively in vessels of the United States unless the Maritime Administration (we, us, or

our) certifies to the lending agency that such vessels are not available as to numbers, tonnage capacity, sailing schedule or at reasonable rates. The Resolution is applicable to credits of the Export-Import Bank (Eximbank, government instrumentality) or other Government instrumentalities for the purpose of financing the acquisition and shipment of United States products or services. The government instrumentality must include in such credit agreements a requirement that shipments be made in United States-flag vessels, except to the extent that we grant a waiver of the requirement as outlined in this policy statement. If the government instrumentality receives a request for a waiver, it will refer the request to us.

2. Types of Waivers

The process to be followed for all waiver requests is set forth in Appendix A. Guidelines for the information to be included in the waiver request are set forth in Appendix B. We will post the essential terms of applications for, and status of, all waiver requests and waivers on our web site. If our web site is not available, we will transmit the information to the U.S.-flag carriers and the shipper/applicant. Security access to waiver information will be limited to bona fide U.S.-flag ocean carriers and to the shipper who requests or receives the waiver. MARAD will treat all information submitted by shippers that is not essential for U.S.-flag cargo bookings as "business confidential" and exempt from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), section 552 (b)4. MARAD may consult with or request further information from any carrier or shipper or Government Agency to clarify any questions we may have on any topic.

(A) Statutory (Non-Availability) Waiver

When it appears that U.S. vessels will not be available within a reasonable time or at reasonable rates, public or private foreign borrowers, or their representatives or their shippers in the United States may apply directly to our Office of Cargo Preference for waiver of the U.S.-flag requirement. Requests for waivers must follow the format in Appendix B and must have a legal signature. We will make any necessary investigation to determine whether U.S.-flag vessels are available and may request additional information. We will approve or deny the waiver request in writing. Copies of approved waivers or denials will be sent to the appropriate government instrumentality.

Such waivers will apply to the specifically approved cargo movements.