

Act (NDAA), the Maritime Administration (MARAD) has developed and published a Mariner Workforce Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2023–2027 (the Plan) to recruit, train, and retain merchant mariners. The Plan is available for review and download on MARAD’s website at [www.marad.dot.gov](http://www.marad.dot.gov) by going to the Education page (<https://cms.marad.dot.gov/education/marad-mariner-workforce-strategic-plan-fy-2023-2927>).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher Wahler, Director, Office of Maritime Labor and Training, via electronic mail at [christopher.wahler@dot.gov](mailto:christopher.wahler@dot.gov) or by calling 202–366–5469.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3508 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act amended 46 U.S.C. chapter 517 directing MARAD to develop a 5-year strategic plan to recruit, train, and retain merchant mariners. The Plan addresses the following key points:

1. Merchant mariner recruitment,
2. Merchant mariner training,
3. Merchant mariner retention, and
4. Demonstration and research

priorities concerning the previous three elements.

MARAD sought input from stakeholders including Federal agency partners, the inland towing community, and maritime labor unions. MARAD also identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing the mariner workforce and structured the strategy around the following six goals:

1. Strengthen mariner workforce development programs.
2. Support mariner education and training institutions.
3. Expand mariner workforce by actively recruiting from historically underrepresented groups, thereby broadening the recruitment pipeline.
4. Ensure the availability of a skilled and sufficient mariner workforce for national security.
5. Support maritime innovation.
6. Ensure superior policy execution and stewardship of resources.

The Plan describes a comprehensive set of strategies, as well as

demonstration and research priorities. In developing the Plan, MARAD considered the availability of existing research and the need to ensure results having broad applicability for U.S. Merchant Marine workforce development.

MARAD, through an inter-agency agreement with the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center developed the Plan which included extensive engagement with the maritime industry and Federal partners. The full strategic plan is posted on the MARAD website, at <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/sites/marad.dot.gov/files/2024-02/MARAD%20Mariner%20Workforce%20Strategic%20Plan%20FY23-27.pdf>.

Pursuant to the FY21 NDAA, the Plan will be updated every five years until such time as the Maritime Administrator determines that there is an adequate number of United States mariners for sustained strategic sealift.

Pursuant to the statute, the Department of Transportation/MARAD transmitted copies of the Plan to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(Authority: 46 U.S.C. 51707, 49 CFR 1.93(a))

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,**  
*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910–81–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

**Hazardous Materials: Notice of Applications for New Special Permits**

**AGENCY:** Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** List of applications for special permits.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the procedures governing the application

for, and the processing of, special permits from the Department of Transportation’s Hazardous Material Regulations, notice is hereby given that the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has received the application described herein.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 2, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Record Center, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation Washington, DC 20590.

Comments should refer to the application number and be submitted in triplicate. If confirmation of receipt of comments is desired, include a self-addressed stamped postcard showing the special permit number.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Donald Burger, Chief, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety General Approvals and Permits Branch, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building, PHH–13, 1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast, Washington, DC 20590–0001, (202) 366–4535.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Each mode of transportation for which a particular special permit is requested is indicated by a number in the “Nature of Application” portion of the table below as follows: 1—Motor vehicle, 2—Rail freight, 3—Cargo vessel, 4—Cargo aircraft only, 5—Passenger-carrying aircraft.

Copies of the applications are available for inspection in the Records Center, East Building, PHH–13, 1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast, Washington DC.

This notice of receipt of applications for special permit is published in accordance with part 107 of the Federal hazardous materials transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5117(b); 49 CFR 1.53(b)).

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 6, 2024.

**Donald P. Burger,**  
*Chief, General Approvals and Permits Branch.*

**SPECIAL PERMITS DATA**

Application No.	Applicant	Regulation(s) affected	Nature of the special permits thereof
21727–N .....	United States Postal Service.	175.10(a)(18)(ii) .....	To authorize the transportation in commerce of not more than ten spare lithium batteries with watt-hour ratings between 100Wh and 160 Wh in carry-on luggage via passenger-carrying aircraft. (mode 5).
21728–N .....	RSO, Inc .....	173.431(a) .....	To authorize the transportation in commerce of one Type A package containing a sealed source of 45 Ci of Cs–137 from Laurel, MD to Oak Ridge, TN and from Oak Ridge, TN to Andrews, TX for the purpose of disposal. (mode 1).

SPECIAL PERMITS DATA—Continued

Application No.	Applicant	Regulation(s) affected	Nature of the special permits thereof
21729-N .....	SodaStream USA, Inc.	173.306(a)(1) .....	To authorize the transportation in commerce of carbon dioxide, compressed in cylinders with a capacity exceeding 4 fluid ounces as limited quantities. (modes 1, 2, 3).
21731-N .....	Inversion Space Company.	173.185(b), 173.62(c), 177.848(b)	To authorize the transportation in commerce of lithium batteries and other hazardous materials incorporated into spacecraft. (mode 1).
21732-N .....	Post Warehouse Corp.	173.224(b) .....	To authorize the one-time transportation in commerce of N,N'-dinitrosopentamethylenetetramine (self-reactive material, Type C), in concentrations that exceed those authorized in 49 CFR 173.224(b) Self-Reactive Materials Table, for the purpose of disposal. (mode 1).
21733-N .....	Cirkul, Inc .....	171.2(k), 172.202(a)(5)(iii)(B) .....	To authorize the transportation in commerce of certain DOT 3AL cylinders that contain carbon dioxide, with alternative hazard communication. (modes 1, 2, 3).

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

**Hazardous Materials: Notice of Applications for Modification to Special Permits**

**AGENCY:** Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** List of applications for modification of special permits.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the procedures governing the application for, and the processing of, special permits from the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Material Regulations, notice is hereby given that the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety

has received the application described herein.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 17, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Record Center, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation Washington, DC 20590.

Comments should refer to the application number and be submitted in triplicate. If confirmation of receipt of comments is desired, include a self-addressed stamped postcard showing the special permit number.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Donald Burger, Chief, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety General Approvals and Permits Branch, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building, PHH-13, 1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast, Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4535.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Each mode of transportation for which a particular special permit is requested is indicated by a number in the "Nature of Application" portion of the table below as follows: 1—Motor vehicle, 2—Rail freight, 3—Cargo vessel, 4—Cargo aircraft only, 5—Passenger-carrying aircraft.

Copies of the applications are available for inspection in the Records Center, East Building, PHH-13, 1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast, Washington, DC or at <http://regulations.gov>.

This notice of receipt of applications for special permit is published in accordance with part 107 of the Federal hazardous materials transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5117(b); 49 CFR 1.53(b)).

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 6, 2024.

**Donald P. Burger,**  
*Chief, General Approvals and Permits Branch.*

SPECIAL PERMITS DATA

Application No.	Applicant	Regulation(s) affected	Nature of the special permits thereof
16118-M .....	Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc ..	173.301(a)(1) .....	To modify the special permit to align with the provisions in the UN Model Regulations, Special Provision 392. (modes 1, 2, 3, 4).
21547-M .....	Mazda Motor of America, Inc	172.101(j) .....	To modify the special permit to authorize an additional lithium battery. (mode 4).

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

**Hazardous Materials: Notice of Actions on Special Permits**

**AGENCY:** Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of actions on special permit applications.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the procedures governing the application for, and the processing of, special permits from the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Material Regulations, notice is hereby given that the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has received the application described herein.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before May 2, 2024.