

574, and part 575. With regard to the tire construction labeling requirements of FMVSS 109, S4.3, paragraphs (d) and (e), most commenters indicated that the information was of little or no safety value to consumers. However, according to the comments, when tires are processed for retreading or repairing, it is important for the retreader or repair technician to understand the make-up of the tires and the types of plies. This enables them to select the proper repair materials or procedures for retreading or repairing the tires. A steel cord radial tire can experience a circumferential or "zipper" rupture in the upper sidewall when it is operated underinflated or overloaded. If information regarding the number of plies and cord material is removed from the sidewall, technicians cannot determine if the tire has a steel cord sidewall ply. As a result, many light truck tires will be inflated outside a restraining device or safety cage where they represent a substantial threat to the technician. This information is critical when determining if the tire is a candidate for a zipper rupture. In this case, since the steel cord construction is properly identified on the sidewall, the technician will have sufficient notice.

In addition, the agency conducted a series of focus groups, as required by the TREAD Act, to examine consumer perceptions and understanding of tire labeling. Few of the focus group participants had knowledge of tire labeling beyond the tire brand name, tire size, and tire pressure.

Based on the information obtained from comments to the ANPRM and the consumer focus groups, we have concluded that it is unlikely that the majority of consumers have been influenced by the tire construction information (number of plies and cord material in the sidewall and tread plies) provided on the tire label when deciding to buy a motor vehicle or tire.

The agency believes that the true measure of inconsequentiality to motor vehicle safety in this case is the effect of the noncompliance on the operational safety of vehicles on which these tires are mounted. This labeling noncompliance has no effect on the performance of the subject tires.

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA has decided that the applicant has met its burden of persuasion that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, its application is granted and the applicant is exempted from providing the notification of the noncompliance as required by 49 U.S.C. 30118, and from remedying the noncompliance, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30120.

Issued on: May 23, 2003.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 03-13539 Filed 5-29-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

International Standards on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; Public Meetings

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise interested persons that RSPA will conduct public meetings in preparation for and to report the results of the 23rd session of the United Nations' Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCOE) to be held June 30–July 4, 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland.

DATES: June 18, 2003, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Room 3200–3204; July 16, 2003, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Room 3200–3204.

ADDRESSES: Both meetings will be held at DOT Headquarters, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Bob Richard, International Standards Coordinator, or Mr. Duane Pfund, Assistant International Standards Coordinator, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590; (202) 366-0656.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The primary purpose of the first meeting will be to prepare for the 23rd session of the UNSCOE and to discuss draft U.S. positions on UNSCOE proposals. The primary purpose of the second meeting will be to provide a briefing on the outcome of the UNSCOE session and to prepare for the 24th session of the UNSCOE. Topics to be covered during the public meetings include: (1) Harmonization of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, (2) Hazards to the aquatic environment, (3) Procedures for incident reporting, (4) Evaluation of the United Nations packaging requirements, (5) Transport of Dangerous Goods in limited quantities and consumer commodities, (6) Miscellaneous proposals related to listing and

classification and the use of packagings and tanks. The public is invited to attend without prior notification. Due to the heightened security measures participants are encouraged to arrive early to allow time for security checks necessary to obtain access to the building.

Documents

Copies of documents for the UNSCOE meeting and the meeting agenda may be obtained by downloading them from the United Nations Transport Division's Web site at: <http://www.unece.org/trans/main/dgdb/dgsubc/c32002.html>. This site may also be accessed through RSPA's Hazardous Materials Safety Homepage at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/intstandards.htm>. RSPA's site provides additional information regarding the UNSCOE and related matters such as a summary of decisions taken at the 22nd session of the UNSCOE.

Frits Wybenga,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.

[FR Doc. 03-13491 Filed 5-29-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34345 (Sub-No. 1)]

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Petition for partial revocation.

SUMMARY: The Board, under 49 U.S.C. 10502, exempts the trackage rights arrangement described in STB Finance Docket No. 34345¹ to permit the trackage rights to expire on or about

¹ On April 25, 2003, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) filed a notice of exemption under the Board's class exemption procedures at 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). The notice covered the agreement by Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to grant limited overhead trackage rights to BNSF over UP lines between Port Chicago, CA, at milepost 41.3 on UP's Tracy Subdivision, and Stege, CA, at milepost 9.3 on UP's Martinez Subdivision, a distance of approximately 28.7 miles—6.3 on the Tracy Subdivision and 22.4 miles on the Martinez Subdivision. See *The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 34345 (STB served May 15, 2003). The trackage rights operations under the exemption were scheduled to begin on May 2, 2003.

May 22, 2003, in accordance with the agreement of the parties.

DATES: This exemption will be effective on May 23, 2003. Petitions to reopen must be filed by June 19, 2003.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34345 (Sub-No. 1) must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of all pleadings must be served on BNSF's representative: Michael E. Roper, 2500 Lou Menk Drive, P.O. Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar (202) 565-1600 (Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: Dã 2 Dã Legal Copy Service, Suite 405, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 293-7776. (Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.)

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at www.stb.dot.gov.

Decided: May 23, 2003.

By the Board, Chairman Nober.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-13537 Filed 5-29-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the Fund) of the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning an information collection required by the allocation agreement that will be

entered into by the Fund and allocatees of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program. The specific information collection relates to the section of the allocation agreement that requires an allocatee to provide notice to the Fund of the receipt of a Qualified Equity Investment. The Fund will publish a separate notice seeking public comments regarding other information collections contained in the allocation agreement (e.g., use of QEI proceeds).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before July 29, 2003, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESS: Direct all comments to Matthew Josephs, Acting Financial Equity Manager, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 13th Street, NW., Suite 200 South, Washington, DC 20005, Facsimile Number (202) 622-8911.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A draft of the information collection may be obtained from the Fund's Web site at <http://www.cdfifund.gov>. Requests for additional information should be directed to Matthew Josephs, Acting Financial Equity Manager, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 601 13th Street, NW., Suite 200 South, Washington, DC 20005, or by phone to (202) 622-7373.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Title:* New Markets Tax Credit Program—Allocation Agreement, Notice of Receipt of Qualified Equity Investment.

Abstract: Title I, subtitle C, section 121 of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 (the Act), as enacted by section 1(a)(7) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (Pub. L. No. 106-554, December 21, 2000), amended the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) by adding IRC § 45D, New Markets Tax Credit. Pursuant to IRC § 45D, the Department of the Treasury, through the Fund, administers the NMTC Program, which will provide an incentive to investors in the form of tax credits over seven years, which is expected to stimulate the provision of private investment capital that, in turn, will facilitate economic and community development in low-income communities. In order to qualify for an allocation of tax credits under the NMTC Program, an entity must be certified as a qualified community development entity and submit an allocation application to the Fund. Upon receipt of such applications, the Fund will conduct a competitive review process to evaluate applications for the receipt of NMTC allocations. Entities receiving an NMTC allocation must

enter into an allocation agreement with the Fund. The allocation agreement contains the terms and conditions, including all reporting requirements, associated with the receipt of a NMTC allocation. The Fund will require each allocatee to use an electronic data collection and submission system, known as the allocation tracking system, to report on the information related to its receipt of a Qualified Equity Investment.

The Fund has developed the allocation tracking system to, among other things: (1) Enhance the allocatee's ability to report to the Fund timely information regarding the issuance of its Qualified Equity Investments; (2) enhance the Treasury Department's ability to monitor the issuance of Qualified Equity Investments to ensure that no allocatee exceeds its allocation authority, and to ensure that Qualified Equity Investments are issued within the timeframes required by the allocation agreement and the NMTC Program regulations; and (3) provide the Treasury Department with basic investor data which may be aggregated and analyzed in connection with NMTC Program evaluation efforts.

Current Actions: Selected allocatees for the NMTC Program.

Type of review: New.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit institutions, not-for-profit institutions and State, local and tribal entities.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 66.

Estimated Annual Time Per Respondent: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 66 hours.

Requests for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. The specific section of the allocation agreement for which comments are sought is the reporting requirement that allocatees provide notice to the Fund, through the Fund's allocation tracking system, of the receipt of a Qualified Equity Investment. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use