

Issued in Burlington, Massachusetts, on August 22, 2001.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Chapter I

[USCG-2001-10479]

Review of Boating Safety Regulations

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is conducting a comprehensive review of current boating safety regulations in three stages. These stages correspond with sequential meetings of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC). This document requests comments for the first stage, involving administrative requirements and fire and explosion prevention requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels. We will provide NBSAC members with a summary of the comments before the April 2002 meeting and will consider all relevant public comments and NBSAC recommendations in determining which regulations, if any, should be changed.

DATES: Comments and related material for the first stage of the review must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before October 29, 2001.

ADDRESSES: To make sure that your comments and related material are not entered more than once in the docket, please submit them by only one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility, (USCG-2001-10479), U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

(2) By delivery to room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251.

(4) Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents

mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may obtain a copy of this notice by calling the U.S. Coast Guard Infoline at 1-800-368-5647, or read it on the Internet, at the Web Site for the Office of Boating Safety, at <http://www.uscgboating.org> or at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this notice, contact Carlton Perry, Project Manager, Office of Boating Safety, U.S. Coast Guard, by telephone at 202-267-0979 or by e-mail at cperry@comdt.uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-5149.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose

NBSAC is an advisory committee created under 46 U.S.C. 13110(a). It advises the Coast Guard on substantive matters of boating safety. Its 21 members come from 3 segments of the boating community: The boating industry; State officials on boating safety; and representatives of national recreational boating organizations and the general public. NBSAC meets twice a year, in the spring and fall. The meetings are open to the public. Under 46 U.S.C. 4302(c)(4), the Coast Guard must consult NBSAC in the formulation of boating safety regulations.

Past Comprehensive Reviews

In 1981, 1986, 1992, and 1997, we conducted comprehensive reviews of our boating safety regulations in conjunction with a single NBSAC meeting. We asked NBSAC to determine whether the regulations were still necessary, beneficial, cost-effective, and consistent with current technology. These periodic reviews led NBSAC to make numerous recommendations to improve and update specific provisions in the regulations.

Current Comprehensive Review

We plan to conduct this review in three stages at sequential NBSAC meetings, starting in April 2002. We will publish notices in the future, requesting comments for the two remaining stages and announcing the specific date of each NBSAC meeting. Each stage will evaluate current boating

safety regulations, but will not include any rules under development.

The *first review stage* will include administrative requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels (33 CFR part 179 and part 181, subparts B and C) and fire and explosion prevention requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels (33 CFR part 183, subparts I, J, and K). NBSAC will review these regulations and comments at its April 2002 meeting.

The *second review stage* will include requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels to prevent drownings (33 CFR part 183, subparts B, C, D, F, G, H, and L). NBSAC will review these regulations and comments at its October 2002 meeting.

The *third review stage* will include requirements for operators (33 CFR parts 95, 100, 173, 174, 175, 177 and 46 CFR part 25, subparts 25.30, 25.35 and 25.40, and part 58, subparts 58.03 and 58.10). NBSAC will review these regulations and comments at its April 2003.

You may find copies of the boating safety regulations at any public library that carries the United States Code of Federal Regulations. You may buy them from the Superintendent, Government Printing Office, telephone: 202-512-2250; facsimile: 202-512-1800. You may also access them on the Internet at URL address <http://www.gpo.gov/nara/cfr>.

Request for Comments

We encourage interested persons from all sectors of the boating community to participate in this first regulatory review stage by submitting comments and related material regarding any changes to the current boating safety regulations, including elimination or revocation of any requirements. If you submit comments, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this notice (USCG-2001-10479) and give the reasons for each comment. You may submit your comments and material by mail, hand delivery, fax, or electronic means to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**; but please submit your comments and material by only one means. If you submit them by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit them by mail and would like to know they reached the Facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

We are especially interested in responses to the following questions:

- Need—Is there still a need for the regulation? Is the problem that the regulation was originally intended to solve still a problem?
- Technical Accuracy—Has the regulation kept pace with the technological, economic, environmental, or other relevant conditions? Would any particular changes make it more effective in achieving its intended goal?
- Cost/Benefit—What are the costs, or other burdens or adverse effects, including impacts on use of energy, of the regulation? What are the benefits of the regulation in terms of personal safety or other values? Do the benefits outweigh the costs?
- Problems—Are there any problems or complaints in understanding or complying with the regulation?
- Alternative—Are there any nonregulatory ways to achieve the goal of the regulation at a lower cost, lower burden, or adverse effect?

We will summarize all comments received in response to this request during the comment period and will provide a copy of the summary to the NBSAC members for their consideration before the April 2002 meeting. We will consider all relevant comments in the formulation of any changes to the boating safety regulations that may result from this review stage.

Dated: August 22, 2001.

Terry M. Cross,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

37 CFR Parts 1 and 2

[Docket No. 010126026]

RIN 0651-AB31

Electronic Submission of Applications for Registration and Other Documents

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking; Notice of hearing.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) proposes to amend its rules to make electronic filing of trademark documents mandatory. Subject to certain exceptions for individuals either without access to the

Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) or without the technical capability to use TEAS, and persons described in 15 U.S.C. 1126(b), all documents for which an electronic form is available in TEAS, will have to be filed through TEAS rather than through the mail or by hand delivery. In addition, the Office proposes to amend its rule concerning the use of U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service, (Express Mail), to eliminate the filing of any document by Express Mail for which an electronic form is currently available in TEAS.

DATES: Comments must be received by October 29, 2001 to ensure consideration. A public hearing will be held at 10 a.m., October 12, 2001, in Room 911, Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. Submit requests to present oral testimony on or before October 5, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Mail comments to the Commissioner for Trademarks, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3513, attention Craig Morris; fax comments to (703) 872-9279, attention Craig Morris; or e-mail comments to tmefiling@uspto.gov. Copies of all comments will be available for public inspection in Suite 10B10, South Tower Building, 10th floor, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3513, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Morris, Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks, (703) 308-8910, extension 136; or e-mail to tmefiling@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office proposes to amend §§ 1.4, 1.10, 2.21, 2.56, 2.76, 2.88, 2.89, 2.161, 2.166, 2.167 and 2.168 to make electronic filing through the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) mandatory. TEAS is a collection of electronic forms for commonly filed trademark documents. Each document can be easily completed by the trademark applicant or attorney and filed with the Office at the click of a button. The system is available at www.uspto.gov 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can be used by anyone with NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR® (version 3.0 or higher) or MICROSOFT INTERNET EXPLORER® (Version 4.0 or higher). During the hours between 11:00 p.m. EST, Saturday and 6:00 a.m. EST, Sunday TEAS is available but credit card payments cannot be processed; therefore, no documents requiring fees can be filed during that time period. In addition, to file an initial application for a stylized or design mark, or if a specimen is being

filed, the filer must be able to attach a black-and-white GIF or JPG image file.

The Office proposes to require electronic filing of all documents for which forms are currently available in TEAS: applications for registration of marks; amendments to allege use; statements of use; requests for extensions of time to file a statement of use; affidavits of continued use or excusable nonuse under 15 U.S.C. 1058 (§ 8 affidavits); affidavits of incontestability under 15 U.S.C. 1065 (§ 15 affidavits); combined affidavits under 15 U.S.C. 1058 and 1065 (§§ 8 and 15 affidavits) and combined filings under 15 U.S.C. 1058 and 1059 (combined §§ 8 and 9 filings). In the future, after appropriate notice, the Office may require the filing of other trademark-related documents when the appropriate electronic form is available in TEAS. There will be two exceptions to the requirement that trademark documents be filed electronically: first, if the *pro se* applicant or registrant, or an attorney for applicant or registrant, verifies in an affidavit or declaration under § 2.20 that he or she does not have access to TEAS or does not have the technical capability to use TEAS, the *pro se* applicant or registrant, or an attorney for applicant or registrant, will not be required to file its trademark documents using TEAS; and second, if the applicant or registrant is a person described in 15 U.S.C. 1126(b), then the applicant or registrant will not be required to file its trademark documents using TEAS.

A person described in 15 U.S.C. 1126(b) is a person who has citizenship, domicile or a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment in a country other than the United States and whose country of origin is a party to any convention or treaty relating to trademarks, trade or commercial names, or the repression of unfair competition, to which the United States is also a party, or extends reciprocal rights to nationals of the United States by law.

The number of trademark applications and other trademark documents filed in the Office has increased substantially in the last few years, and filings are expected to continue to increase dramatically in the next few years. The Office received over 295,000 trademark applications in fiscal year 1999 and over 375,000 applications in 2000—an increase each year of 27% over the prior year. In fiscal year 2001, filings are currently forecast to be 25% higher than 2000, which means the Office is likely to receive over 300,000 new applications and over 150,000 application and registration-related