

Coast Guard seeks a grantee to develop a training aid to educate the recreational boating public on GMDSS, including information on GMDSS history, component systems, GMDSS Sea Areas, carriage requirements, potential difficulties non-GMDSS equipped recreational boat may encounter in trying to communicate with SOLAS-class vessels, Digital Selective Calling, and system implementation time frame. Point of Contact: CWO Michael Wedda, 202-267-1263.

14. Boating Safety Problem-Specific Awareness. The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to develop an informational package dealing with several safety issues, including carbon monoxide dangers, propeller injury prevention, off throttle steering properties and others to be specified. The information would be reproducible in pamphlet form as well as in format for inclusion on the Office of Boating Safety Web site. Elements must support the year-round national campaign. Point of Contact: Ms. Diane Schneider, 202-267-1196.

15. Navigation Light Glare Minimization. The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to investigate the aspects of recreational boat navigation light glare, especially with regard to the use of the "all around" white light, and determine what technologies or methodologies, if any, might eliminate or minimize the negative effects of glare on the vision of the operator. Point of Contact: Mr. Randolph J. Doubt, 202-267-6810.

16. Flotation Foam Study. The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to perform testing and analysis of current flotation foams used in recreational vessels to determine degree of water absorption, effects of temperature variations, effects of vibration, and effects of aging. Study shall include both in-situ and as-installed testing. Point of Contact: Mr. Gary Larimer, 202-267-0986.

17. Carbon Monoxide Study. The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to perform testing on current and emerging technologies for detection of carbon monoxide in a marine environment. Grantee shall also perform an analysis of in-use carbon monoxide detection equipment. Point of Contact: Mr. Randolph J. Doubt, 202-267-6810.

18. Carbon Monoxide Build-up Relative to Vessel Configurations Study. The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to investigate levels of carbon monoxide build-up on recreational vessels relative to particular vessel design and equipment configuration. Point of Contact: Mr. Randolph J. Doubt, 202-267-6810.

19. Revise, Reprint and Produce On-line the Guide for Multiple Use Waterways Management. The Coast

Guard seeks a grantee to revise and update "A Guide for Multiple Use Waterway Management" produced under a prior Coast Guard grant, providing new management tools and techniques that have been developed or modified since the publication's initial release. In addition to providing the Guide in a printed format to satisfy current and anticipated future demand, this project would also format the Guide for availability and dissemination through the Internet. Point of Contact: CWO Michael Wedda, 202-267-1263.

20. Disseminate Personal Watercraft (PWC) Renter Orientation Checklist. The Coast Guard seeks a grantee to package and disseminate printed copies of a newly developed two-part PWC Renter Orientation Checklist for broad distribution to PWC livery operators and others nationwide. The Checklist would also be made available online via the Internet. Point of Contact: Mr. Vann Burgess, 202-267-6717. Potential grantees should focus on partnership, *i.e.*, exploring other sources, linkages, in-kind contributions, cost sharing, and partnering with other organizations or corporations. You may obtain a more detailed discussion of specific projects of interest to the Coast Guard by contacting the Coast Guard Infoline at 800-368-5647 and requesting a copy of a specific proposal. We also encourage proposals addressing other boating safety concerns.

The Boating Safety Financial Assistance Program is listed in section 20.005 of the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

Dated: October 3, 2000.

Kenneth T. Venuto,

Rear Admiral, Coast Guard, Director of Operations Policy.

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BILLING CODE 4910-15-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. FAA-2000-8046; Notice No. 00-12]

Exemption Reconsideration

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Reconsideration of certain exemptions.

SUMMARY: This notice contains a summary of existing exemptions that provide relief from regulations and permit the use of electronic records and electronic signatures. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will review these exemptions to determine if they are appropriate candidates for

superseding because of recent legislative and internal actions.

DATES: Comments on this proposed action must be received by October 26, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Address your comments to the Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You must identify the docket number FAA-2000-8046 at the beginning of your comments, and you should submit two copies of your comments. If you wish to receive confirmation that FAA received your comments, include a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

You may also submit comments through the internet to <http://dms.dot.gov>. You may review the public docket containing comments to these proposed actions in person in the Dockets Office between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Dockets Office is on the plaza level of the NASSIF Building at the Department of Transportation at the above address. Also, you may review public dockets on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas Penland, Flight Standards Service (AFS-200), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; Telephone (202) 267-3764.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In the past the FAA was constrained by practical considerations to limit the reading of the language of certain regulations in a manner that was not conducive to the current electronic environment. The language of these regulations, while general, could only be implemented by requiring nonelectronic methods. This decision was necessary because of the limited technology available to the FAA at that time. In addition, the FAA did not have procedures in place to permit the agency to provide for the general acceptance of electronic data. Exemptions from certain regulations provided limited relief to permit the use of electronic means of compliance.

The FAA recently developed internal procedures to implement the requirements of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), Public Law 105-277, 44 U.S.C. 3504, which became law on October 21, 1998. The GPEA requires federal agencies to provide for (1) the option of electronic maintenance, submission, or disclosure of information, when practicable as a substitute for paper; and (2) the use and acceptance of electronic

signatures, when practicable. The GPEA also states:

"Electronic records submitted or maintained in accordance with procedures developed under this Act, or electronic signatures or other forms of electronic authentication used in accordance with such procedures, shall not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability because such records are in electronic form."

As part of its efforts to comply with the GPEA and based on Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance (65 FR 25508; May 2, 2000), the FAA has developed procedures that would permit the acceptance of electronic records and electronic signatures. In addition, the FAA not has the technical capability to operate in an electronic environment. Therefore, the FAA has undertaken a review of exemptions issued by the agency allowing the use of electronic signatures and records to determine if they are superseded by the provisions of the GPEA and acceptable under FAA's internal procedures.

This notice lists the exemptions that will be reviewed. Commenters, including the listed exemptions holders, should submit their comments and concerns to the FAA by the close of the comment period.

The purpose of this notice is to improve the public's awareness of, and participation in, this aspect of FAA's regulatory activities. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of any exemption.

Issued in Washington, DC on October 2, 2000.

Donald P. Byrne,

Assistant Chief Council for Regulations, AGC-200.

Summary of Existing Exemptions

Docket No.: 25336.

Petitioner: United Airlines, Inc. (United).

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 121.697(a)(3), (b), (c), and (d) and 121.709(b)(3).

Description of Relief: Permits United to use computerized signatures to satisfy the airworthiness release signature requirements of part 121 in lieu of physical signatures.

Exemption No. 5121F.

Docket No.: 27674.

Petitioner: International Business Machines Corporation Flight Operations (IBM Flight Operations).

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 43.9(a), 43.11(a)(3), 91.407(a)(2), 145.57(a).

Description of Relief: Permits IBM Flight Operations to use computerized

personal identification codes in lieu of the physical signatures required to issue an airworthiness release and/or approval for return to service for the aircraft operated by IBM Flight Operations and the aeronautical products that IBM Flight Operations maintains for its repair station customers.

Exemption No. 6176A.

Docket No.: 28557.

Petitioner: Chromalloy Gas Turbine Corporation (Chromalloy).

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 43.9(a)(4), 43.11(a)(3), and 145.57(a).

Description of Relief: Permits Chromalloy and other persons holding return-to-service authority under the relevant, respective inspection procedures manuals (IPM) to use electronic signatures in lieu of physical signatures to satisfy the signature requirements of FAA Form 8130-3, Airworthiness Approval Tag.

Exemption No. 6513A.

Docket No.: 28445.

Petitioner: Aircraft Braking Systems Corporation (ABSC).

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 43.9(a)(4) and 43.11(a)(3), appendix B to part 43, and § 145.57(a).

Description of Relief: Permits ABSC to use computer-generated electronic signatures in lieu of physical signatures to satisfy approval for return-to-service signature requirements.

Exemption No. 6542B.

Docket No.: 28225.

Petitioner: Northwest Airlines, Inc. (Northwest).

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 121.709(b)(3).

Description of Relief: Permits Northwest to use electronic signatures generated by its SCEPTRE electronic recordkeeping system in lieu of a physical signature to satisfy the airworthiness release or aircraft log entry signature requirements of § 121.709(b)(3).

Exemption No. 6575A.

Docket No.: 28708.

Petitioner: Empire Airlines, Inc. (Empire).

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 43.9 and 121.709(b)(3).

Description of Relief: Permits Empire to use electronic signatures in lieu of physical signatures to satisfy airworthiness release or aircraft log entry signature requirements of § 43.9 for operations conducted under 14 CFR part 135 and § 121.709(b)(3) for operations conducted under part 121.

Exemption No. 6668B.

Docket No.: 29349.

Petitioner: Texas Aero Engine Services, L.L.C. (TAESL).

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 43.9(a)(4).

Description of Relief: Permits TAESL to use computerized personal identification codes in lieu of physical signatures required to issue airworthiness releases and approvals for return to service of aeronautical products it maintains for its repair station customers.

Exemption No. 6890.

Docket No.: 29419.

Petitioner: Aviation Component Service Center (ACSC).

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 43.9(a)(4), § 43.11(a)(3), appendix B to part 43, and § 145.57(a).

Description of Relief: Permits ACSC to use computer-generated electronic signatures in lieu of physical signatures to satisfy approval for return-to-service signature requirements.

Exemption No. 6926.

Docket No.: 28634.

Petitioner: Parker Hannifin Corporation (Parker).

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 43.9(a)(4), § 43.11(a)(3), appendix B to part 43, and § 145.57(a).

Description of Relief: Permits Parker to use computer-generated electronic signatures in lieu of physical signatures to satisfy the signature requirements of FAA Form 8130-3, Airworthiness Approval Tag, when the form is used as approval for return to service.

Exemption No. 7096.

Docket No.: 29422.

Petitioner: Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation (Gulfstream).

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 43.9(a)(4), 43.11(a)(3), appendix B to part 43, and 145.57(a).

Description of Relief: Permits Gulfstream qualified technicians and inspection personnel to use electronic signatures in lieu of physical signatures to satisfy approval for return-to-service signature requirements for the completion processes for Gulfstream aircraft.

Exemption No. 7163.

Docket No.: 17145.

Petitioner: United Airlines, Inc.

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 121.665 and 121.697(a) and (b).

Description of Relief: Permits United to use computerized load manifests that bear the printed name and position of the person responsible for loading the aircraft, instead of that person's signature.

Exemption No. 2466K.

Docket No.: 28545.

Petitioner: United Airlines, Inc.

Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR 121.135(a)(3).

Description of Relief: Permits United to use electronic digital technology to

document the revision level in lieu of printing the last revision date on each page of the manual.

Exemption No. 6612A.

[FR Doc. 00-25694 Filed 10-5-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Butler County, OH

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement may be prepared for a proposed transportation project in Butler County, Ohio.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark L. Vonder Embse, Urban Programs Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 200 North High Street, Room 328, Columbus, Ohio 43215, Telephone: (614) 280-6854.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed improvement in the vicinity of Trenton, Ohio. The project termini are approximately US-127, north of the Village of Seven Mile, and the SR-63/SR-4 interchange. The study area is approximately 9 miles in length.

The purpose and need of the project are to address travel demand and capacity, access and safety deficiencies. Alternatives under consideration include: (1) Taking no action; (2) Constructing a new highway on new location; (3) Upgrading existing facilities. FHWA, ODOT, and local agencies will be invited to participate in defining the alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS, and any significant social, economic, or environmental issues related to the alternatives.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings will be held in the project area. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and

comment prior to the public hearing. Scoping activities will be conducted.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are identified and addressed, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action should be sent to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued on: September 26, 2000.

Mark L. Vonder Embse,

Urban Programs Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, Columbus, Ohio.

[FR Doc. 00-25767 Filed 10-5-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2000-7965]

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 1999-2000 Porsche 911 GT3 Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 1999-2000 Porsche 911 GT3 passenger cars are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This document announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that 1999-2000 Porsche 911 GT3 passenger cars that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because (1) they are substantially similar to vehicles that were originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and that were certified by their manufacturer as complying with the safety standards, and (2) they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is November 6, 2000.

ADDRESS: Comments should refer to the docket number and notice number, and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. [Docket hours are from 9 am to 5 pm].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

George Entwistle, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5306).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards shall be refused admission into the United States unless NHTSA has decided that the motor vehicle is substantially similar to a motor vehicle originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States, certified under 49 U.S.C. 30115, and of the same model year as the model of the motor vehicle to be compared, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Petitions for eligibility decisions may be submitted by either manufacturers or importers who have registered with NHTSA pursuant to 49 CFR Part 592. As specified in 49 CFR 593.7, NHTSA publishes notice in the **Federal Register** of each petition that it receives, and affords interested persons an opportunity to comment on the petition. At the close of the comment period, NHTSA decides, on the basis of the petition and any comments that it has received, whether the vehicle is eligible for importation. The agency then publishes this decision in the **Federal Register**.

Wallace Environmental Testing Laboratories, Inc. of Houston, Texas ("WETL") (Registered Importer 90-005) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1999-2000 Porsche 911 GT3 passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles which WETL believes are substantially similar are 1999-2000 Porsche 911 passenger cars that were manufactured for importation into, and sale in, the United States and certified by their manufacturer as conforming to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The petitioner claims that it carefully compared non-U.S. certified 1999-2000 Porsche 911 GT3 passenger cars to their U.S.-certified counterparts, and found the vehicles to be substantially similar with respect to compliance with most Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

WETL submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that non-U.S. certified 1999-2000 Porsche 911 GT3 passenger cars, as originally manufactured, conform to many Federal motor vehicle safety standards in the same manner as their U.S. certified