

PART 3001—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 3001 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 39 U.S.C. 404(b), 3603, 3622–24, 3661, 3662.

§ 3001.54 [Amended]

2. Section 3001.54(a)(1) is revised to read as follows:

(a) *General requirements.* (1) Each formal request filed under this subpart shall include such information and data and such statements of reasons and bases as are necessary and appropriate fully to inform the Commission and the parties of the nature, scope, significance, and impact of the proposed changes or adjustments in rates or fees and to show that the changes or adjustments in rates or fees are in the public interest and in accordance with the policies of the Act and the applicable criteria of the Act. To the extent information is available or can be made available without undue burden, each formal request shall include the information specified in paragraphs (b) through (r) of this section. If a request for changes in rates or fees proposes to change the cost attribution principles applied by the Commission in the most recent general rate proceeding in which its recommended rates were implemented, the Postal Service shall include with its request for changes in rates or fees a statement describing each change that it proposes in those cost attribution principles, and shall show what the effect on its request would be if its request did not propose such changes. If the required information is set forth in the Postal Service's prepared direct evidence, it shall be deemed to be part of the formal request without restatement.

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Issued by the Commission on December 17, 1996.

Margaret P. Crenshaw,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–32492 Filed 12–23–96; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 50**

[AD–FRL–5669–8]

RIN 2060–AE57, AE66 and AH09

National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone and Particulate Matter

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Announcement of public hearings.

SUMMARY: The EPA is announcing public hearings on the proposed revisions to the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ozone and particulate matter as well as the proposed reference method (Appendix L, 40 CFR part 50) and the proposed requirements for designation of reference and equivalent methods for monitoring PM_{2.5}, and ambient air quality surveillance for particulate matter that were published on December 13, 1996 (61 FR 65715, 65637, and 65779, respectively). These public hearings are the opportunity for the oral presentation of data, views, or arguments required by section 307(d)(5) of the Clean Air Act.

DATES: Public hearings on the proposed ozone and particulate matter NAAQS decisions will be held on January 14 and 15, 1997 at the locations identified below. The record of each hearing will be held open for 30 days to allow for submission of any rebuttal or supplementary information. The January 14, 1997 hearings will begin at 10:30 a.m. (local time) and end at 8:00 p.m. (local time).

The January 15, 1997 hearings will begin at 9:00 a.m. (local time) and end at 3:00 p.m. (local time). The public hearing on the proposed reference method (Appendix L) and the proposed requirements for designation of reference and equivalent methods for monitoring PM_{2.5} and air quality surveillance for particulate matter will be held on January 14, 1997 beginning at 9:00 a.m. (local time) and ending at 5:00 p.m. (local time). As previously announced, the public comment period for the proposed decisions will close on February 18, 1997. This comment period applies to all public comments, written or oral, including any made via the telephone hotline and electronic mailboxes established for this purpose.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments (duplicate copies preferred) to Office of Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW, Washington, DC 20460. Comments on the proposed revisions to the ozone NAAQS should be submitted to the above address, Attention: Docket No. A–95–58. Comments on the proposed revisions to the particulate matter NAAQS (including Appendix L) should be submitted to the above address, Attention: Docket No. A–95–54. Comments on the proposed requirements for designation of reference and equivalent methods for monitoring PM_{2.5} and ambient air

quality surveillance for particulate matter should be submitted to the above address, Attention: Docket No. A–96–51.

Public hearings on the proposed revision to the ozone and particulate matter NAAQS will be held at the following locations:

- (1) Westin Copley Place, 10 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02116, 617–262–9600
- (2) Midland Hotel, 172 West Adams at LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60603, 312–332–1200
- (3) Red Lion Hotel, 255 South West Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101, 801–328–2000

The public hearing on the proposed reference method (Appendix L, 40 CFR part 50), and the proposed requirements for designation of reference and equivalent methods for monitoring PM_{2.5} and ambient air quality surveillance for particulate matter (40 CFR parts 53 and 58) will be held at: Omni Durham Hotel, 201 Foster Street, Durham, NC 27701, 919–683–6664.

Rebuttal or supplementary information or other written statements for the record of any public hearings should be submitted (duplicate copies preferred) to the appropriate docket at the address specified above for the submission of written comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ozone NAAQS—Dr. David McKee, MD–15, Air Quality Strategies and Standards Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone: (919) 541–5288. Particulate Matter NAAQS—Ms. Patricia Koman at the above address, telephone: (919) 541–5170. PM_{2.5} Reference Method, Reference and Equivalent Methods, and Ambient Air Surveillance for Particulate Matter—Mr. Neil Frank, MD–14, Emissions, Monitoring, and Analysis Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone: (919) 541–5560.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Court Order on Particulate Matter NAAQS**

The court order entered in *American Lung Association v. Browner*, CIV–93–643–TUC–ACM (D. Ariz., October 6, 1994), has been modified to change the date specified for the close of the public comment period on the proposed decision on particulate matter NAAQS from January 29, 1997 to February 18, 1997. The date for final decision on the

particulate matter NAAQS, June 28, 1997, remains unchanged.

Public Hearings

Individuals planning to make oral presentations at the hearing(s) should notify Ms. Linda Metcalf, MD-15, Air Quality Strategies and Standards Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, telephone: (919) 541-2865, at least 7 days prior to the date of the hearing(s). Oral presentations will be limited to five minutes each. Any member of the public may file a written statement before, during, or within 30 days after the hearings. Written statements (duplicate copies preferred) should be submitted to the appropriate docket at the address specified above.

A verbatim transcript of the hearings as well as written statements received will be available for inspection and copying during normal working hours at the Office of Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center at the address specified above.

Availability of Related Information

Any supplemental air quality, exposure and risk analyses for ozone and/or particulate matter prepared by EPA will be entered into the appropriate docket and will also be available to the public through the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) Technology Transfer Network (TTN) Bulletin Board System (BBS) in the Clean Air Act Amendments area, under Title I, Policy/Guidance Documents. To access the bulletin board, a modem and communications software are necessary. To dial up, set your communications software to 8 data bits, no parity and one stop bit. Dial (919) 541-5742 and follow the on-screen instructions to register for access. After registering, proceed to choice "<T> Gateway to TTN Technical Areas", then choose "<E> CAAA BBS". From the main menu, choose "<1> Title I: Attain/Maint of NAAQS", then "<P> Policy Guidance Documents." To access these documents through the World Wide Web, click on "TTN BBSWeb", then proceed to the Gateway to TTN Technical areas, as above. If assistance is needed in accessing the system, call the help desk at (919) 541-5384 in Research Triangle Park, NC.

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 50

Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Carbon monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Particulate matter, Sulfur oxides.

Dated: December 18, 1996.

Mary D. Nichols,

Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

46 CFR Part 384

[Docket No. R-166]

RIN 2133-AB26

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

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Extension of comment period on advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) is extending for 45 days the comment period on an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) concerning whether MARAD should amend its existing criteria and methodologies for granting waivers of the requirement for U.S.-flag vessel carriage of certain cargo covered by Public Resolution 17, 33rd Congress (PR 17).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before February 10, 1997.

ADDRESSES: To be considered comments must be sent to the Secretary, Maritime Administration, Room 7210, 400 7th St., S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Comments will become part of this docket. Anyone who wishes to arrange access to comments filed must telephone the secretary, MARAD, at (202) 366-5746 during normal business hours. Commenters wishing MARAD to acknowledge receipt of comments must enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope or postcard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James J. Zok, Associate Administrator for Ship Financial Assistance and Cargo Preference, Maritime Administration, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone (202) 366-0364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 28, 1996, MARAD published an ANPRM soliciting public comment on whether it should amend its existing criteria and methodologies for granting a waiver of the requirement for U.S.-flag vessel carriage of certain cargo covered by PR 17, 46 App. U.S.C. 1241-1, and if so, what the new waiver procedure

should be with respect to EXIMBANK-financed cargo. Based on comments already submitted and a request for extension of time to comment, MARAD has decided to extend the comment period for 45 days. MARAD also asks the public to comment on the following options and proposals, which are in addition to those described in the ANPRM.

(1) Should MARAD promulgate a rule that states the objectives and the procedures that will guide the waiver process so that carriers, shippers, and freight forwarders will know, as project bids are formulated, the specific criteria that will affect most waiver applications? To supplement this, should MARAD also participate, on an ongoing regular basis, in EXIMBANK/shippers' briefings to assist shippers in transportation planning for projects?

(2) Should MARAD publish or otherwise make available regular notices of extant EXIMBANK projects that may require ocean transportation?

(3) When a shipper is awarded a project which is or may become subject to the cargo preference laws of the United States via intended EXIMBANK financing or other events, should MARAD contact in writing and/or through meetings the shipper, the shipper's representative, and the U.S.-flag carriers in order to determine the expected cargoes and shipping dates and requirements for the life of the project? Should shipper personnel include representatives from the traffic/logistics and finance departments so that each becomes aware of the EXIMBANK and MARAD requirements?

(4) If a waiver is desired, should the shipper be required to notify MARAD and the U.S.-flag carriers at least 45 days before each actual cargo movement from a port in the United States and provide a complete packing list and proposed transportation schedule? Should the notice also be published in a widely disseminated publication, e.g., in the Transportation News Ticker (TNT), to notify the trade as is common in other U.S. Government transportation movements, with full and uniform information on requirements and terms? If there is a waiver amendment request and the parameters of the shipment substantially change, should a new notice and re-bids be required? Should there be a predetermined threshold of change (e.g., 5 percent)?

(5) When the shipper seeks a waiver, should the shipper be required to furnish documentation in support of the stated reasons for the waiver request?

(6) Should carriers be required to provide a written response to a shipper's RFQ/RFP with a time