

Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) by submitting written data, views, or arguments. The draft annex is titled "Regulations for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens". A copy of the draft document is available for viewing under this docket at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this notice (USCG-1998-4298) and the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment.

Please submit all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**. Persons wanting acknowledgement of receipt of comments should enclose stamped self-addressed postcards or envelopes. The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period.

Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard at least five days before the date of the meeting you wish to attend. All comments must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before October 20, 1998; however, you are highly encouraged to submit your comments prior to the last meeting to facilitate discussion.

Purpose of Meetings

The U.S. Delegation to the Ballast Water Working Group (BWWG) of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) consists of both Federal Government employees and non-government advisors. The meetings will be held to discuss the U.S. position of the treaty negotiations for a possible Annex to the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78). The MEPC will discuss a draft text of the treaty annex at its 42nd session on November 2-6, 1998, in London, United Kingdom. The Committee will determine whether or not to hold a Conference of Parties to vote on the new Annex in the year 2000.

The U.S. delegation will also develop a U.S. position paper commenting on aspects of the current draft of the treaty. Additionally, the delegation will discuss the U.S. position on any papers submitted by other countries for MEPC's 42nd session.

Information on Service for Individuals with Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact LT Mary Pat McKeown at the address or phone number under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** as soon as possible.

Dated: August 7, 1998.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 98-21800 Filed 8-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. RSAC-96-1, Notice No. 12]

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of Railroad Safety Advisory Committee ("RSAC") meeting.

SUMMARY: FRA announces the next meeting of the RSAC, a Federal Advisory Committee that develops railroad safety regulations through a consensus process. The meeting will address a wide range of topics, including possible adoption of specific recommendations for regulatory action.

DATES: The meeting of the RSAC is scheduled to commence at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The meeting of the RSAC will be held at The Westin Hotel, 1400 M Street, NW, Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis and is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Sign language interpreters will be available for individuals with hearing impediments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Vicky McCully, RSAC Coordinator, FRA, 400 7th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20590, (202)493-6305 or Grady Cothen, Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development, FRA, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 493-6302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), FRA is giving notice of a meeting of the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee ("RSAC"). The meeting is

scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 1998. The meeting will be held at The Westin Hotel, 1400 M Street, NW, Washington, DC. All times noted are Eastern Standard Time.

RSAC was established to provide advice and recommendations to the FRA on railroad safety matters. The Committee consists of 48 individual representatives, drawn from among 27 organizations representing various rail industry perspectives, and 2 associate non-voting representatives from the agencies with railroad safety regulatory responsibility in Canada and Mexico. Staff of the National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Transit Administration also participate in an advisory capacity.

During this meeting, the RSAC will receive status reports, containing progress information, from the Locomotive Crashworthiness Working Group, the Locomotive Cab Working Conditions Working Group, and the Event Recorder Working Group. A status report will also be received from the Positive Train Control (PTC) Working Group, tasked with: (1) facilitating understanding of current PTC technologies, definitions, and capabilities; (2) addressing issues regarding the feasibility of implementing fully integrated PTC systems; and (3) facilitating implementation of software based signal and operating systems through consideration of revisions to the Rules, Standards and Instructions to address processor-based technology and communication-based architectures.

Please refer to the notice published in the **Federal Register** on March 11, 1996 (61 FR 9740) for more information about the RSAC.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on August 7, 1998.

George A. Gavalla,

Acting Associate Administrator for Safety.

[FR Doc. 98-21783 Filed 8-12-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-98-4297]

Sea-Land Service, Inc.; Notice of Application to Increase Service in the Non-Contiguous Domestic Trade for Puerto Rico

Sea-Land Service, Inc. (Sea-Land), by application dated July 17, 1998, has applied for an increase in the authorized level of the service that Sea-Land

provides to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico), pursuant to section 656(d) of Subtitle B, Title VI, of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (1936 Act). In support of its application, Sea-Land has provided information related to the growth of Real Gross Product (RGP) for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as supplied to Sea-Land by the Planning Board of the Office of the Governor of Puerto Rico.

This application is composed of two separate requests by Sea-Land. The first asks for revision of Sea-Land's authorized service level for Puerto Rico for Fiscal Year (FY) 1996 and FY 1997, based on revised figures for the increase in RGP for those periods. The second is a new request for a service level increase in respect to the growth in RGP for FY 1998. A summation of the service level increases requested by Sea-Land is attached hereto as Table I.

Any person, firm or corporation having an interest in this application for increased service authorization, and who desires to submit comments concerning Sea-Land's application, is requested to provide those comments to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Such comments must be filed no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday, September 14, 1998. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Date: August 10, 1998.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

Sea-Land Service, Inc.; Requested Increases in Authorized Non-Contiguous Domestic Service for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Revision for FY 1996 (July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1996)

Due to the legislatively established end date of August 9, 1995, for the time period used for determination of grandfather service levels for container ships, FY 1996 is prorated for the period between August 9, 1995 and June 30, 1996. This proration is 326/366 days (1996 was a leap year).

Original FY 1996 RGP: 3.1 percent

Proration Factor: 326/366=.89

Original FY 1996 RGP proration:

$(.89) \times (3.1) = 2.76$ percent

Current Service Level for FY 1996:

$(220,157) \times (.0276) = 6,076$

$220,157 + 6,076 = 226,233$ TEUs

Revised FY 1996 RGP: 3.3 percent

Revised FY 1996 proration: $(.89) \times (3.3) = 2.94$ percent

Service level for FY 1996:

$(220,157) \times (.0294) = 6,473$ TEUs

Revised service level for FY

$1996 = 220,157 + 6,473 = 226,630$ TEUs

Change: +397 TEUs

Revision for FY 1997 (July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997)

Original FY 1997 RGP: 2.8 percent

Current Service Level for FY 1997:

$(226,233) \times (.028) = 6,335$

$226,233 + 6,335 = 232,568$ TEUs

Revised FY 1997 RGP: 3.2 percent

Revised Service Level for FY 1997:

$(226,630) \times (.032) = 7,252$

$226,630 + 7,252 = 233,882$ TEUs

Change: +1,314 TEUs

Service Level Increase for FY 1998 (July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998)

Revised Service Level (July 1, 1997): 233,882 TEUs

RGP for FY 1998 (uncorrected): 3.0 percent

Proposed Service Level (July 1, 1998):

$(233,882) \times (.03) = 7,016$

$233,882 + 7,016 = 240,898$ TEUs

Increase: 7,016 TEUs

[FR Doc. 98-21780 Filed 8-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Discretionary Cooperative Agreement To Support Biomechanical Research

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Announcement of Discretionary Cooperative Agreement to Support Biomechanical Research.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a discretionary cooperative agreement program to support research studies to evaluate the biomechanical response of human surrogates to impact, and solicits applications for projects under this program.

DATES: Applications must be received on or before October 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Contracts and Procurement (NAD-30), ATTN: Rose Watson, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 5301, Washington, D.C. 20590, USA. All applications submitted must include a reference to NHTSA Cooperative Agreement Program No. NRD-01-8-07346. Interested applicants are advised that no separate application package exists beyond the contents of this announcement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

General administrative questions may be directed to Rose Watson, Office of Contracts and Procurement, at (202) 366-9557. Programmatic questions relating to this cooperative agreement program should be directed to Emily A. Sun, National Transportation Biomechanics Research Center (NRD-51), 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 6221E, Washington, D.C. 20590, USA, at (202) 366-4722.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Objective

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is responsible for devising strategies to save lives and reduce injuries from motor vehicle crashes. The purpose of this cooperative agreement program is to promote the improvement of traffic safety for the public through the support of research studies designed to evaluate the biomechanical response of human surrogates to impact, as a means of expanding the base of scientific knowledge in this field and to provide for the coordinated exchange of scientific information collected as a result of the studies conducted.

Impact trauma research employs the principles of mechanics to discover the physical response and physiological results of impacts to the human body. Generally, the teams doing the research are comprised of individuals from different disciplines: engineering, physiology, medicine, biology, and anatomy. The team studies the physical response of the body to impact by measuring and recording engineering parameters defining the event, such as force, accelerations, displacements, surface contours, strains, pressure, etc., and observing the physiological consequences in terms of physical or functional alterations to the body.

One of the major research materials used to simulate injury to the living human is the human cadaver, or human surrogate, exposed to impact and detailed response measurement.

The focus of this cooperative research effort is the study of human surrogate response and injury to physical impacts simulating some significant aspect of automotive impact injury, e.g., head, neck, torso, or lower extremity injury produced in drivers and passengers restrained by various safety devices and exposed to either a frontal, lateral, or rear impact. The specific objective of this cooperative research effort are to perform human surrogate impact tests to: (1) delineate the mechanism of injury, (2) develop functional relationships between the measurable engineering parameters and the extent and severity of injury, and (3) quantify