

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

SCCP does not believe that the proposed rule change will impose any inappropriate burden on competition.

(C) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments have been solicited or received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Because the foregoing rule change establishes or changes a due, fee, or other charge imposed by SCCP, it has become effective pursuant to Section 19(b)(3)(A)(ii) of the Act⁵ and Rule 19b-4(e)(2) thereunder.⁶ At any time within sixty days of the filing of the proposed rule change, the Commission may summarily abrogate such rule change if it appears to the Commission that such action is necessary or appropriate in the public interest, for the protection of investors, or otherwise in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Section, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at SCCP. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-SCCP-00-03 and should be submitted by June 23, 2000.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.⁷

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-13780 Filed 6-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice #3313]

U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy; Notice of Meeting

The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, reauthorized pursuant to P.L. 106-113 (H.R. 3194, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2000), will meet on Thursday, June 15, 2000 in Room 600, 301 4th St., SW, Washington, D.C. from 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

The Commission will discuss its plans for assessing the consolidation of USIA into the State Department and the effectiveness of U.S. public diplomacy in the former Soviet Union.

Members of the general public may attend the meeting, though attendance of public members will be limited to the seating available. Access to the building is controlled, and individual building passes are required for all attendees. Persons who plan to attend should contact David J. Kramer, Executive Director, at (202) 619-4463.

Dated: May 30, 2000.

David J. Kramer,

Executive Director, U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 00-13871 Filed 6-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG 2000-7373]

Guidelines for Assessing Merchant Mariners' Proficiency Through Demonstrations of Skills for Ratings Forming Part of a Navigational Watch

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Availability and Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces the availability of, and seeks public comments on, the national performance measures proposed here for use as guidelines when mariners demonstrate their proficiency in skills for ratings forming part of a navigational watch. A

working group of the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) developed and recommended national performance measures for this proficiency. The Coast Guard has adapted the measures recommended by MERPAC.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before August 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please identify your comments and related material by the docket number of this rulemaking [USCG 2000-7373]. Then, to make sure they enter the docket just once, submit them by just one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility, 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 related material received from the public, as well as documents mentioned in this Notice, 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>.

The measures proposed here are also available from Mr. Mark Gould, Maritime Personnel Qualifications Division, Office of Operating and Environmental Standards, Commandant (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, telephone 202-267-0229.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on this Notice or on the national performance measures proposed here, write or call Mr. Mark Gould where indicated under

ADDRESSES. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Dorothy Walker, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

⁵ U.S.C. 78s(b)(3)(A)(ii).

⁶ 17 CFR 240.19b-4(e)(2).

⁷ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

What Action Is the Coast Guard Taking?

Table A-II/4 of the Code accompanying the treaty on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended in 1995, articulates qualifications for merchant mariners' attaining the minimum standard of competence for ratings forming part of a navigational watch. The Coast Guard tasked MERPAC with referring to the Table, modifying and specifying it as it deemed necessary, and recommending national performance measures. The Coast Guard has adapted the measures recommended by MERPAC and is proposing them now for use as guidelines when assessing mariners' proficiency in skills for ratings forming part of a navigational watch.

Here follow the five skills that a mariner must demonstrate respecting ratings forming part of a navigational watch, with an example of a Performance Condition, a Performance Behavior, and four Performance Standards for one of those five skills:

Five Skills: Use magnetic and gyro-compasses; Respond to standard rudder orders (hard right [starboard] or left [port]; ease the rudder; midships; shift your rudder; meet her; steady as she goes; and steer on the range); Change over from automatic pilot to hand steering; Discharge certain responsibilities of the lookout (reporting sounds, lights and objects); and Know watch procedures that contribute to a safe watch (relief, maintenance and handover).

The Performance Condition for the skill entitled, "Change over from automatic pilot to hand steering" is: At sea speed, when hearing the command, "Put the steering into hand steering, * * *." This calls for, in the case of this skill, one Performance Behavior.

The Performance Behavior for the same skill is: The candidate will change the steering mode from automatic pilot to hand steering. This calls for, in the case of this skill, four Performance Standards.

The Performance Standards for the same skill are: Repeat order; Switch the steering mode from automatic pilot to hand steering; Test that the new steering mode is responding; and State, "She's in hand steering."

If the mariner properly meets all of the Performance Standards, he or she passes the practical demonstration. If he or she fails to properly carry out any of the Performance Standards, he or she fails the demonstration.

Why Is the Coast Guard Taking This Action?

The Coast Guard is taking this action to comply with STCW, as amended in 1995 and incorporated into domestic law at 46 CFR parts 10, 12, and 15 in 1997. Guidance from the International Maritime Organization on shipboard assessments of proficiency suggests that Parties develop standards and measures of performance for practical tests as part of their programs for training and assessing seafarers.

How May I Participate in This Action?

You may participate in this action by submitting comments and related material on the national performance measures proposed here. (Although the Coast Guard does not seek public comment on the measures recommended by MERPAC, as distinct from the measures proposed here, those measures are available on the Internet at the Homepage of MERPAC, <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/advisory/merpac/merpac.htm>.) These measures are available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. They are also available from Mr. Mark Gould where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. If you submit written comments please include—

- Your name and address;
- The docket number for this Notice [USCG 2000-7373];
- The specific section of the performance measures to which each comment applies; and
- The reason for each comment.

You may mail, deliver, fax, or electronically submit your comments and related material to the Docket Management Facility, using an address or fax number listed in **ADDRESSES**. Please do not submit the same comment or material more than once. If you mail or deliver your comments and material, they must be on 8½ by 11-inch paper, and the quality of the copy should be clear enough for copying and scanning. If you mail your comments and material and would like to know whether the Docket Management Facility received them, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. The Coast Guard will consider all comments and material received during the 60-day comment period.

Once we have considered all comments and related material, we will publish a final version of the national performance measures for use as guidelines by the general public. Individuals and institutions assessing the competence of mariners may refine the final version of these measures and develop innovative alternatives. If you vary from the final version of these

measures, however, you must submit your alternative to the National Maritime Center for approval by the Coast Guard under 46 CFR 10.303(e) before you use it as part of an approved course or training program.

Dated: May 16, 2000.

Howard L. Hime,

Acting, Director of Standards.

[FR Doc. 00-13869 Filed 6-1-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Program Management Committee; Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for Program Management Committee (PMC) meeting to be held June 20, 2000, starting at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, Inc., 140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036.

The agenda will include: (1) Welcome and Introductions; (2) Review and Approve Summary of Previous Meeting; (3) Consider and Approval Publication of: (a) Final Draft, Requirements Specification for Avionics Computer Resource (RTCA Paper No. 131-00/SC182-105), prepared by SC-182; (b) Final Draft, Minimum Human Factors Standards for Air Traffic Services Provided Via Data Communications Utilizing the Aeronautical Telecommunications Network (ATN), Builds I and IA (RTCA Paper No. 132-00/SC194-021), prepared by SC-194; (4) Review Action Item 00-04, Update on NEXCOM; (5) Discuss SC-159 Work Program—GNSS Application to Airport Surface Operations; (6) Discuss Document Production; (7) Other Business; (8) Date and Location of Next Meeting; (9) Closing.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax); or <http://www.rtca.org> (web site). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.