

Executive Order 12630 (Taking of Private Property)

This rule will not effect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under Executive Order 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

National Environmental Policy Act

The agency has analyzed this action for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and has determined that this action will not have any effect on the quality of the environment.

Regulation Identification Number

A regulation identification number (RIN) is assigned to each regulatory action listed in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations. The Regulatory Information Service Center publishes the Unified Agenda in April and October of each year. The RIN contained in the heading of this document can be used to cross reference this action with the Unified Agenda.

List of Subjects in 23 CFR Part 658

Grants program—transportation, Highways and roads, Motor carrier—size and weight.

Issued on: August 11, 2000.

Walter L. Sutton, Jr.,
Federal Highway Deputy Administrator.

PART 658—TRUCK SIZE AND WEIGHT; ROUTE DESIGNATION—LENGTH, WIDTH AND WEIGHT LIMITATIONS

In consideration of the foregoing, the FHWA proposes to amend 23 CFR part 658 as follows:

1. Revise the authority citation for 23 CFR 658 to read as follows:

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 127 and 315; 49 U.S.C. 31111, 31112, 31113, and 31114; 49 CFR 1.48.

2. Amend § 658.5 by revising the definition of *Length exclusive devices* and *Safety devices—width exclusion* and adding a definition of *Swing radius* to read as follows:

§ 658.5 Definitions.

* * * * *

Length exclusive devices. Devices excluded from the measurement of vehicle length. Such devices shall not be designed or used to carry cargo.

* * * * *

Safety devices—width exclusion. Devices excluded from the measurement

of vehicle width. Such devices shall not be designed or used to carry cargo.

* * * * *

Swing radius. The swing radius is the volume bounded by the front wall of a semitrailer or trailer and the arc formed when a line centered on the kingpin is rotated from the lower left to the lower right front corner of the vehicles. The swing radius extends from the bottom to the top of the semitrailer or trailer.

* * * * *

3. In § 658.13, remove paragraph (f); redesignate paragraphs (g) and (h) as paragraphs (f) and (g), respectively; and revise paragraph (e)(1)(ii) to read as follows:

§ 658.13 Length.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(1) * * *

(ii) All length provisions regarding automobile transporters are exclusive of front and rear overhang. Further, no State shall impose a front overhang limitation of less than 3 feet or a rear-most overhang limitation of less than 4 feet. Extendable ramps or “flippers” on automobile transporters which are used to achieve the allowable 3-foot front and 4-foot rear cargo overhangs are excluded from the measurement of vehicle length, provided they are retracted when not supporting cargo.

§ 658.15 [Amended]

4. Amend § 658.15 by removing paragraph (c) and redesignating paragraph (d) as paragraph (c).

5. Add § 658.16 to read as follows:

§ 658.16 Exclusions from length and width determinations.

(a) Vehicle components not excluded by law or regulation shall be included in the measurement of the length and width of commercial motor vehicles.

(b) The following shall be excluded from measurements of commercial motor vehicle length and width: All nonload-carrying devices which do not extend more than 3 inches beyond the front or each side of the vehicle, or 24 inches beyond the rear of the vehicle, and all nonload-carrying devices within the swing radius at the front of a semitrailer or trailer. In addition, resilient bumpers extending up to 6 inches from the front and rear of a commercial vehicle shall be excluded from the measurement of length.

(c) Rear view mirrors may extend up to 12 inches and turn signal lamps may extend up to 6 inches beyond each side of a vehicle.

(d) Aerodynamic devices made of flexible material which are inflated by

air pressure and lack a rigid structure may extend not more than 8 feet beyond the rear of a vehicle, provided they do not obscure tail lamps, turn signals, marker lamps, identification lamps, license plates, or any other required safety devices, such as hazardous materials placards or conspicuity markings.

(e) These exclusions are specific and may not be added to other excluded devices.

(f) Measurements are to be made from a point on one side or end of a commercial motor vehicle to the same point on the opposite side or end of the vehicle.

[FR Doc. 00–20939 Filed 8–17–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard****33 CFR Parts 26, 161, and 165**

[USCG–1998–4399]

RIN 2115–AF75

Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Proposed rulemaking; notice of reopening of comment period, and public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is reopening the period for public comment on the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) establishing a Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) on the Lower Mississippi River published on April 26, 2000 (65 FR 24616). Due to several requests for additional time to comment, the Coast Guard is reopening the comment period. The Coast Guard will also schedule a public meeting to receive comments on the NPRM. The date and address of this meeting will be determined in the future, and subsequently published in a separate notice in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard on or before December 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please submit your comments and related material by any one of the following methods (but by only one, to avoid multiple listings in the public docket):

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility [USCG–1998–4399], 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 address of the meeting will be determined in the future, and subsequently published in a separate notice in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on the proposed rulemaking, contact Mr. Jorge Arroyo, Office of Vessel Traffic Management, (G-MWV), Coast Guard, telephone 202-267-6277. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Ms. Dorothy Beard, Chief of Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on a Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) on the Lower Mississippi River, published on April 26, 2000 (65 FR 24616), encouraged interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments by July 25, 2000. In response to several requests for additional comment time, the Coast Guard is reopening the comment period on the NPRM until December 1, 2000. Please do not resubmit comments that have already been made part of this docket. The NPRM and comments already received may be viewed at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this docket (USCG-1998-4399), the specific section of the NPRM to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit one copy of each comment and attachment in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing, to the DOT Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**. If you want acknowledgment of receipt of your comment, enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period. It may change this NPRM in view of them.

Public Meeting

The Coast Guard intends to hold a public meeting in the New Orleans area to receive comments on the NPRM. The exact date and location will be published in a notice in the **Federal Register** as soon as they are determined.

Dated: August 14, 2000.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Acting Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 00-21126 Filed 8-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD13-00-029]

RIN 2115-AE47

Drawbridge Operations; Duwamish River, Seattle, WA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes to increase by one hour the afternoon closed period, Monday through Friday, during which the First Avenue South Drawbridges across the Duwamish River, mile 2.5, at Seattle, Washington, need not open for the passage of vessels. Currently, the dual bascule bridges need not open from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays. The proposed change would extend this period from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before October 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments and related material to Commander (oan), Thirteenth Coast Guard District, 915 Second Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98174-1067 or deliver them to room 3510 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. The Aids to Navigation and Waterways Management Office maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Austin Pratt, Project Officer, Thirteenth Coast Guard District, (206) 220-7282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related material. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this rulemaking (CGD13-00-029), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment

applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and related material in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying. If you would like to know they reached us, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. We may change this proposed rule in view of them.

Public Meeting

We do not now plan to hold a public meeting. However, you may submit a request for a meeting by writing to Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District (oan) at the address under **ADDRESSES** explaining why one would be beneficial. If we determine that one would aid this rulemaking, we will hold one at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Background and Purpose

The dual First Avenue South bascule bridges provide 32 feet of vertical clearance above mean high water for the central 100 feet of horizontal distance in the channel spans. When the drawspans are open there is unlimited vertical clearance for the central 120 feet of the spans. An adjacent, parallel bascule bridge was constructed and completed in 1999. Drawbridge openings are provided for recreational vessels, large barges, and floating construction equipment. The operating regulations currently in effect for these drawbridges at 33 CFR 117.1041 provide that the spans need not open for the passage of vessels from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays. The draws shall open at any time for a vessel of 5,000 gross tons and over, a vessel towing such a vessel or en route to take in tow a vessel of that size. These periods provide some relief to heavy commuter traffic on First Avenue South. Much of this commuter traffic is generated by several facilities of the Boeing Company and other industrial concerns in the area.

Discussion of Proposed Rule

Proposed for change is the ending time of the afternoon closed period. Currently, the weekday closed period in the afternoon is from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The proposed change is to extend that period one hour to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for federal holidays, which will coincide better with commuter traffic volumes. Traffic counts are showing numbers at 7 p.m. on weekdays that are often as high as those at 3 p.m. when the afternoon closed period in effect commences.