

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), we considered whether this proposed rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

The Coast Guard certifies under section 5 U.S.C. 605(b), that this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This conclusion is based upon the fact that the bridge will open at all times for the passage of vessel traffic.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this rule would have a significant economic impact on it, please submit a comment (see **ADDRESSES**) explaining why you think it qualifies and how and to what degree this rule would economically affect it.

Collection of Information

This proposed rule would call for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.).

Federalism

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13132 and have determined that this rule does not have implications for federalism under that Order.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) governs the issuance of Federal regulations that require unfunded mandates. An unfunded mandate is a regulation that requires a State, local, or tribal government or the private sector to incur direct costs without the Federal Government's having first provided the funds to pay those costs. This proposed rule would not impose an unfunded mandate.

Taking of Private Property

This proposed rule would 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.

Civil Justice Reform

This proposed rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Environment

We considered the environmental impact of this proposed rule and concluded that, under figure 2–1, paragraph (32)(e), of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this proposed rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation because promulgation of drawbridge regulations have been found not to have a significant effect on the environment. A written “Categorical Exclusion Determination” is not required for this rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

Regulations

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend 33 CFR part 117 as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 49 CFR 1.46; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102–587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. Section 117.622 is revised to read as follows:

§ 117.622 West Bay.

The draw of the West Bay Bridge, mile 1.2, at Osterville, shall operate as follows:

(a) From November 1 through April 30, the draw shall open on signal if at least a twenty-four hours advance notice is given.

(b)(1) From May 1 through June 15, the draw shall open on signal from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

(2) From June 16 through September 30, the draw shall open on signal from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

(3) From October 1 through October 31, the draw shall open on signal from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

(4) At all other times from May 1 through October 31, the draw shall open on signal if at least a four-hours advance notice is given by calling the number posted at the bridge.

Dated: April 26, 2001.

G.N. Naccara,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, First Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 01–11716 Filed 5–8–01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD08–01–009]

RIN 2115–AE47

Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Massalina Bayou, Florida

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is proposing a change to the regulation governing the operation of the Tarpon Dock bascule span drawbridge across Massalina Bayou, mile 0.0, at Panama City, Bay County, Florida. The proposed rule would allow the draw of the bridge to remain closed to navigation from 9 p.m. until 11 p.m. on July 4 of each year. This rule will facilitate movement of vehicular traffic associated with a fireworks display which is conducted annually on July 4. Presently the draw opens on signal at all times.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before May 22, 2001.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to Commander (ob), Eighth Coast Guard District, 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130–3396, or deliver them to room 1313 at the same address between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Administration Branch 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 at the Bridge Administration Branch, Eighth Coast Guard District between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Phil Johnson, Bridge Administration Branch, 504-589-2965.

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 (CGD08-01-009), 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. But you may submit a request for a meeting by writing to the Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District, Bridge Administration Branch 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 City of Panama City, Florida requested a change in the drawbridge operating regulation, governing the operation of the Tarpon Dock bascule span drawbridge. The rule is needed to accommodate the additional volume of vehicular traffic that the fireworks display normally generates. This bridge closure has become an annual event in conjunction with the 4th of July fireworks celebration. The closure is for two hours and does not significantly affect marine traffic. The Tarpon Dock bascule span drawbridge across Massalina Bayou has a vertical clearance of 7 feet above mean high water in the closed-to-navigation position and unlimited in the open-to-navigation position. Navigation on the waterway consists primarily of commercial fishing vessels, sailing vessels and other recreational craft.

Discussion of Proposed Rule

This proposed rule would allow the bridge to remain closed to navigation from 9 p.m. until 11 p.m. on July 4 of each year. The closure of the bridge would affect vessel traffic for a two-hour

period on one evening per year. This closure is necessary to accommodate an increase in volume of vehicular traffic, crossing the bridge resulting from the annual fireworks display, an event of public interest. The rule would allow the bridge to open during this period for a vessel in distress.

Regulatory Evaluation

This proposed rule is not a "significant regulatory action" under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. The Office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under that Order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT)(44 FR 11040, February 26, 1979).

We expect the economic impact of this proposed rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary.

Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612), we considered whether this proposed rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term "small entities" comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The small entities concerned with this proposed rule are the local commercial fishermen who transit the bridge. This proposed rule will only delay transiting the bridge for two hours on one evening per year.

If you think that your business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction qualifies as a small entity and that this rule would have a significant economic impact on it, please submit a comment (see **ADDRESSES**) explaining why you think it qualifies and how and to what degree this rule would economically affect it.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this proposed rule so that they can better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking.

If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please contact the Bridge Administration Branch, Eighth Coast Guard District at the address above.

Collection of Information

This proposed rule would call for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520.).

Federalism

We have analyzed this proposed rule under E.O. 13132 and have determined that this rule does not have implications for federalism under that Order.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538) governs the issuance of Federal regulations that require unfunded mandates. An unfunded mandate is a regulation that requires a State, local, or tribal government or the private sector to incur direct costs without the Federal Government's having first provided the funds to pay those costs. This proposed rule would not impose an unfunded mandate.

Taking of Private Property

This proposed rule would 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.

Civil Justice Reform

This proposed rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Environment

We considered the environmental impact of this proposed rule and concluded that, under figure 2-1, paragraph (32)(e), of Commandant Instruction M16475.IC, this proposed rule is categorically excluded from

further environmental documentation. This proposal will change an existing special drawbridge operating regulation promulgated by a Coast Guard Bridge Administration Program action. A "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Coast Guard proposes to amend Part 117 of Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for Part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 49 CFR 1.46; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102–587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. Section 117.301 is added to read as follows:

§ 117.301 Massalina Bayou.

The draw of the Tarpon Dock bascule span bridge, Massalina Bayou, mile 0.0 at Panama City, shall open on signal; except that from 9 p.m. until 11 p.m. on July 4, each year, the draw need not open for the passage of vessels. The draw will open at any time for a vessel in distress.

Dated: April 13, 2001.

Paul J. Pluta,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 01–11714 Filed 5–8–01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

37 CFR Parts 1 and 2

[Docket No. 991105297–1085–02]

RIN 0651–AB01

Revision of Patent and Trademark Fees for Fiscal Year 2002

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (referred to as "we", "us", or "our" in this document) is proposing to adjust certain patent fee amounts and a trademark fee amount to reflect fluctuations in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Also, we are proposing to adjust, by a corresponding

amount, a few patent fees that track the affected fees. Our Director is authorized to adjust these fees annually by the CPI to recover the higher costs associated with doing business. In addition, we are proposing to change the maintenance fee correspondence address to better serve our customers, and amend a fee to reflect current business practice. These proposed amendments would keep our fees aligned with the CPI and streamline administrative matters.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before June 12, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by e-mail addressed to matthew.lee@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Office of Finance, Crystal Park One, Suite 802, Washington, DC, 20231, or by fax to (703) 305–8007, marked to the attention of Matthew Lee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Matthew Lee by e-mail at matthew.lee@uspto.gov, by telephone at (703) 305–8051, or by fax at (703) 305–8007.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This proposed rule would adjust our fees in accordance with the applicable provisions of title 35, United States Code, as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 2000 (which incorporated the Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act of 1999) (Public Law 106–113); and section 1113 of title 15, United States Code. This proposed rule would also adjust, by a corresponding amount, a few patent fees (37 CFR 1.17(e), (r), (s), and (t)) that track statutory fees (either 37 CFR 1.16(a) or 1.17(m)).

In addition, this proposed rule would change the maintenance fee correspondence address. The address change for maintenance fee payments would benefit our customers by allowing the payments to be processed within 24 hours of receipt, rather than the current time frame of three to five days. Likewise, the funds would be deposited more quickly with the United States Treasury. The address change for other communications related to maintenance fees would permit us to respond in a timelier manner. Maintenance fee correspondence received at the Box M Fee" address would be forwarded to the appropriate address in § 1.1(d) for an indefinite period of time.

Background

Statutory Provisions

Patent fees are authorized by 35 U.S.C. 41 and 35 U.S.C. 376. For fees

paid under 35 U.S.C. 41 (a) and (b), independent inventors, small business concerns, and nonprofit organizations who meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 41(h)(1) are entitled to a fifty-percent reduction.

Subsection 41(f) of title 35, United States Code, provides that fees established under 35 U.S.C. 41 (a) and (b) may be adjusted on October 1, 1992, and every year thereafter, to reflect fluctuations in the CPI over the previous twelve months.

Subsection 41(d) of title 35, United States Code, authorizes the Director to establish fees for all other processing, services, or materials related to patents to recover the average cost of providing these services or materials, except for the fees for recording a document affecting title, for each photocopy, for each black and white copy of a patent, and for library services.

Section 376 of title 35, United States Code, authorizes the Director to set fees for patent applications filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

Subsection 41(g) of title 35, United States Code, provides that new fee amounts established by the Director under section 41 may take effect thirty days after notice in the **Federal Register** and the *Official Gazette of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*.

Section 1113 of title 15, United States Code, authorizes the Director to establish fees for the filing and processing of an application for the registration of a trademark or other mark, and for all other services and materials relating to trademarks and other marks.

Subsection 1113(a) of title 15, United States Code, allows trademark fees to be adjusted once each year to reflect, in the aggregate, any fluctuations during the preceding twelve months in the CPI.

Subsection 1113(a) also allows new trademark fee amounts to take effect thirty days after notice in the **Federal Register** and the *Official Gazette of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*.

Fee Adjustment Level

The patent statutory fees established by 35 U.S.C. 41 (a) and (b) are proposed to be adjusted on October 1, 2001, to reflect any fluctuations occurring during the previous twelve months in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI–U). In calculating these fluctuations, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined that we should use CPI–U data as determined by the Secretary of Labor. In accordance with previous fee-setting methodology, we use the Administration's projected CPI–U for