

obtaining a new correct original visaed invoice.

The product groupings described above are in summary form. Interested persons should refer to section 112(b) of the AGOA for a complete description of the textile and apparel products for which preferential treatment may be claimed under section 112(a) of the AGOA.

This letter will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Sincerely,
Charlene Barshefsky.

[FR Doc. 01-2210 Filed 1-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Docket Management System (DMS)

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings issues this notice to remind air carriers, foreign air carriers and travel agents of the requirements for full fare disclosure in connection with sales of air transportation and foreign air transportation on Internet websites. The notice specifically reminds the industry that pursuant to 14 CFR 399.84, as elaborated in Department industry notices and enforcement case precedent, so-called "fuel surcharges" must be included in the fare held out to consumers via the Internet. Failure to comply with these requirements violates the cited rule and constitutes a deceptive trade practice and an unfair method of competition in violation of 49 U.S.C. 41712.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dayton Lehman, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, or Nicholas Lowry, Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. Tel. No. (202) 366-9342.

Prohibition on Deceptive Practices in the Marketing of Airfares to the Public Using the Internet; Notice

This is to remind all airlines, travel agents, and other sellers of air transportation that use the Internet to market air transportation fares to the public to ensure that the public is not misled about the fares being offered, and to point out a particular problem involving so-called "fuel surcharges" that has come to our attention regarding

the holding out of fares over the Internet.

During the past several years, we have disseminated a number of notices to the industry addressing a variety of fare advertising issues. One of those letters, dated March 18, 1996, noted the increased use of the Internet in the sale of air transportation and specifically addressed the fact that, just as is the case with the marketing of airfares via print media, marketers of airfares using the Internet must comply with Department regulations and enforcement precedent with respect to their Internet sites. This includes not only adherence to the Department's full fare advertising rule (14 CFR 399.84), but also rules and enforcement case precedent in other areas concerning deceptive practices, such as disclosure of code-share relationships and critical purchase and travel restrictions. That letter, as well as other industry letters regarding price advertising, may be reviewed by going to the Internet site of the Department's Office of the General Counsel at <http://www.dot.gov/ost/ogc/index.html>.

Despite this earlier advice, we have discovered a serious problem with price advertising on the websites of a number of major airlines and large Internet travel agencies. Under 14 CFR 399.84, fare advertisements by air carriers or their agents must state the full fare charged the consumer. The intent of the rule is to ensure that members of the public are given adequate fare information on which to base their airline travel purchasing decisions. Failure to state the full fare in advertisements, in addition to violating the rule, constitutes an unfair and deceptive trade practice and an unfair method of competition in violation of 49 U.S.C. 41712.

The Department has provided interpretive guidance on the rule and, through a number of enforcement-related consent orders, has recognized certain exceptions to the "full fare" advertising standard. In accordance with this enforcement case precedent, the Department has allowed taxes and fees collected by carriers and other sellers of air transportation, such as passenger facility charges (PFCs) and departure taxes, to be stated separately in fare advertisements so long as the charges are levied by a government entity, are not *ad valorem* in nature, are collected on a per-passenger basis, and their existence and amount are clearly indicated in the advertisement so that the consumer can determine the full fare to be paid.

On several websites that we have examined, fare disclosure differs

according to the search path selected by the consumer. For searches in which the consumer specifies a date of travel in the search request, we have found that the sites make the disclosures required by section 399.84. With respect to searches where the consumer indicates no preference for travel dates but selects a flexible search, however, we have found fare displays with disclosures that are not adequate. More specifically, this latter type of search path produces a fare display in which a so-called "fuel surcharge" is mentioned either (1) in a separate screen, under "more rules," or (2) at the bottom of the display as a footnote, together with other applicable charges. The footnote merely states that a fuel surcharge may apply, and the consumer cannot find out whether it in fact does apply to a particular purchase until he or she goes to the booking page. Since such "fuel surcharges" are not government fees imposed on a per-passenger basis, their exclusion from the advertised fare and separate display (even where the amount is stated) does not fit within the exceptions to the full fare advertising rule recognized in the Department's enforcement case precedent. Where these "fuel surcharges" (or similar carrier-imposed surcharges) are listed separately and are not included in the basic fare presented to the public, this is deceptive and violates 14 CFR 399.84. Such listings in other media have led to enforcement action in the past.

Airlines, travel agents, and other sellers of air transportation, in order to comply with the Department's fare advertising rule, must ensure that any ticket price displayed on their site includes all components required by the Department's full fare rule. Non-government surcharges and fees, such as fuel surcharges and service fees, as well as *ad valorem* excise taxes, must be included in the stated fare. Other charges that under Department case precedent may be legitimately excluded from the base fare, such as PFCs, international departure taxes collected by a carrier or its agent, and other per-person taxes or fees imposed by a government entity, may be noted on a website in a prominent link, proximate to the stated fare, that takes the viewer to the bottom of the screen, or to a separate screen, where the nature and amount of such fees are displayed.

As noted above, we are aware of a number of sites that do not comply with the Department's fare advertising requirements. We have already taken or intend to take steps, including enforcement action if necessary, to ensure that consumers are not misled and that all Internet sites conform to the

requirements of the Department's fare advertising rule. We urge all airlines, travel agents, and other sellers of air transportation to ensure that their websites conform to the requirements of the Department's advertising rules and enforcement case precedent. We also caution airlines that they may be held responsible for the actions of their lawful agents, particularly where the carrier's creation of so-called "surcharges" makes violations by their agents more likely and carriers have not taken appropriate steps to halt such practices.

Questions concerning this notice or the applicability of the Department's fare advertising rules may be addressed to the Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings.

Thank you for your cooperation on this important issue.

Dated: January 18, 2001.

Samuel Podberesky,

Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings.

[FR Doc. 01-2259 Filed 1-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA, Special Committee 196; Night Vision Goggle (NVG) Appliances & Equipment

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for Special Committee (SC)-196 meeting to be held February 13-14, 2001, starting at 8:00 a.m. each day. The meeting will be held at Anaheim Marriott, 1700 W. Convention Way, Anaheim, CA 92802.

The agenda will include: (1) Welcome and Introductory Remarks; (2) Agenda Overview; (3) Review/Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes; (4) Action Item Status Review; (5) Overview of SC-196 Working Group (WG) Activities; (6) WG-5, Training Issues—Action Item Status Review; (7) Night Vision Imaging System (NVIS) Lighting and NVG Continued Airworthiness—Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS) Development; (8) Open Issue List Review; (9) Other Business; (10) Establish Agenda for Next Meeting; (11) Date and Location of Next Meeting; (12) Working Group Chairpersons meeting; (13) 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.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 18, 2001.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

[FR Doc. 01-2238 Filed 1-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The FHWA has forwarded the information collection request described in this notice to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. We published a **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day public comment period on this information collection on November 6, 2000 (65 FR 66578). We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Please submit comments by February 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: DOT Desk Officer. You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burdens; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burdens could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kenneth Epstein, 202-366-2157, Safety Core Business Unit, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office

hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 2125-0025
(Expiration Date: March 31, 2001)

Title: Highway Safety Improvement Programs.

Abstract: Under sections 130(g) and 152(g) of Title 23, United States Code, each State is required to report annually to the Secretary of Transportation on the progress being made in implementing the Highway Safety Improvement Programs (Highway-Rail Grade Crossings and Hazard Elimination) and on the effectiveness of these programs. This information provides FHWA with a means for monitoring the effectiveness of these programs. It may also be used by the Congress for determining funding levels for the Highway Safety Improvement Programs and for modifying these programs. States are also required under sections 130(d) and 152(a) of Title 23 to conduct and systematically maintain surveys to determine highway-rail grade crossings in need of improvements and to identify hazardous highway locations, sections, and elements. These surveys are the basis for establishing priorities for corrective measures, for scheduling improvements, and for evaluating the effectiveness of improvements. The States collect safety information by surveying highway-rail grade crossings and public roads for potential safety hazards. In addition, motor vehicle crash data, traffic volume data, and other highway inventory data are used by the States to identify hazards and determine which hazards would be the most cost-effective to improve.

Respondents: 52 State Transportation Departments, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Frequency: Annually.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 10,400 hours. It is estimated that each State, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico spends 200 hours to provide this information to the FHWA.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: January 19, 2001.

James R. Kabel,

Chief, Management Programs and Analysis Division.

[FR Doc. 01-2200 Filed 1-24-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P