

Michael Freitas, (202) 366-9292, ITS Joint Program Office (HOIT-1). For legal information: Mr. Wilbert Baccus, Office of the Chief Counsel, (HCC-32), (202) 366-1346, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To the extent that 5 U.S.C section 553 applies to this action, it is exempt from notice and comment because it constitutes a rule of procedure under 5 U.S.C. section 553(b)(A). Alternatively, the FHWA's implementation of this rule without opportunity for public comment, effective immediately upon publication today in the **Federal Register**, is based on the good cause exceptions in 5 U.S.C. section 553(b)(B) and 553 (d)(3). Seeking public comment is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest. The temporary 60-day delay in effective date is necessary to give Department officials the opportunity for further review and consideration of the new regulations, consistent with the Assistant to the President's memorandum of January 20, 2001. Given the imminence of the effective date, seeking prior public comment on this temporary delay would have been impractical, as well as contrary to the public interest in the orderly promulgation and implementation of regulations. The imminence of the effective date is also good cause for making this action effective immediately upon publication.

Issued on: January 31, 2001.

Anthony R. Kane,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 01-3206 Filed 2-2-01; 4:50 pm]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

32 CFR Part 199

RIN 0720-AA57

Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS); Methodology for Coverage of Phase II and Phase III Clinical Trials Sponsored by the National Institutes of Health

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Final rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense published a final rule on Methodology for Coverage of Phase II and Phase III Clinical Trials Sponsored by the

National Institutes of Health. This rule should not have been published in accordance with the Regulatory Review Plan, therefore, this document is published to withdraw the rule.

DATES: The rule published on Wednesday, January 31, 2001 at 66 FR 8365 is withdrawn as of February 7, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patricia Collins, 703-681-0039

Dated: January 30, 2001.

L.M. Bynum,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison,
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 01-3034 Filed 2-6-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-10-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD01-01-008]

Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Harlem River, NY

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, First Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operation regulations governing the operation of the Macombs Dam Bridge, at mile 3.2, across the Harlem River at New York City, New York. This deviation allows the bridge owner to keep the bridge in the closed position from February 1, 2001 through April 1, 2001. This action is necessary to facilitate maintenance at the bridge.

DATES: This deviation is effective from February 1, 2001 through April 1, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Arca, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, at (212) 668-7165.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Macombs Dam Bridge, at mile 3.2, across the Harlem River, has a vertical clearance of 27 feet at mean high water, and 32 feet at mean low water in the closed position. The existing drawbridge operating regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.789(c).

The bridge owner, New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT), requested a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operating regulations to facilitate the necessary structural maintenance at the bridge. This deviation from the operating regulations allows the bridge owner to keep the bridge in the closed position

from February 1, 2001 through April 1, 2001.

Thirty days notice to the Coast Guard for approval of this maintenance repair was not given by the bridge owner and was not required because this work involves vital, unscheduled maintenance that must be performed without undue delay.

Vessels that can pass under the bridge without an opening may do so at all times during the closed period.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(c), this work will be performed with all due speed in order to return the bridge to normal operation as soon as possible. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: January 25, 2001.

G.N. Naccara,

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

[FR Doc. 01-3109 Filed 2-6-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD07-01-003]

RIN 2115-AE47

Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Hillsborough River, Tampa, FL

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is temporarily changing the operation of the Platt and Brorein Street Drawbridges across the Hillsborough River in Tampa, Florida. This temporary rule allows the Platt and Brorein Street Drawbridges to remain closed from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2001. This action is necessary to facilitate the running of the Bank of America Gasparilla Distance Classic foot race.

DATES: This rule is effective from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on February 24, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Material received from the public as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket are part of docket [CGD07-01-003] and are available for inspection or copying at Commander (obr), Seventh Coast Guard District, 909 S.E. 1st Avenue, Miami, Florida, between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Barry Dragon, Seventh Coast Guard District, Bridge Section, at (305) 415-6743.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Regulatory Information**

We did not publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for this regulation. Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing an NPRM. Publishing an NPRM was impracticable because there was not sufficient time remaining after we were notified of the event to publish an NPRM. Further, publishing an NPRM is not necessary because of the minimal impact this temporary rule will have on bridge operations in an area of limited marine traffic.

For the same reason, under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**.

Background and Purpose

The Platt and Brorein Street Drawbridges, miles 0.0 and 0.16 respectively, across the Hillsborough River, have vertical clearances of 15.6 feet at mean high water and a horizontal clearance of 80 feet between fenders. The existing operating regulations in 33 CFR 117.291(a) require the bridge to open on signal after two hours notice.

The City of Tampa Department of Public Works requested that the Platt and Brorein Street Drawbridge operations be temporarily changed to allow the running of the Bank of America Gasparilla Distance Classic foot race. This temporary change to the drawbridge operating regulations will allow the drawbridge to remain closed from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, February 24, 2001.

Regulatory Evaluation

This 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). The Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation under paragraph 10(e) 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 rule will have a significant economic effect upon a substantial number of small entities. "Small

entities" include small business, 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 rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. This rule may affect the following entities, some of which may be small entities: The owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the Hillsborough River under the Brorein or Platt Street Drawbridges on February 24, 2001.

This temporary rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because the regulations will only be in effect for five hours in an area of limited marine traffic, and the event will be highly publicized.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–221), we offer to assist small entities in understanding the rule so that they could better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process. Small entities may contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** for assistance in understanding and participating in this rulemaking. We also have a point of contact for commenting on actions by employees of the Coast Guard. Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1–888–REG–FAIR (1–888–734–3247).

Collection of Information

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

Federalism

We have analyzed this 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 unfunded mandate costs. This rule will not impose an unfunded mandate.

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.

Civil Justice Reform

This 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 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 safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Environment

The Coast Guard has considered the environmental impact of this action and has determined under figure 2–1, paragraph 32(e) of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, that this rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

Regulations

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 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. From 8 a.m. until 1 p.m., on February 24, 2001, in § 117.291, temporarily suspend paragraph (a) and

add a new temporary paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 117.291 Hillsborough River.

* * * * *

(c) (1) The draws of the bridges at *Platt Street, mile 0.0, and Brorain Street, mile 0.16, may remain closed to navigation.*

(2) The draws of the bridges at Kennedy Boulevard, mile 0.4, Cass Street, mile 0.7, Laurel Street, mile 1.0, West Columbus Drive, mile 2.3, and West Hillsborough Avenue, mile 4.8, shall open on signal if at least two hours notice is given; except that, the draws shall open on signal as soon as possible after a request by a public vessel of the United States, a vessel owned or operated by the State, county or local government and used for public safety purposes, or a vessel in distress.

Dated: January 25, 2001.

T.W. Allen,

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

[FR Doc. 01-3108 Filed 2-6-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD01-00-193]

RIN 2115-AE47

Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Kennebec River, ME

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is changing the drawbridge operation regulations for the Carlton (U.S. 1) highway-railroad bridge, at mile 14.0, across the Kennebec River between Bath and Woolwich, Maine. This rule will remove unnecessary operating restrictions from the regulations and provide relief to the bridge owner from the requirement to crew the bridge during periods when there have been few requests to open the bridge.

DATES: This rule is effective March 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, are part of docket (CGD01-00-193) and are available for inspection or copying at the First Coast Guard District, Bridge Branch Office, 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John W. McDonald, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, (617) 223-8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Information

On October 6, 2000, we published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) entitled Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Kennebec River, Maine, in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 59780). We received no comments in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking. No public hearing was requested and none was held.

Background and Purpose

The Carlton (U.S. 1) highway-railroad bridge, at mile 14.0, across the

Kennebec River has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 10 feet at mean high water and 16 feet at mean low water. The existing drawbridge operating regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.525. Vehicular traffic no longer travels over the Carlton Bridge because a new fixed highway bridge has been constructed upstream. The bridge will continue to operate as a railroad bridge only.

The bridge owner, Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), asked the Coast Guard to remove the unnecessary restrictions from the regulations and to add several time periods during which the bridge will open on an on call basis. The bridge presently is allowed to remain closed to navigation from 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and from 3:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. These closed periods were added to the regulations to prevent vehicular traffic congestion in Bath during the shift changes at the Bath Iron Works. These closed periods are no longer necessary and will be removed by this rule.

The bridge owner has also requested relief from crewing the bridge from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., daily, and all day on Saturdays and Sundays from October 1 through May 14. The bridge opening log data submitted by MDOT indicates a relatively low number of requests to open the bridge during the time periods and the bridge owner has requested that the bridge operate on an on call basis. The greater amount of bridge openings in 1999, are attributed to construction vessel traffic during the building of the new highway bridge upstream from the Carlton Bridge.

BRIDGE OPENINGS BETWEEN 5 P.M. AND 8 A.M.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1997	0	0	0	0	9	6	7	13	5	12	0	0
1998	0	2	1	2	1	6	4	6	3	10	7	6
1999	2	7	2	4	21	24	36	5	10	20	29	12
2000	0	0	4	0	12							

BRIDGE OPENINGS SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MAY 14

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
1997	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1998	10	7	3	0	2	0	0	0
1999	11	13	4	1	5	2	2	1
2000				0	0	3	0	0

The Coast Guard believes that operating the Carlton Bridge on an advance notice basis from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., daily, and all day on Saturdays

and Sundays, from October 1 through May 14, is reasonable and will still meet the needs of navigation. This conclusion is based upon the low number of

opening requests received over the past several years and the fact that the bridge will still open on signal after the advance notice is given.