

Public Technical Meeting

The results from the SSID Team provided a good first step towards standardizing the FAA approach to RAMs. However, the FAA has determined that a public meeting should be held to discuss the SSID ADs and their relationship with the new AASR. The Transport Airplane Directorate is holding this public meeting to give operators the opportunity to present any concerns they may have with using the SSID ADs to address RAMs. The meeting will also give the FAA the opportunity to clarify terms in the standardized SSID ADs that may be confusing to operators. The following are some of the items that will be addressed at the upcoming public meeting:

- The relationship between the Aging Airplane Safety Rule and any future SSID ADs that address RAMs.
- The SSID Team conclusions and recommendations.
- The FAA's approach in issuing the SSID ADs for Boeing Model 727/737 series airplanes, and any of the difficulties that operators have had in addressing RAMs in accordance with the ADs. Such difficulties include the role of supplemental type certificate (STC) holders in assisting operators in developing programs for STC modifications; the effect of inspection program requirements on the routine use of structural repair manuals; and the relationship/overlap between the Repair Assessment Program and SSID ADs.
- Opinions from the public/industry on addressing RAMs in future SSID ADs.
- Opinions from the public/industry regarding alternative approaches (other than ADs) for defining specific methods of compliance to address RAMs as required by the AASR for various models of transport category airplanes.

Participation at the Public Meeting

If you wish to present any oral statements at the public meeting, you should submit your request to the FAA prior to February 14, 2003. Such requests should be submitted to the person listed under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** and should include a written summary of oral remarks to be presented, as well as an estimate of time needed for the presentation. Requests received after February 14, 2003, will be considered and may be scheduled, time permitting, during the meeting. The FAA will prepare an agenda of speakers who will be available at the meeting. Every effort will be made to accommodate as many speakers as possible in the time allotted.

Meeting Procedures

The following procedures are established to facilitate the meeting:

- Attendance is open to the public, but will be limited to the space available.
- There will be no admission fee or other charge to attend or participate in the meeting. The opportunity to speak will be available to all persons, subject to availability of time.
- The meeting is designed to provide information to, and hear comments from, the public concerning issues related to the Aging Airplane Safety Rule and any future SSID ADs that address RAMs. The meeting will be conducted in an informal and nonadversarial manner; however, the FAA may ask questions to clarify a statement and to ensure a complete and accurate record.
- Representatives of the FAA will preside over the meeting. A panel of FAA personnel involved in this issue will be present.
- Statements made by members of the meeting panel are intended to facilitate discussion of the issues or to clarify issues and, unless stated as such, should not necessarily be construed as a position of the FAA.
- An individual, whether speaking in person or in a representative capacity on behalf of an organization, may be limited to a 10-minute statement. If possible, additional time may be allotted.
- The FAA will try to accommodate all questions, time permitting. However, the FAA reserves the right to exclude some questions, if necessary, to present a balance of viewpoints and issues.
- The FAA will review and consider all material presented by participants at the meeting. Participants are requested to provide 10 copies of all presentation materials for distribution to the panel members. Other copies may be provided to the audience at the discretion of the participant.
- The meeting will be recorded by a court reporter. A transcript of the meeting and any material accepted by the panel during the meeting will be made a part of the official record. Any person interested in purchasing a copy of the transcript should contact the court reporter directly at the meeting.

Issued in Renton, WA, on January 8, 2003.

Vi L. Lipski,

Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

[FR Doc. 03-876 Filed 1-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Fayette County, KY

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for the proposed construction of an extension of Newtown Pike on a new alignment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Whitworth, Area Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, John C. Watts Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, 330 W. Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Telephone 502-223-6754, Fax 502-223-6735.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and the Lexington-Fayette County Urban Government (LFCUG) will prepare an EIS for the construction of the Newtown Pike Extension from Main Street to Broadway, with a connector to Limestone at the University of Kentucky main entrance.

The EIS will be a complement to the "Newtown Pike Extension Corridor Plan", adopted as part of the LFCUG Comprehensive Plan and will detail environmental, social and economic impacts associated with the proposed action.

Four public meetings have been held in conjunction with the "Corridor Plan". All meetings have been advertised and no strong public opposition has been heard. These meetings have been used to identify significant transportation and environmental issues.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings and a public hearing will be held while preparing this EIS. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency reviews and comment prior to the public hearing.

The public meetings and hearing will also be a forum for public consultation and involvement on issues associated with the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) when appropriate. Interested persons, groups, or parties

who wish to be consulting parties under Section 106 for this project should submit a written request to the FHWA at the address provided above.

To ensure the full range of issues related to the proposed action is addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning the proposed action and the EIS should also be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Evan Wisniewski,

Program Management Engineer, Federal Highway Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-877 Filed 1-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Notice of Granted Buy America Waiver

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of granted Buy America waiver.

SUMMARY: This waiver allows ticket vending machine manufacturers to install the Asahi Seiko Compact Coin Dispensing Hopper and count it as domestic for purposes of Buy America compliance. It is predicated on the non-availability of the item domestically and was granted on December 9, 2002, for the period of two years, or until such time as a domestic source for this Compact Coin dispensing Hopper becomes available, whichever occurs first. This notice shall insure that the public, particularly potential manufacturers, is aware of this waiver. FTA requests that the public notify it of any relevant changes in the domestic market.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Meghan G. Ludtke, FTA Office of Chief Counsel, Room 9316, (202) 366-1936 (telephone) or (202) 366-3809 (fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See waiver below.

Dated: January 2, 2003.

Jennifer L. Dorn,
Administrator.

Mr. Roy Hollister, *General Manager, Asahi Seiko U.S.A., Inc., 6644 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119*

Dear Mr. Hollister: This letter responds to your correspondence of October 4, 2002, in which you request a Buy America non-availability waiver for the Model SA-595 Compact Coin Dispensing Hopper manufactured for use in ticket vending machines. The coin dispenser at issue here is a low profile, bulk coin dispensing hopper module, a device able to hold a quantity of coins in a hopper and dispense them for "change" one by one in a secure and accurate manner upon electronic command. For the reasons below, I have determined that a waiver is appropriate here.

FTA's requirements concerning domestic preference for federally funded transit projects are set forth in 49 U.S.C. 5323(j). However, Section 5323(j)(2)(B) states that those requirements shall not apply if the item or items being procured are not produced in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality. The implementing regulation also provides that a waiver may be requested "for a specific item or material that is used in the production of a manufactured product." 49 CFR 661.7(g). The regulations allow a bidder or supplier to request a waiver only if it is being sought under this section. See, 49 CFR 661.7(g) and 49 CFR 661.9(d).

You state that there are no U.S. manufacturers of this component with the same operational and dimensional characteristics. This assertion is supported by a letter from GFI Genfare, a ticket vending machine manufacturer, a potential end user of this coin hopper. FTA also posted a request for comments on this matter on our website and we received no comments from domestic manufacturers of this product.

Based on the above-referenced information, I have determined that the grounds for a "non-availability" waiver exist. Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5323(j)(2)(B), a waiver is hereby granted for manufacture of the Model SA-595 Compact Coin Dispensing Hopper for a period of two years, or until such time as a domestic source for this type of unit becomes available, whichever occurs first. In order to insure that the public is aware of this waiver, particularly potential manufacturers, it will be published in the **Federal Register**. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Pixley at (202) 366-1936.

Very truly yours,

Gregory B. McBride,
Deputy Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 03-824 Filed 1-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Notice of Granted Buy America Waiver

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of granted Buy America waiver.

SUMMARY: This waiver allows ticket vending machine manufacturers to

install the Mars Electronics Bill Handling Unit and count it as domestic for purpose of Buy America compliance. It is predicated on the non-availability of the item domestically and was granted on December 10, 2002, for the period of two years, or until such time as a domestic source for this Bill Handling Unit becomes available, whichever occurs first. This notice shall insure that the public, particularly potential manufacturers, is aware of this waiver. FTA requests that the public notify it of any relevant changes in the domestic market.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Meghan G. Ludtke, FTA Office of Chief Counsel, Room 9316, (202) 366-1936 (telephone), or (202) 366-3809 (fax).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: See waiver below.

Issued: January 2, 2003.

Jennifer L. Dorn,
Administrator.

Cassius Jones, Industry Manager, Mars Electronics International, 1301 Wilson Drive, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19380-5963

Dear Mr. Jones: This letter responds to your correspondence of August 8, 2002, in which you request an extension of a Buy American non-availability waiver for the BNA57, BNA52/54, and BSN385/39 bill handling units manufactured for use in ticket vending machines. The bill handling unit at issue here is able to accept, validate, and place in mechanical escrow banknotes of various denominations. The device also transfers these banknotes from the escrow to a vault within the ticket vending machine or returns them if the transaction is not completed. On July 21, 2000, the Federal Transit Administration granted Mars Electronics a waiver for this unit. For the reasons below, I have determined that a waiver is appropriate here.

FTA's requirements concerning domestic preference for federally funded transit projects are set forth in 49 U.S.C. 5323(j). However, Section 5323(j)(2)(B) states that those requirements shall not apply if the item or items being procured are not produced in the U.S. in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality. The implementing regulation also provides that a waiver may be requested "for a specific item or material that is used in the production of a manufactured product." 49 CFR 661.7(g). The regulations allow a bidder or supplier to request a waiver only if it is being sought under this section. See, 49 CFR 661.7(g) and 49 CFR 661.9(d).

You state that there are still no U.S. manufacturers of this component with a functionally equivalent product. This assertion is supported by a market survey furnished as part of your application and conducted by Scheidt & Bachman, a ticket vending machine manufacturer and potential end user of this component. You have also supplied a letter supporting your contentions from Cubic Transportation Systems, another