

under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

#### List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

#### The Proposed Amendment

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority delegated to me, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

#### PART 71—DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, CLASS B, CLASS C, CLASS D, AND CLASS E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIRWAYS; ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959–1963 Comp., p. 389.

##### § 71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1, of the Federal Aviation Administration Order 7400.9N, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated September 1, 2005, and effective September 16, 2005, is amended as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

*Paragraph 5000 Class D airspace.*

\* \* \* \* \*

##### AGL MN D Camp Ripley, MN [New]

Camp Ripley, Ray S. Miller Army Airfield, MN

(Lat. 46°05'00" N., long. 94°21'01" W.)

That airspace extending upward from the surface to and including 3,700 feet MSL within a 3.9-mile radius of the Ray S. Miller Army Airfield. This Class D airspace area is effective during the specific dates and times established in advance by a Notice to Airmen. The effective date and time will thereafter be published continuously published in the Airport/Facility Directory.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Paragraph 6002 Class E airspace designated as surface areas.*

\* \* \* \* \*

##### AGL MN E2 Camp Riley, MN [New]

Camp Riley, Ray S. Miller Army Airfield, MN (Lat. 46°05'00" N., long. 94°21'01" W.)

Within a 3.9-mile radius of the Ray S. Miller Army Airfield.

\* \* \* \* \*

Issued in Des Plaines, Illinois on October 12, 2005.

**Nancy B. Kort,**

*Area Director, Central Terminal Operations.*

[FR Doc. 05–21585 Filed 10–28–05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–M

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

#### Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

#### 27 CFR Parts 17, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 31

[Notice No. 52]

RIN 1513–AB04

#### Suspension of Special (Occupational) Tax (2004R–778P)

**AGENCY:** Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking; cross-reference to temporary rule.

**SUMMARY:** Elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) is issuing a temporary rule amending the TTB regulations relating to special (occupational) tax, to reflect a 3-year tax suspension effected by section 246 of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. Section 246 amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that, during the period from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2008, the rate of special (occupational) tax on certain occupations will be zero. The occupations affected by the 3-year tax suspension are: Manufacturers of nonbeverage products who claim tax drawback; proprietors of distilled spirits plants, alcohol fuel plants, bonded and taxpaid wine premises, and breweries; and wholesale and retail dealers in distilled spirits, wine, and beer. The requirements to register annually and keep prescribed records remain in effect. In this notice of proposed rulemaking, we are soliciting comments from all interested parties on these regulatory amendments. The text of the regulations in the temporary rule published in the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the **Federal Register** serves as the text of the proposed regulations.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before December 30, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments to any of the following addresses—

- Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Attn: Notice No. 52, P.O. Box 14412, Washington, DC 20044–4412.

- 202–927–8525 (facsimile).
- [nprm@ttb.gov](mailto:nprm@ttb.gov) (e-mail).
- <http://www.ttb.gov/alcohol/rules/index.htm>. An online comment form is posted with this notice on our Web site.
- <http://www.regulations.gov>. Federal e-rulemaking portal; follow instructions for submitting comments.

You may view copies of any comments we receive about this notice by appointment at the TTB Library, 1310 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20220. To make an appointment, call 202–927–2400. You may also access copies of this notice and any comments online at <http://www.ttb.gov/alcohol/rules/index.htm>.

See the Public Participation section of this document for specific instructions and requirements for submitting comments, and for information on how to request a public hearing.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Simon, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Regulations and Rulings Division, Suite 200E, 1310 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20220; telephone (202) 927–8210.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

In the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the **Federal Register**, we are publishing a temporary rule implementing section 246 of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, Public Law 108–357, 118 Stat. 1418 (“the Act”), signed by President Bush on October 22, 2004. Section 246 of the Act, entitled “Suspension of Occupational Taxes Relating to Distilled Spirits, Wine, and Beer,” amended subpart G of part II of subchapter A of chapter 54 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) by redesignating section 5148 as section 5149 and adding a new section 5148 (26 U.S.C. 5148) entitled “Suspension of Occupational Tax.” New section 5148 provides that, during the 3-year period from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2008, the rate of special (occupational) tax imposed under sections 5081, 5091, 5111, 5121, and 5131 will be zero.

The effect of new section 5148 is that the following occupations are not subject to payment of special (occupational) tax during the suspension period: manufacturer of nonbeverage products, proprietor of distilled spirits plant, proprietor of alcohol fuel plant, proprietor of bonded wine cellar, proprietor of bonded wine warehouse, proprietor of taxpaid wine bottling house, brewer, wholesale dealer in liquors (distilled spirits, wines, and beer), wholesale dealer in beer, retail dealer in liquors (distilled spirits, wines, and beer), and retail dealer in beer. On the other hand, the following occupations, which are not covered by the IRC sections listed in new section 5148, are not affected by the suspension and remain subject to the special (occupational) tax during the suspension period: User of or dealer in

pecially denatured alcohol, user of tax-free alcohol, manufacturer of tobacco products (that is, cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, and roll-your-own tobacco), manufacturer of cigarette papers or tubes, and export warehouse proprietor (for the export of tobacco products, cigarette papers, or cigarette tubes).

Although the tax rate for the occupations affected by the suspension will be zero during the suspension period, new section 5148 further provides that persons engaging in those occupations must still register annually and comply with applicable recordkeeping requirements. Finally, section 246 of the Act amended section 5117 of the IRC (26 U.S.C. 5117) by adding a new subsection (d) to provide that during the suspension period a dealer may purchase distilled spirits, for resale, only from persons required to keep records as a wholesale liquor dealer, except as otherwise specifically provided by law or regulations. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) is responsible for the administration of the IRC provisions relating to special (occupational) tax.

The temporary regulations published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register** involve amendments to parts 17, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 31 of the TTB regulations (27 CFR parts 17, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 31). The text of the temporary regulations serves as the text of these proposed regulations. The preamble to the temporary regulations explains the proposed regulations.

### Public Participation

#### *Comments Sought*

We request comments from everyone interested. All comments must reference Notice No. 52 and must include your name and mailing address. They must be legible and written in language acceptable for public disclosure. Although we do not acknowledge receipt, we will consider your comments if we receive them on or before the closing date. We regard all comments as originals.

#### *Confidentiality*

All comments are part of the public record and subject to disclosure. Do not enclose any material in your comments that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

#### *Submitting Comments*

You may submit comments in any of five ways:

- **Mail:** You may send written comments to TTB at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this document.

- **Facsimile:** You may submit comments by facsimile transmission to 202–927–8525. Faxed comments must:

- (1) Be on 8.5- by 11-inch paper;
- (2) Contain a legible, written signature; and
- (3) Be no more than five pages long. This limitation ensures electronic access to our equipment. We will not accept faxed comments that exceed five pages.

- **E-mail:** You may e-mail comments to [nprm@ttb.gov](mailto:nprm@ttb.gov). Comments transmitted by electronic mail must:

- (1) Contain your e-mail address;
- (2) Reference Notice No. 52 on the subject line; and
- (3) Be legible when printed on 8.5- by 11-inch paper.

- **Online form:** We provide a comment form with the online copy of this document on our Web site at <http://www.ttb.gov/alcohol/rules/index.htm>. Select the “Send comments via e-mail” link under Notice No. 52.

- **Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:** To submit comments to us via the Federal e-rulemaking portal, visit <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for submitting comments.

You may also write to the Administrator before the comment closing date to ask for a public hearing. The Administrator reserves the right to determine, in light of all circumstances, whether to hold a public hearing.

### Public Disclosure

You may view copies of the temporary rule, this document, and any comments we receive by appointment at the TTB Library at 1310 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20220. You may also obtain copies at 20 cents per 8.5- x 11-inch page. Contact our librarian at the above address or telephone 202–927–2400 to schedule an appointment or to request copies of comments.

For your convenience, we will post the temporary rule, this document, and any comments we receive on the TTB Web site. We may omit voluminous attachments or material that we consider unsuitable for posting. In all cases, the full comment will be available in the TTB Library. To access the online copy of this document and the submitted comments, visit <http://www.ttb.gov/alcohol/rules/index.htm>. Select the “View Comments” link under this document’s number and title to view the posted comments.

### Regulatory Flexibility Act

Although we are issuing this notice of proposed rulemaking, it has been determined that it is not subject to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(b). Because this proposed rule contains no new collections of information, the

provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) do not apply.

### Executive Order 12866

We have determined that this notice of proposed rulemaking is not a significant regulatory action as defined by Executive Order 12866. Therefore, a regulatory assessment is not required.

### Paperwork Reduction Act

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The collections of information contained in the regulations amended by this temporary rule have been previously reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3504(h)) under control numbers 1513–0005, 1513–0088, 1513–0112, and 1513–0113. There is no new or revised collection of information imposed by this proposed rule, and there is no change in the reporting or recordkeeping burden. Thus, no new OMB control numbers will be obtained.

### Drafting Information

The principal author of this document is Steve Simon, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. However, other personnel participated in its development.

### List of Subjects

#### *27 CFR Part 17*

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Cosmetics, Customs duties and inspection, Drugs, Excise taxes, Exports, Imports, Liquors, Packaging and containers, Puerto Rico, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Spices and flavorings, Surety bonds, Virgin Islands.

#### *27 CFR Part 19*

Administrative practice and procedure, Alcohol and alcoholic beverages, Authority delegations (Government agencies), Chemicals, Claims, Customs duties and inspection, Electronic fund transfers, Excise taxes, Exports, Gasohol, Imports, Labeling, Liquors, Packaging and containers, Puerto Rico, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Research, Security measures, Spices and flavorings, Stills, Surety bonds, Transportation, Vinegar, Virgin Islands, Warehouses, Wine.

#### *27 CFR Part 24*

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Electronic funds transfers, Excise taxes, Exports, Food

additives, Fruit juices, Labeling, Liquors, Packaging and containers, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Research, Scientific equipment, Spices and flavorings, Surety bonds, Vinegar, Warehouses, Wine.

#### 27 CFR Part 25

Beer, Claims, Electronic fund transfers, Excise taxes, Exports, Labeling, Liquors, Packaging and containers, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Research, Surety bonds.

#### 27 CFR Part 26

Alcohol and alcoholic beverages, Caribbean Basin initiative, Claims, Customs duties and inspection, Electronic funds transfers, Excise taxes, Packaging and containers, Puerto Rico, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Surety bonds, Virgin Islands, Warehouses.

#### 27 CFR Part 27

Alcohol and alcoholic beverages, Beer, Cosmetics, Customs duties and inspection, Electronic funds transfers, Excise taxes, Imports, Labeling, Liquors, Packaging and containers, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wine.

#### 27 CFR Part 31

Alcohol and alcoholic beverages, Beer, Claims, Excise taxes, Exports, Labeling, Liquors, Packaging and containers, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wine.

### Proposed Amendments to the Regulations

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, TTB proposes to amend 27 CFR parts 17, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 31 as follows:

#### PART 17—DRAWBACK ON TAXPAID DISTILLED SPIRITS USED IN MANUFACTURING NONBEVERAGE PRODUCTS

1. The authority citation for part 17 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 26 U.S.C. 5010, 5131–5134, 5143, 5146, 5148, 5206, 5273, 6011, 6065, 6091, 6109, 6151, 6402, 6511, 7011, 7213, 7652, 7805; 31 U.S.C. 9301, 9303, 9304, 9306.

2. The proposed amendatory instructions and the proposed amended regulatory text for part 17 are the same as the amendatory instructions and the amended regulatory text set forth in the temporary rule on this subject published in the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

#### PART 19—DISTILLED SPIRITS PLANTS

3. The authority citation for part 19 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 19 U.S.C. 81c, 1311; 26 U.S.C. 5001, 5002, 5004–5006, 5008, 5010, 5041, 5061, 5062, 5066, 5081, 5101, 5111–5113, 5142, 5143, 5146, 5148, 5171–5173, 5175, 5176, 5178–5181, 5201–5204, 5206, 5207, 5211–5215, 5221–5223, 5231, 5232, 5235, 5236, 5241–5243, 5271, 5273, 5301, 5311–5313, 5362, 5370, 5373, 5501–5505, 5551–5555, 5559, 5561, 5562, 5601, 5612, 5682, 6001, 6065, 6109, 6302, 6311, 6676, 6806, 7011, 7510, 7805; 31 U.S.C. 9301, 9303, 9304, 9306.

4. The proposed amendatory instructions and the proposed amended regulatory text for part 19 are the same as the amendatory instructions and the amended regulatory text set forth in the temporary rule on this subject published in the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

#### PART 24—WINE

5. The authority citation for part 24 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 26 U.S.C. 5001, 5008, 5041, 5042, 5044, 5061, 5062, 5081, 5111–5113, 5121, 5122, 5142, 5143, 5148, 5173, 5206, 5214, 5215, 5351, 5353, 5354, 5356, 5357, 5361, 5362, 5364–5373, 5381–5388, 5391, 5392, 5511, 5551, 5552, 5661, 5662, 5684, 6065, 6091, 6109, 6301, 6302, 6311, 6651, 6676, 7011, 7302, 7342, 7502, 7503, 7606, 7805, 7851; 31 U.S.C. 9301, 9303, 9304, 9306.

6. The proposed amendatory instructions and the proposed amended regulatory text for part 24 are the same as the amendatory instructions and the amended regulatory text set forth in the temporary rule on this subject published in the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

#### PART 25—BEER

7. The authority citation for part 25 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 19 U.S.C. 81c; 26 U.S.C. 5002, 5051–5054, 5056, 5061, 5091, 5111, 5113, 5142, 5143, 5146, 5148, 5222, 5401–5403, 5411–5417, 5551, 5552, 5555, 5556, 5671, 5673, 5684, 6011, 6061, 6065, 6091, 6109, 6151, 6301, 6302, 6311, 6313, 6402, 6651, 6656, 6676, 6806, 7011, 7342, 7606, 7805; 31 U.S.C. 9301, 9303–9308.

8. The proposed amendatory instructions and the proposed amended regulatory text for part 25 are the same as the amendatory instructions and the amended regulatory text set forth in the temporary rule on this subject published in the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

#### PART 26—LIQUORS AND ARTICLES FROM PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

9. The authority citation for part 26 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 19 U.S.C. 81c; 26 U.S.C. 5001, 5007, 5008, 5010, 5041, 5051, 5061, 5081, 5111, 5112, 5114, 5121, 5122, 5124, 5131–5134, 5141, 5146, 5148, 5207, 5232, 5271, 5276, 5301, 5314, 5555, 6001, 6301, 6302, 6804, 7101, 7102, 7651, 7652, 7805; 27 U.S.C. 203, 205; 31 U.S.C. 9301, 9303, 9304, 9306.

10. The proposed amendatory instructions and the proposed amended regulatory text for part 26 are the same as the amendatory instructions and the amended regulatory text set forth in the temporary rule on this subject published in the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

#### PART 27—IMPORTATION OF DISTILLED SPIRITS, WINES, AND BEER

11. The authority citation for part 27 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 552(a), 19 U.S.C. 81c, 1202; 26 U.S.C. 5001, 5007, 5008, 5010, 5041, 5051, 5054, 5061, 5148, 5111, 5112, 5114, 5121, 5122, 5124, 5201, 5205, 5207, 5232, 5273, 5301, 5313, 5555, 6302, 7805.

12. The proposed amendatory instructions and the proposed amended regulatory text for part 27 are the same as the amendatory instructions and the amended regulatory text set forth in the temporary rule on this subject published in the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

#### PART 31—ALCOHOL BEVERAGE DEALERS

13. The authority citation for part 31 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 26 U.S.C. 5001, 5002, 5111–5114, 5116, 5117, 5121–5124, 5142, 5143, 5145, 5146, 5148, 5206, 5207, 5301, 5352, 5555, 5613, 5681, 5691, 6001, 6011, 6061, 6065, 6071, 6091, 6109, 6151, 6311, 6314, 6402, 6511, 6601, 6621, 6651, 6657, 7011, 7805.

14. The proposed amendatory instructions and the proposed amended regulatory text for part 31 are the same as the amendatory instructions and the amended regulatory text set forth in the temporary rule on this subject published in the Rules and Regulations section of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Signed: July 6, 2005.

**John J. Manfreda,**  
*Administrator.*

Approved: September 14, 2005.

**Timothy E. Skud,**  
*Deputy Assistant Secretary, (Tax, Trade, and  
Tariff Policy).*

[FR Doc. 05-21562 Filed 10-28-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4810-31-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

#### 33 CFR Part 165

[CGD17-05-002]

RIN 1625-AA87

#### **Security Zone; High Capacity Passenger Vessels and Alaska Marine Highway System Vessels in Alaska**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Supplemental notice of  
proposed rulemaking; request for  
comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is revising its proposed rule published March 9, 2005, to establish permanent moving security zones around all escorted High Capacity Passenger Vessels ("HCPV") and escorted Alaska Marine Highway System Vessels ("AMHS vessels") during their transit in the navigable waters of the Seventeenth Coast Guard District. The 250-yard speed restriction zone, the 25-yard security zone around moored and anchored vessels, and the waiver request process in the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) have been eliminated. The Coast Guard has revised the proposed security zones prohibiting any vessel from entering within 100 yards of an escorted HCPV or escorted AMHS vessel while in transit. These security zones are necessary to mitigate potential terrorist acts and enhance public and maritime safety and security. Permission to enter these security zones may be granted by the designated on-scene representative.

**DATES:** Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before December 30, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket are part of docket CGD17-05-002 and are available for inspection or copying at United States Coast Guard, District 17 (dpi), 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, AK 99801 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** LT Matthew York, District 17 (dpi), 709

West 9th Street, Juneau, AK 99801,  
(907) 463-2821.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Regulatory Information**

We published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) entitled "Regulated Navigation Area and Security Zones; High Capacity Passenger Vessels in Alaska" in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 11595, March 9, 2005), docket number CGD17-05-002. That NPRM included provisions for a 250-yard speed restriction zone, a 25-yard security zone around moored and anchored vessels, and a waiver request process. We are removing those three provisions from the proposed rule in this supplemental NPRM.

The revised proposed security zones are limited to High Capacity Passenger Vessels (HCPV) and Alaska Marine Highway System Vessels (AMHS) vessels during transit in the waters of the Seventeenth Coast Guard District. These security zones will only apply to HCPV and AMHS vessels transiting under an escort as defined in this SNPRM. These permanent security zones have been carefully designed to minimally impact the public while providing protections for HCPV and AMHS vessels.

##### **Requests for Comments**

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their name and addresses, identifying this rulemaking (CGD17-05-002) and the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. Persons wanting acknowledgment of receipt of comment should enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

Comments on this supplemental NPRM must reach the Coast Guard on or before December 30, 2005. The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period and may change this proposed rule in view of the comments.

The Coast Guard has not scheduled a public hearing at this time. You may request a public hearing by writing to the Seventeenth Coast Guard District at the address under **ADDRESSES**. The request should include the reasons why a hearing would be beneficial to the rulemaking. If it is determined that an opportunity for oral presentation will aid this rulemaking, the Coast Guard

will schedule a public hearing at a time and place announced in a separate notice published in the **Federal Register**.

##### **Background and Purpose**

Due to increased awareness that future terrorist attacks are possible, the Coast Guard, as Lead Federal Agency for Maritime Homeland Security, has determined that the District Commander and the Captain of the Port must have the means to be aware of, detect, deter, intercept, and respond to threats, acts of aggression, and attacks by terrorists on the American homeland while maintaining our freedoms and sustaining the flow of commerce. Terrorists have demonstrated both desire and ability to utilize multiple means in different geographic areas to successfully carry out their terrorist missions, highlighted by the recent subway bombings in London.

During the past 3 years, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has issued several advisories to the public concerning the potential for terrorist attacks within the United States. The October 2002 attack on a tank vessel, M/V LIMBURG, off the coast of Yemen and the prior attack on the USS COLE demonstrate a continuing threat to U.S. maritime assets as described in the President's finding in Executive Order 13273 of August 21, 2002 (67 FR 56215, September 3, 2002) and Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks, (67 FR 58317, September 13, 2002); and Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect To Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, Or Support Terrorism, (67 FR 59447, September 20, 2002). Furthermore, the ongoing hostilities in Afghanistan and Iraq have made it prudent for U.S. port and waterway users to be on a higher state of alert because the Al Qaeda organization and other similar organizations have declared an ongoing intention to conduct armed attacks on U.S. interests worldwide.

In addition to escorting vessels, the Coast Guard has determined the need for additional security measures during their transit. A security zone is a tool available to the Coast Guard that may be used to control maritime traffic operating in the vicinity of these vessels. The District Commander has made a determination that it is necessary to establish a security zone around HCPV and AMHS vessels that are escorted to safeguard people, vessels and maritime traffic.