

DATES: This exemption is effective on May 24, 1998. Petitions to reopen must be filed by May 14, 1998.

ADDRESSES: An original and 10 copies of all pleadings referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33574 (Sub-No. 1) must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of all pleadings must be served on petitioners' representatives (1) Yolanda M. Grimes, Esq., The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, P. O. Box 961039, Fort Worth, TX 76161-0039, and (2) Joseph D. Anthofer, Esq., Union Pacific Railroad Company, 1416 Dodge Street, #830, Omaha, NE 68179.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 927-1600. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC NEWS & DATA, INC., Suite 210, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 289-4357. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.]

Decided: April 10, 1998.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-10961 Filed 4-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33581]

Lake County Railroad—Modified Rail Certificate

On March 24, 1998, Lake County, OR¹ filed a notice for a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity under 49 CFR 1150, Subpart C, *Modified Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity*, to operate, as Lake County Railroad (LCR), a 54.45-mile line of railroad, known as the Lakeview Branch, extending from milepost 458.60

in Alturas, CA, to milepost 513.05 in Lakeview, OR.²

The involved rail line was abandoned by Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT) in *Southern Pacific Transportation Company—Abandonment—in Modoc County, CA and Lake County, OR*, Docket No. AB-12 (Sub-No. 84) (ICC served Oct. 20, 1985). LCR acquired the line from SPT, and subsequently contracted with Great Western Railway of Oregon (GWR) to operate the line as a short line operator.³

According to LCR, the lease agreement entered into between LCR and GWR on May 1, 1991, as amended on May 5, 1991, December 7, 1994, and on or about October 1, 1995, was terminated on November 1, 1997.

LCR provides freight service between Lakeview and Alturas, and connects with Union Pacific Railroad Company at Alturas. Operations by LCR over the 54.45-mile line commenced on November 1, 1997.⁴

The rail segment qualifies for a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity. See *Common Carrier Status of States, State Agencies and Instrumentalities and Political Subdivisions*, Finance Docket No. 28990F (ICC served July 16, 1981).

LCR indicates that no subsidy is involved and that there are no preconditions for shippers to meet in order to receive rail service.

This notice must be served on the Association of American Railroads (Car Service Division) as agent for all railroads subscribing to the car-service and car-hire agreement: Association of American Railroads, 50 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001; and on the American Short Line Railroad Association: American Short Line Railroad Association, 1120 G Street, NW., Suite 520, Washington, DC 20005.

Decided: April 17, 1998.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-10962 Filed 4-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

² On April 8, 1998, Lake County submitted supplemental information as required by 49 CFR 1150.23.

³ See *The Great Western Railway Co.—Modified Rail Certificate*, Finance Docket No. 30777 (ICC served Feb. 26, 1986).

⁴ According to 49 CFR 1150.23(a), operations may commence immediately upon the filing of the notice for a modified certificate. Lake County has not explained why it did not file its notice before November 1, 1997. However, it does not appear that the late filing was due to any intent to avoid the regulatory requirements and Lake County now has submitted all of the requisite information.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Announcement of Program Test: Importer Compliance Monitoring Program

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces Customs plan to conduct a test regarding the Importer Compliance Monitoring Program (formerly known as the Importer Self-Governance Program) with limited participation. The program is intended to promote compliance with Customs laws and regulations regarding cargo processing and will afford mutual benefits to both Customs and the import community. Public comments concerning any aspect of this planned test are solicited.

EFFECTIVE DATES: The program test will commence no earlier than July 1, 1998, and will continue through June 30, 1999. Written requests to participate in, and comments on, the program test must be received by June 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written requests to participate in the program test, and written comments regarding any aspect of the planned test, should be addressed to William F. Inch, Regulatory Audit Division, U.S. Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Room 6.3A, Washington, D.C. 20229.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William F. Inch, (202) 927-1100; Joseph C. Palmer, (312) 353-1213, Ext. 106; or Richard A. Fuller, (281) 985-6781.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Since passage of the Customs Modernization provisions (107 Stat. 2170) contained in the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 103-182, 107 Stat. 2057, December 8, 1993), the primary goal of the trade compliance process has been to maximize importer compliance with U.S. trade laws, while facilitating the importation and entry of admissible merchandise. To meet these challenges, Customs has undertaken a comprehensive effort to review, improve, and redesign the trade compliance process using established business practices, re-engineered tools, and new methodologies that improve customer service without compromising the enforcement aspect of the Customs mission.

One of the new methodologies developed is the compliance assessment procedure. This procedure allows Customs to determine the level of

Railroad Company, Inc.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Boston and Maine Corporation and Springfield Terminal Railway Company, Finance Docket No. 32103 (ICC served Sept. 3, 1993).

¹ Lake County is a political subdivision of the State of Oregon and therefore is considered a "State" as defined at 49 CFR 1150.21.

compliance based on an overall assessment of a company's import operations. While the compliance assessment procedure provides both Customs and the company with an accurate benchmark concerning the adequacy of systems/internal controls and the degree of importer compliance, it focuses primarily on the company's last business year prior to the time the compliance assessment was conducted.

Over time, however, events can occur within a company (e.g., mergers, system changes, loss of key personnel) that may potentially have an effect on its compliance. Accordingly, the Importer Compliance Monitoring Program (ICMP; formerly known as the Importer Self-Governance Program) was developed to allow interested importers to assess their own compliance with Customs laws and regulations. Over the past several months and after public consultations, Customs has identified necessary policies and procedures as bases to test this new program, pursuant to § 101.9(a) of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 101.9(a)), which permits the implementation of a test program or procedure designed to evaluate the effectiveness of new technology or operational procedures regarding the processing of passengers, vessels, or merchandise. The purpose of this document is to describe the proposed operation of the ICMP and to invite comments on, and requests to participate in, the planned ICMP test.

Proposed Importer Compliance Monitoring Program

In general, the ICMP is designed to enhance the cargo processing of participating importers. The ICMP is voluntary and does not require a company to have undergone or be scheduled for a Customs compliance assessment. Once notified of acceptance into the program, a consultation process will begin with Customs. This is necessary to ensure that all parties have a mutual understanding of the importer's business practices and the importer's corresponding relationship to the program.

Similar to a compliance assessment performed by Customs, the ICMP is a systemic overview of a company's import operations and includes both process and transactional reviews of those operations. Ideally, a group independent of the company's importing function should conduct these reviews; use of outside professionals for this purpose is not required but may be done at the discretion of the importer. Process reviews include an annual preparation or updating of the flowchart and

narrative of the company's import process. In addition, a macro test of value information is conducted to ensure that the company's import transactions and those recorded in Customs systems are in general agreement. Transactional reviews utilize statistical sampling methodologies that are fully coordinated with Customs during the consultation process. Sampling errors will be evaluated based on the number of errors and their materiality and, where applicable, a compliance improvement plan will be prepared and submitted to Customs outlining actions taken or proposed to correct the cited deficiencies. Reports of sampling errors may be treated as prior disclosures under Part 162 of the Customs Regulations. Test participants are expected to retain all applicable documentation pertaining to these reviews. As necessary, Customs will validate the importer's ICMP process and transactional reviews.

Draft Program Manual

For those companies interested in participating in this test, as well as those companies wishing only to provide comments to Customs, a draft ICMP manual will be available on Customs Internet Website. The Universal Resource Locator (URL) or address for the Customs Internet Website is <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. The manual provides detailed ICMP policies and procedures, including additional information regarding anticipated program benefits accruing to both participants and Customs. Customs welcomes any and all comments regarding this document and its contents.

Selection of Test Participants

The test will continue for a period of one year. No more than 50 companies will be allowed to participate in the ICMP test, and Customs will select the participants in accordance with the criteria set forth below.

There are three primary selection criteria that will be applied in the following order:

- (1) Companies residing within the Top 250 importers ranked by entered value in descending order within a Primary Focus Industry (PFI) that have a Customs assigned Account Manager;
- (2) Companies residing within the Top 250 importers ranked by entered value in descending order within a PFI that do not have a Customs assigned Account Manager; and
- (3) Companies not ranked within the Top 250 importers of any of the PFI's

will be selected on the basis of the highest total entered value.

Under criteria (1) and (2), if companies have the same numerical ranking in different PFI's, then the company with the highest total entered value will be selected.

Customs will notify each company in writing of its acceptance or nonselection to participate in this test no later than June 15, 1998; companies not selected will be informed of the general reason(s) for non-selection. If an applicant is denied participation, the applicant may appeal in writing to Director, Regulatory Audit Division, Office of Strategic Trade, U.S. Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20229, within 10 days of notification by Customs.

To assure the best results possible for evaluation purposes, it is anticipated that those companies selected to participate in the ICMP test will complete all related requirements during the one-year test period. However, because of the voluntary nature of this program, a company may discontinue its participation in the test at any time.

Removal From Test Participation

During the one-year test period, the appropriate field director of Regulatory Audit may remove a company from participation in the test for misconduct involving the following:

- (1) Failure by the company to comply with ICMP requirements; or
- (2) The presence of documented or alleged fraud, other investigative activity, or failing to follow applicable Customs laws and regulations.

Any decision proposing to remove a company from participation in the test may be appealed in writing to the Director, Regulatory Audit Division, Office of Strategic Trade, U.S. Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20229 within 30 days of such action. The notice of proposed removal will apprise the company of the facts or conduct warranting removal. Should the company appeal the notice of proposed removal, it should address the facts or conduct charges contained in the notice and state how it does or will achieve compliance. However, in the case of willfulness or where public health interests or safety are concerned, the removal may be effective immediately.

Program Consultation

One of the cornerstones of the ICMP is consultation afforded the importer by Customs. Prior to beginning the test, Customs will meet with each selected participant to discuss the company's

import operations. At this meeting, the nature and frequency of work to be accomplished during the test period will be identified, thus, assuring effective planning and assignment of company and Customs resources and timely completion of the test.

Comments and Evaluation of Test

Customs will review all public comments received concerning any aspect of the proposed program test and finalize requirements and procedures in light of those comments before commencing the test. Approximately 90 days after conclusion of the test, evaluations of the test will be conducted and final results will be made available to the public upon request.

Dated: April 20, 1998.

William F. Inch,

Director, Regulatory Audit Division.

[FR Doc. 98-10886 Filed 4-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Application for Recordation of Trade Name: "Ronson Consumer Products Corporation"

ACTION: Notice of application for recordation of trade name.

SUMMARY: Application has been filed pursuant to section 133.12, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 133.12), for the recordation under section 42 of the Act of July 5, 1946, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1124), of the trade name "RONSON CONSUMER PRODUCTS CORPORATION," Ronson Consumer Products Corporation is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ronson Corporation and is located at 3 Ronson Road, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095.

The application states that the trade name is used in connection with lighters and parts thereof, including pieces of sparking metal/flints, lighter fluid and liquefied petroleum gas for use in lighters, multi-purpose igniters and the like, packaged chemical liquids such as multi-use spray lubricants, general purpose sport removers, leather, vinyl and rubber surface protectants/cleaners, electric shavers, cigar piercers, cigar and cigarette holders, pipe holders, broilers, electric knives, electric blenders, electric can openers, electric powered toothbrushes, other small electric appliance and writing instruments.

The merchandise is manufactured in the United States.

Before final action is taken on the application, consideration will be given to any relevant data, views, or arguments submitted in writing by any person in opposition to the recordation of this trade name. Notice of the action taken on the application for recordation of this trade name will be published in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to U.S. Customs Service, Attention: Intellectual Property Rights Branch, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Ronald Reagan Building—3rd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20229

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Delois P. Johnson, Intellectual Property Rights Branch, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., (Reagan Building—3rd Floor), Washington D.C. 20229 (202-927-2330).

Dated: April 17, 1998.

John F. Atwood,

Chief, Intellectual Property Rights Branch.

[FR Doc. 98-10925 Filed 4-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Application for Recordation of Trade Name: "Ronson Corporation"

ACTION: Notice of application for recordation of trade name.

SUMMARY: Application has been filed pursuant to section 133.12, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 133.12), for the recordation under section 42 of the Act of July 5, 1946, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1124), of the trade name "RONSON CORPORATION," used by Ronson Corporation, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey, located at Corporate III, Campus Drive, P.O. Box 6707, Somerset, New Jersey 08875.

The application states that the trade name is used in connection with lighters and parts thereof, including pieces of sparking metal/flints, lighter fluid and liquefied petroleum gas for use in lighters, multi-purpose igniters and the like, packaged chemical liquids such as multi-use spray lubricants, general purpose sport removers, leather, vinyl and rubber surface protectants/cleaners, electric shavers, cigar piercers, cigar and cigarette holders, pipe holders, broilers, electric knives, electric blenders, electric can openers, electric powered toothbrushes, other small electric appliance and writing instruments.

The merchandise is manufactured in the United States.

Before final action is taken on the application, consideration will be given to any relevant data, views, or arguments submitted in writing by any person in opposition to the recordation of this trade name. Notice of the action taken on the application for recordation of this trade name will be published in the **Federal Register**.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to U.S. Customs Service, Attention: Intellectual Property Rights Branch, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Ronald Reagan Building—3rd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20229.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Delois P. Johnson, Intellectual Property Rights Branch, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., (Reagan Building—3rd Floor), Washington, D.C. 20229 (202-927-2330).

Dated: April 17, 1998.

John F. Atwood,

Chief, Intellectual Property Rights Branch.

[FR Doc. 98-10924 Filed 4-23-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Bureau of the Public Debt

Proposed Collection: Comment Request

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently the Bureau of the Public Debt within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Treasury Direct Forms.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before June 23, 1998, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Bureau of the Public Debt, Vicki S. Thorpe, 200 Third Street, Parkersburg, WV 26106-1328.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Vicki S. Thorpe, Bureau of the Public Debt, 200 Third