

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Aviation Administration****Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee; Air Carrier Operations Issues—New Task**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of new task assignment for the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is given of a new task assigned to and accepted by the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC). This notice informs the public of the activities of ARAC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Quentin Smith, Flight Standards Service, AFS-200, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

The FAA has established an Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the FAA Administrator, through the Associate Administrator for Regulation and Certification, on the full range of the FAA's rulemaking activities with respect to aviation-related issues. This includes obtaining advice and recommendations on the FAA's commitment to harmonize its Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) and practices with its trading partners in Europe and Canada.

One area ARAC deals with is air carrier operations issues. These issues involve the operational requirements for air carriers, including crewmember requirements, airplane operating performance and limitations, and equipment requirements.

**The Task**

This notice is to inform the public that the FAA has asked ARAC to provide advice and recommendation on the following task, applicable to both Part 121 and 135 operations:

Provide a review and analysis of industry practice with regard to reserve duty for flight crewmembers. Recommend to the FAA a performance-based or other regulatory scheme whereby the public is ensured that each flight crewmember is provided with sufficient rest to safely perform flight deck duties at a minimal cost to certificate holders and operators. The task will be segmented by the working group according to the types of operations under Part 119, such as domestic, flag, etc.

The product expected as a result of this task is a report to the FAA that provides specific recommendations and proposed regulatory text, if appropriate, that will resolve the issue of reserve duty. Specifically, these recommendations must ensure that pilots are sufficiently rested for flight deck duty. These recommendations should also ensure that flight crewmember resources are utilized so that the economic burden for the certificate holder is minimized. The report will include the following:

1. A review of the current scientific data on the effects of fatigue in reserve duty. Consider conflicting opinions.
2. An analysis of the current reserve schemes and operational situations. This analysis should include each of the types of operations under Part 119 and, if appropriate, different operations within those types.
3. A recommendation of the standards and criteria to be used.
4. The recommendation must outline how the FAA will measure compliance.
5. The report must include industry-provided data for an FAA economic analysis. This data should include the effects on small operators and small businesses.
6. The report should include industry-provided data regarding the record-keeping burden on the public.

The Reserve Duty/Rest Requirements Working Group is expected to complete its work by December 1, 1998. The FAA anticipates that the ARAC on air carrier operations issues will meet on December 1 to receive the recommendation of the working group and that ARAC will submit its recommendation to the FAA within 30 days. Participants of the working group should be prepared to participate on a full-time basis for the 4-month duration of the task completion.

**ARAC Acceptance of Task**

ARAC has accepted the task and has chosen to establish a new Reserve Duty/Rest Requirements Working Group. The working group will serve as to staff ARAC to assist ARAC in the analysis of the assigned task. Working group recommendations must be reviewed and approved by ARAC. If ARAC accepts the working group's recommendations, it forwards them to the FAA as ARAC recommendations.

**Working Group Activity**

The Reserve Duty/Rest Requirements Working Group is expected to comply with the procedures adopted by ARAC. As part of the procedures, the working group is expected to:

1. Recommend a work plan for completion of the task, including the rationale supporting such a plan, for consideration at the meeting of ARAC to consider air carrier operations issues held following publication of this notice.

2. Give a detailed conceptual presentation of the proposed recommendations, prior to proceeding with the work stated in item 3 below.

3. Draft a report containing information and data identified previously.

4. Provide a status report if needed, at each meeting of ARAC held to consider air carrier operations issues. Interim status reports may also be required.

**Participation in the Working Group**

The Reserve Duty/Rest Requirements Working Group will be composed of experts having an interest in the assigned task. A working group member need not be a representative of a member of the full committee.

An individual who has expertise in the subject matter and wishes to become a member of the working group should write to the person listed under the caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** expressing that desire, describing his or her interest in the task, and stating the expertise he or she would bring to the working group. The FAA is specifically seeking expertise from all kinds of operations under Part 119, including Part 135 on-demand operations and helicopter operations. All requests to participate must be received no later than July 24, 1998. The requests will be reviewed by the assistant chair and the assistant executive director, and the individuals will be advised whether or not the request can be accommodated.

Individuals chosen for membership on the working group will be expected to represent their aviation community segment and participate actively in the working group (e.g., attend all meetings, provide written comments when requested to do so, etc.). They also will be expected to devote the resources necessary to ensure the ability of the working group to meet any assigned deadline(s). Members are expected to keep their management chain advised of working group activities and decisions to ensure that the agreed technical solutions do not conflict with their sponsoring organization's position when the subject being negotiated is presented to ARAC for a vote.

Once the working group has begun deliberations, members will not be added or substituted without the approval of the assistant chair, the

assistant executive director, and the working group chair.

The Secretary of Transportation has determined that the formation and use of ARAC are necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the FAA by law.

Meetings of ARAC will be open to the public. Meetings of the Reserve Duty/Rest Requirements Working Group will not be open to the public, except to the extent that individuals with an interest and expertise are selected to participate. No public announcement of working group meetings will be made.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 2, 1998.

**Quentin Smith,**

*Assistant Executive Director for Air Carrier Operations Issues, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Harrison County, Mississippi

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for an East Harrison County connector between Interstate 10 and United States Highway 90 in Biloxi, Mississippi.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cecil Vick, Realty Officer/Environmental Coordinator, Federal Highway Administration, 666 North Street, Suite 105, Jackson, MS 39202-3199. Telephone: (601) 965-4217. Contacts at the State and local level, respectively are: Mr. Billie Barton, Environmental/Location Division Engineer, Mississippi Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 1850, Jackson, MS, 39215-1850, telephone: (601) 359-7920; and Mr. Ricky Lee, District Engineer, Mississippi Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 551, Hattiesburg, MS, 39403-0551, telephone (601) 544-6511.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The FHWA, in cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed East Harrison County connector in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The proposed connector would be located in one of two corridor study

areas; Corridor One would begin at Exit 41 (MS 67 interchange) crossing the Tchoutacoubouffa River, Big Lake, and connecting to US 90 west of the Coliseum; Corridor Two would begin at Exit 44 (Cedar Lake Interchange) crossing Back Bay of Biloxi and connecting to US 90 west of Keesler Air Force Base. The connector is a proposed full control of access facility and interchanges will be studied at various locations.

Section 65-39-1(2), Mississippi Code 1972, annotated, authorized study of the connector and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1998, authorized partial funding. Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action and (2) build alternative.

The FHWA and MDOT are seeking input as a part of the scoping process to assist in determining the clarifying issues relative to this project. Letters describing the purposed 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 formal scoping meeting with federal, state, and local agencies, and other interested parties will be held in the immediate future.

Coordination will be continued with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or known to have interest in this proposal. A public involvement meeting will be held and a newsletter developed to keep the public informed. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the official public hearing.

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

**Andrew H. Hughes,**

*Division Administrator, Jackson, Mississippi.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Customs Service

#### Extension to Application Period For The General Test Regarding The International Trade Prototype

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** General notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that Customs will allow a 30-day extension to importers and exporters wishing to apply to participate in, or provide written comments on, the International Trade Prototype (ITP). The ITP was previously announced in the **Federal Register** on June 3, 1998.

**DATES:** To apply for participation in the ITP, parties must submit the necessary information as outlined in the **Federal Register** notice of June 3, 1998 on or before August 7, 1998. Comments concerning the ITP must be submitted on or before August 7, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications for voluntary participation in, or written comments regarding, the ITP should be addressed to the U.S. Customs Service, International Trade Prototype Team, Attn: Linda LeBaron Grasley, 4455 Genesee Street, Bldg. 10, Room #342, Buffalo, New York 14225. Note that all comments received by U.S. Customs will be part of the public record.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For any prototype or participation questions please contact Daniel Buchanan, U.S. Customs Service at (617) 565-6236, or Linda LeBaron Grasley, U.S. Customs Service at (716) 626-0400 x 204, or Kevin Franklin, United Kingdom, Her Majesty's Custom and Excise at 011 44 171 865 4728 in London, England.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On June 3, 1998, Customs published a document in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 30288) announcing what is expected to be a series of prototypes collectively called the International Trade Prototype (ITP). This notice invited public comments concerning any aspect of the planned prototype, informed interested members of the public of the eligibility requirements for voluntary participation in the first phase of the first prototype called International Trade Prototype 1 (ITP1) and outlined the development and evaluation methodology to be used in the test. It was announced that in order to participate in ITP1, the necessary information, as outlined in that notice, must be filed with Customs and approval granted.

The June 3, 1998, notice announced that the first phase would commence no earlier than June 8, 1998, and would run for approximately six months with evaluations of the prototype occurring periodically. Comments concerning any aspect of this phase were requested to be received on or before July 6, 1998. Importers and exporters who wish to participate were to have submitted an