

addition, the NYSE states that decisions of the Director of Arbitration regarding jurisdiction are subject to review by the courts.⁷ The Exchange also notes that interlocutory procedural decisions are rarely appealable in judicial and arbitral processes, but instead are reserved for consideration as part of any overall review of the lowest court's or arbitrator's decision.⁸ The Exchange notes that any review by the Board of staff action is in the nature of an interlocutory appeal, which the arbitrators and the courts may subsequently review. All this may result in an unnecessary delay in the final resolution of an arbitration claim.

III. Discussion

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange, and, in particular, with the requirements of Section 6(b).⁹ Specifically, the Commission believes the proposal is consistent with the Section 6(b)(5) of the Act¹⁰ in that it promotes just and equitable principles of trade by providing members, member organizations and the public with a fair and impartial forum for the resolution of their disputes.¹¹

The Commission believes that the proposed rule change provides for adequate review by arbitrators or by the courts of the Director's decision as to whether a claim submitted to arbitration falls within the Exchange's jurisdiction, or as to the hearing situs of the arbitration; therefore, review by the Board is not necessary. The Commission believes it is reasonable for arbitrators to review the Director's decision as to the hearing situs, under their authority to interpret and determine the applicability of the arbitration rules.¹² In addition, the Commission notes that decisions as to jurisdiction are subject to review by the courts. The Commission also notes that the proposed rule change allows for a more efficient arbitration process.¹³

⁷ See *Spear, Leeds & Kellogg v. Central Life Assurance Co.*, 85 F.3d 21 (2d Cir. 1996).

⁸ This reservation occurs in part because interlocutory appeals are frequently employed by parties simply to gain tactical advantage in the dispute. In addition, a substantive resolution of the conflict will often moot the procedural issues.

⁹ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b).

¹⁰ 15 U.S.C. 78f(b)(5).

¹¹ In approving this rule, the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

¹² See Exchange Rule 621.

¹³ The Commission also notes that the Board has the authority to interpret the Constitution.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act,¹⁴ that the proposed rule change (SR-NYSE-98-20) is approved.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁵

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-24094 Filed 9-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad; Public Meeting Notice 2892

The Department of State announces a meeting of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad (AC) on Tuesday, September 15, 1998 from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Room 1105 at the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. We regret the short time frame on this notice. This was unavoidable and due to last minute scheduling difficulties. The agenda for the AC meeting will include:

- 12:00—Update on activities by Advisory Committee members to advocate religious freedom and the work of the AC Teams over the past few months.
- 12:45—Introduction of and Discussion with Robert Seiple, the new Special Representative of the Secretary of State for International Religious Freedom.
- 1:30—Panel Presentation and Discussion: The Theological Principles for Tolerance, Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and Respect for Human Rights.
- 3:30—Presentations and Comments from Members of the Public.
- 4:30—Closing Remarks.
- 5:00—Adjournment.

The meeting is open to the public up to the seating capacity of the rooms. Admittance to the State Department building is only by means of a pre-arranged clearance list, in accordance with routine security purposes. In order to be placed on the pre-clearance list, please provide your name, title, office or organization, social security number, date of birth, and citizenship to Ms. Kim Mallory by fax at (202) 647-9519 or by telephone at (202) 647-1422. All attendees must use the "C" Street entrance. One of the following valid ID's

¹⁴ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

¹⁵ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

will be required for admittance: U.S. driver's license with photo, a passport, or a U.S. Government agency ID.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Alexandra Arriaga, Executive Secretary of the Advisory Committee by fax at (202) 647-9519 or by telephone at (202) 647-1422.

Dated: September 4, 1998.

Alexandra Arriaga,

Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad.

[FR Doc. 98-24282 Filed 9-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-18-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA; Joint RTCA Special Committee 180 and EUROCAE Working Group 46 Meeting; Design Assurance Guidance for Airborne Electronic Hardware

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for a joint RTCA Special Committee 180 and EUROCAE Working Group 46 meeting to be held September 22-25, 1998, starting at 8:30 a.m. on September 22. The meeting will be held at EUROCAE Headquarters, 17 rue Hamelin, Paris, France.

The agenda will be as follows: (1) Chairman's Introductory Remarks; (2) Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda; (3) Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Joint Meeting; (4) Leadership Team Meeting Report; (5) Review Action Items; (6) Review Issue Logs; (7) Issue Team Status; (8) Plenary Disposition of Document Comments; (9) New Items for Consensus; (10) Special Committee 190 Committee Activity Report; (11) Other Business; (12) Establish Agenda for Next Meeting; (13) Date and Place of Next Meeting.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax); or <http://www.rtca.org> (web site). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 1, 1998.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

[FR Doc. 98-24133 Filed 9-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Certification Task Force

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the RTCA, Inc., Certification Task Force will be held September 10 and 11, 1998, starting at 9:00 a.m., at RTCA, Inc., Suite 1020, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20036. This Task Force is reviewing the "end-to-end" certification of advanced avionics systems and, keeping safety as a first priority, developing recommendations for improving the timeliness and reducing the cost of certification.

The meeting agenda will include: (1) Welcome and Opening Remarks; (2) A Presentation by Task Force Co-Chairs Mr. Tony Broderick (former FAA Associate Administrator and now consultant to Airbus) and Mr. Ed Seymour (General Aviation Manufacturers Association); (3) Presentations by the leaders of the four Task Force Working Groups. The presentations will focus on tasking, progress to date and current issues/challenges. Time will be allocated to questions, answers and general discussion.

Concurrent working group sessions will take place at RTCA, Inc., 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036, on the afternoon of September 10 and the morning of September 11. A summary plenary session will commence at 11:30 a.m., September 11.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With approval of the co-chairmen, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact RTCA at (202) 833-9339 (phone), (202) 833-9434 (fax), or email dclarke@rtca.org (e-mail). Members of the public may present a written statement at any time. Exceptional circumstances, due to an unanticipated delay in the development and administrative processing of the agenda exist in this instance to permit

public notice of this meeting in less than 15 days.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

[FR Doc. 98-24134 Filed 9-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Program Management Committee (PMC)

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for the RTCA Program Management Committee (PMC) meeting to be held September 28, 1998, starting at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, Inc., 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Conference Rooms A and B, Washington DC 20036.

The agenda will include: (1) Welcome and Introductions; (2) Review and approval of Summary of Previous Meeting; (3) Consider/Approve: a. Final Draft, Minimum Aviation System Performance Standards for Local Area Augmentation System, RTCA Paper No. 146-98/PMC-018, prepared by SC-159; b. Final Draft, Local Area Augmentation System Interface Control Document, RTCA Paper No. 147-98/PMC-019, prepared by SC-159; c. Final Draft, DO-200A, Standards for Processing Aeronautical Data, RTCA Paper No. 145-98/PMC-017, prepared by SC-181; d. Final Draft, Change 1, DO-215A, Guidance on Aeronautical Mobile Satellite Service (AMSS) End-to-End System Performance, RTCA Paper No. 096-98/PMC-011, prepared by SC-165; e. Final Draft Change 1, DO-186A, Minimum Operational Performance Standard for Airborne Radio Communications Equipment Operating in the Frequency Range 117.975-137,000 MHz, RTCA Paper No. 136-98/PMC-015, prepared by SC-172. (4) Action Item Review: a. Action Item 98-09 for SC-187, Mode S Airborne Beacon and Data Link Systems; b. Action Item 98-13 for SC-189, Air Traffic Services and Interoperability Requirements; c. Action Item 98-15 for PMC members; (5) Discussion: a. New Terms of Reference for SC-192, National Airspace Review; b. Discussion of possible new RTCA activity to address weather requirements-turbulence; (6) Other Business; (7) Date and Place of Next Meeting.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral

statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC, 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax); or <http://www.rtca.org> (web site). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 4, 1998.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

[FR Doc. 98-24135 Filed 9-8-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Amtrak Reform Council; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of Amtrak Reform Council meeting.

SUMMARY: As provided in Section 203 of the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act of 1997, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) gives notice of a meeting of the Amtrak Reform Council ("ARC"). The purpose of the meeting is to receive a briefing from the Department of Transportation's Inspector General regarding the independent assessment of Amtrak's financial needs and to take up such other matters as the Council or its members deem appropriate.

DATES: The ARC meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST on Thursday, September 17, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Rooms 6332-6336 in the NASSIF Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis and is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Portions of the meeting may be closed to the public at the discretion of the Council if proprietary information is to be discussed. Persons in need of special arrangements should contact the person whose name is listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alexander Chavrid, Passengers Programs Division, Office of Railroad Development, FRA, RDV-13, Mail Stop 20, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 (mailing address only) or by telephone at (202) 493-6380. **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The ARC was created by the Amtrak Reform and