

February 14–19, 1999 in Cartagena, Colombia. A special session of the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) is scheduled February 22–23 to approve the agreement as a protocol to the CBD. The United States is a world leader in biotechnology research and production. The United States is working to ensure that a biosafety regime established by the protocol is environmentally responsible, scientifically based and analytically sound, and will not unduly affect research and trade in beneficial biotechnology products. This meeting will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on January 8, 1999 in room 1107, Department of State, 2201 C Street Northwest, Washington, DC. Attendees should use the entrance at C Street and should provide Ms. Jean Bell (202–647–2418) with their date of birth and social security number by January 6. Attendees should bring picture identification. Participants who wish to make statements and those who cannot attend are invited to fax comments to John Tuminaro at 202 736–7351.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, contact Mr. John Tuminaro, United States Department of State, OES/ETC, Room 4333, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520. Phone 202–647–2418; fax 202–736–7351. Further information regarding the negotiations, including the draft protocol text, can be obtained from the Convention on Biological Diversity website [www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The United States, through an interagency working group chaired by the Department of State, is engaged in negotiations under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that will result in an international protocol governing the transboundary movement of living modified organisms, and potentially products derived from them, that are developed using modern biotechnology. Negotiations on the protocol are scheduled to conclude with a sixth meeting in Cartagena, Colombia February 14–19, 1999. A special session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD will be held in Cartagena February 22–23 to approve the agreement as a protocol to the CBD.

Although not a party to the CBD, the United States has been permitted to participate in the protocol negotiations under the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group set up by the CBD COP to undertake the negotiations of the biosafety agreement. Veit Koester of Denmark chairs the Ad Hoc Working Group.

At the core of protocol will be an advance informed agreement procedure

(AIA). The AIA would include notice and consent requirements that must be fulfilled before genetically modified organisms can be exported from one country to another. Our experience has demonstrated to us that the risks to biological diversity presented by genetically modified organisms are limited and are not significantly different in kind from those posed by traditionally developed organisms. With this approach, the U.S. has worked consistently bilaterally and multilaterally to ensure that the regime established by the protocol will be environmentally responsible, scientifically based and analytically sound, and will not unduly affect research and trade in beneficial biotechnology products. Although the original mandate of the negotiations was limited to the transboundary movement of living modified organisms, a number of governments have expressed a desire to expand this scope to include trade in products derived from living modified organisms.

The Ad Hoc Working Group has met five times. The first two meetings involved broad descriptions of positions. The third meeting worked to produce a consolidated text of all options proposed on every issue. The fourth and fifth meetings resulted in a streamlined text and the reduction of options on the major issues. The sixth and final meeting is expected to result in a completed protocol. The Department of State has discussed the Biosafety Protocol with interested members of the public prior to and throughout the negotiation process.

Dated: December 4, 1998.

**Stephanie J. Caswell,**

*Acting Director, Office of Ecology and Terrestrial Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

[Summary Notice No. PE–98–25]

#### Petitions for Exemption; Summary of Petitions Received; Dispositions of Petitions Issued

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

**ACTION:** Notice of petitions for exemption received and of dispositions of prior petitions.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to FAA's rulemaking provisions governing the application,

processing, and disposition of petitions for exemption (14 CFR Part 11), this notice contains a summary of certain petitions seeking relief from specified requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Chapter I), dispositions of certain petitions previously received, and corrections. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public's awareness of, and participation in, this aspect of FAA's regulatory activities. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of any petition or its final disposition.

**DATES:** Comments on petitions received must identify the petition docket number involved and must be received on or before December 31, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments on any petition in triplicate to: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the Chief Counsel, Attn: Rule docket (AGC–200), Petition Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20591.

Comments may also be sent electronically to the following interest address: 9–NPRM–CMTS@faa.gov.

The petition, any comments received, and a copy of any final disposition are filed in the assigned regulatory docket and are available for examination in the Rules Docket (AGC–200), Room 915G, FAA Headquarters Building (FOB 10A), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20591; telephone (202) 267–3132.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brenda Eichelberger (202) 267–7470 or Terry Stubblefield (202) 267–7624, Office of Rulemaking (ARM–1), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

This notice is published pursuant to paragraphs (c), (e), and (g) of § 11.27 of Part 11 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Part 11).

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 10, 1998.

**Donald P. Byrne,**

*Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations.*

#### Petitions for Exemption

*Docket No.:* 29306.

*Petitioner:* Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation.

*Sections of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 61.57 (a) and (b).

*Description of Relief Sought/Disposition:* To allow Gulfstream pilots employed as crewmembers to use Gulfstream GII, GIII, GIV, or GV aircraft or a level B, C, or D simulator to meet the recent takeoff and landing flight experience requirement.

*Docket No.*: 28927.

*Petitioner*: Arctic Air Alaska, Inc.

*Sections of the FAR Affected*: 14 CFR 135.203.

*Description of Relief Sought*:

*Disposition*: To permit Arctic Air Alaska, Inc. to conduct survey flights in remote areas at an altitude of less than 500 feet above ground level.

*Docket No.*: 29259.

*Petitioner*: Continental Airlines, Inc.

*Sections of the FAR Affected*: 14 CFR 119.67(c)(1).

*Description of Relief Sought*:

*Disposition*: To permit Mr. Mark James Moran to serve as the director of maintenance at Continental without holding a mechanic certificate with airframe and powerplant ratings.

*Docket No.*: 29331.

*Petitioner*: Corporate Wings.

*Sections of the FAR Affected*: 14 CFR 135.299(a).

*Description of Relief Sought*:

*Disposition*: To permit Corporate Wings pilots to accomplish a line operational evaluation in a Level C or Level D flight simulator in lieu of a line check in an aircraft.

*Docket No.*: 29282.

*Petitioner*: The Boeing Company.

*Sections of the FAR Affected*: 14 CFR 25.785(d), 25.807(c)(1), 25.857(e), and 25.1447(c)(1).

*Description of Relief Sought*:

*Disposition*: To allow carriage of up to four supernumeraries forward of a rigid cargo barrier (or two supernumeraries forward of a 9g crash net), on Boeing MDC Model MD-10 freighter airplanes with Class E cargo compartments.

*Docket No.*: 29409.

*Petitioner*: Bombardier Inc.

*Sections of the FAR Affected*: 14 CFR 25.1435(b)(1).

*Description of Relief Sought*:

*Disposition*: To permit type certification of the DHC-8 Series 400 in performing hydraulic system tests, using the alternate method in NPRM 96-6, proposal 12.

*Docket No.*: 29348.

*Petitioner*: Boeing Commercial Airplane Group.

*Sections of the FAR Affected*: 14 CFR 25.1435(b)(1).

*Description of Relief Sought*:

*Disposition*: To permit partial exemption from the requirements for the hydraulic power system on the Boeing Model 767-400ER airplane, a derivative of the Model 767-200, by a combination of testing to 3400 +0/-100 psig and applicable similarity to the 767-200, which was tested to 4500 psig.

#### Disposition of Petitions

*Docket No.*: 29175.

*Petitioner*: Associated Air Center.

*Sections of the FAR Affected*: 14 CFR 25.813(e).

*Description of Relief Sought*:

*Disposition*: To permit installation of interior doors between passenger compartments, on a Boeing 737-300 airplane.

*Denial, December 2, 1998, Exemption No. 6846*

[FR Doc. 98-33296 Filed 12-15-98; 8:45 am]

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## 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 January 7, 1999, starting at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, Inc., 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Macintosh and Air Transport Association Conference Rooms, Washington DC 20036.

The agenda will include: (1) Welcome and Introductions; (2) Review and Approve Summary of September 28, 1998, meeting; (3) Consider/Approve: a. Final Draft, RTCA Report on the Role of the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) in Supporting Airport Surface Operations, RTCA Paper No. 219-98/PMC-029, prepared by SC-159; (4) Action Item Review: *Special Committees*: a. Action Item 98-17 for SC-165, Aeronautical Mobile Satellite Service; b. Action Item 98-18 for SC-192, National Airspace Review; c. Action Item 98-19 for SC-189, Air Traffic Services Safety & Interoperability Requirements. *Program Management Committee*: d. Action Item 98-15, Discuss Position Papers for defining economic benefit in RTCA Documents; e. Action Item 98-20, Development of a plan for the coordination of user input in the FAA's ATS Requirements Process; f. Action Item 98-21, Coordination with the RTCA Policy Board on an activity to address turbulence mitigation; (5) Discussion: a. Proposed product list and publication methodology from SC-190, Application Guidelines for DO-178B. b. Proposed termination of SC-169 and a new Special Committee for Flight Information Services Communications functions; (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 December 10, 1998.

**Janice L. Peters,**

*Designated Official.*

[FR Doc. 98-33226 Filed 12-15-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Notice of Intent To Rule on Application To Impose and Use a Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) at Modesto City-County Airport—Harry Sham Field, Modesto, CA

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

**ACTION**: Notice of Intent to Rule on Application.

**SUMMARY**: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to impose and use a PFC at Modesto City-County Airport—Harry Sham Field under the provisions of the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 (Title IX of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990) (Public Law 101-508) and Part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Part 158).

**DATES**: Comments must be received on or before January 15, 1999.

**ADDRESSES**: Comments on this application may be mailed or delivered in triplicate to the FAA at the following address: Federal Aviation Administration, Airports Division, 15000 Aviation Blvd., Lawndale, CA 90261, or San Francisco Airports District Office, 831 Mitten Road, Room 210, Burlingame, CA 94010-1303.

In addition, one copy of any comments submitted to the FAA must be mailed or delivered to Mr. Howard L. Cook, Airport Manager of the Modesto City-County Airport—Harry Sham Field, at the following address: 617 Airport Way, Modesto, CA 95354. Air carriers and foreign air carriers may submit copies of written comments previously provided to the city of Modesto under section 158.23 of part 158.