

Committee (15 CFR part 2003), the Chairman of the TPSC invites the written comments and/or oral testimony of interested parties in public hearings on the possible market access commitments along with other issues for negotiation or further work in the WTO, as described above. Parties should not resubmit submissions presented in response to the August 1998 FR notice.

4. Requests To Participate in Public Hearings

Hearings will be held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, May 19–21, in Washington, D.C.; Monday and Tuesday, June 7 and 8 in Chicago, IL; Thursday and Friday, June 10 and 11 in Atlanta, GA; Monday and Tuesday, June 21 and 22 in Los Angeles, CA; and Thursday and Friday, June 24 and 25 in Dallas, TX. The number of days for each hearing may change depending on the volume of requests to testify. The time and location of the hearings will be announced at a later date.

Parties wishing to testify orally at the hearings must provide written notification or their intention by Wednesday, May 5, 1999 to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room 122, 600 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508. The notification should include: (1) The specific hearing to be attended; (2) name of the person presenting the testimony, their address and telephone number; and (3) a brief summary of their presentation, including the product(s), with HTSUS numbers, and/or other subjects to be discussed.

Those parties presenting oral testimony must also submit a written brief, in 20 copies, by noon, Wednesday, May 12, 1999. Remarks at the hearing should be limited to no more than five minutes to allow for possible questions from the Chairman and the interagency panel. Participants should provide thirty typed copies of their oral statement at the time of the hearings. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover page (or letter) and succeeding pages. Such submissions must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary thereof.

5. Written Comments

Those persons not wishing to participate in the hearings may submit written comments, in twenty typed copies, no later than noon, Wednesday, May 26, 1999 to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representatives, Room 122, 600 Seventeenth Street, NW,

Washington, DC 20508. Comments should state clearly the position taken and should describe with particularity the evidence supporting that position. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover page (or letter) and succeeding pages. Such submissions must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary thereof.

Nonconfidential submissions will be available for public inspection at the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling Brenda Webb at (202) 395–6186. The Reading room is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Frederick L. Montgomery,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.
[FR Doc. 99–9288 Filed 4–13–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3901–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA Special Committee 172; Future Air-Ground Communications in the VHF Aeronautical Data Band (118–137 MHz)

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 Special Committee 172 meeting to be held May 4–7, 1999, starting at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC 20036.

The agenda will be as follows:
Tuesday, May 4: (1) Plenary Convenes at 9:00 a.m. for 30 minutes; (2) Introductory Remarks; (3) Review and Approval of the Agenda. (9:30 a.m.) (4) Working Group (WG)–2, VHF Data Radio Signal-in-Space Minimum Aviation System Performance Standards, continue work on VDL Mode 3. Wednesday, May 5: (a.m.) (5) WG–2 continues work on VDL Mode 3; (p.m.) (6) WG–3, Review of VHF Digital Radio Minimum Operational Performance Standards Document progress and furtherance of work. Thursday, May 6: Plenary Reconvenes at 9:00 a.m.: (7) Review Summary Minutes of Previous Plenary of SC–172; (8) Reports from WG–2 and WG–3 on Activities; (9) Report on ICAO Aeronautical Mobile Communications Panel 6; (10) EUROCAE WG–47 Report and discuss schedule for further work with WG–3; (10) Review Issues List and Address Future Work; (11) Other Business; (12)

Dates and Places of Future Meetings; (p.m.) (13) WG–13 continues. Friday, May 7: (14) WG's Continue as Required.

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 April 8, 1999.

Janice L. Peters,
Designated Official.
[FR Doc. 99–9300 Filed 4–13–99; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–13–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following information collection was published on November 5, 1998 [63 FR 59837].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before May 14, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nelda Bravo, LTAP Program Manager, (202) 366–9633, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Local Technical Assistance Program Extent of Coverage

Type of Request: Approval of a new information collection.

Affected Public: Employees of local and tribal government transportation providers.

Abstract: The Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) provides for training, technology transfer and technical assistance to local and tribal government transportation providers. This information collection will be in the form of a survey that will document the extent of coverage of the LTAP and provide a baseline from which to measure the Program's progress in expanding that coverage between now and the year 2002. The LTAP has established a network of 57 technology transfer centers at universities and state departments of transportation for the purpose of improving the skills and knowledge of local and tribal transportation providers through training, technical assistance and technology transfer. The LTAP Strategic Plan, adopted in 1997, calls for increasing usage of the program to 75 percent of local and tribal governments by the year 2002. Information is needed to document the extent to which local and tribal transportation agencies recognize, utilize, and are satisfied with the services provided by their LTAP Centers. The information will establish the baseline from which progress towards the goal of increasing coverage to 75 percent of all local and tribal transportation agencies will be measured.

The information will be collected through a mail survey. Respondents will be asked to complete a brief, standardized questionnaire asking if employees of their agency are aware of the existence of their local or tribal LTAP Center, have read its newsletter, attended training sessions or utilized other technology transfer services provided by the Center within the past year, and their satisfaction with those services. Information will be collected from a simple random sample of 6,500 respondents from local and tribal governments in the U.S.

The results of the survey will be retained by the Federal Highway Administration for comparison with the results of a subsequent collection in the year 2002. The results of the survey will also be presented in a report for dissemination to LTAP partners, including national associations, state departments of transportation, LTAP centers, and local and tribal governments.

Estimated Burden: 20 minutes, per respondent, to read and respond to the mail survey. 367 total estimated annual burden hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, within 30 days, to the Office of Information and

Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: DOT Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication of this Notice.

Issued on: April 9, 1999.

Michael J. Vecchietti,

Director, Office of Information and Management Services.

[FR Doc. 99-9304 Filed 4-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Inspection Requirement for Richmond-Built Tank Car Tanks Originally Equipped with "Foam-In-Place" Insulation

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of inspection requirement.

SUMMARY: This document publishes the text of a letter/notice sent by FRA to owners of record of tank cars originally built under a series of Certificates of Construction during the period from January 1, 1972, through December 31, 1982, and originally built with foam-in-place insulation and without a protective tank shell exterior coating, requiring inspections of such cars for listed unsafe conditions. The letter/notice was mailed individually to owners of record of the affected cars and is published in the **Federal Register** to provide notice to current and subsequent owners of the cars in the event that ownership of a car has been transferred, or is subsequently transferred, from the owner of record to another entity.

DATES: Inspections required under the notice must be completed on or before April 16, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward W. Pritchard (telephone 202-

493-6247), Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance, or Thomas A. Phemister (telephone 202-493-6050), Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 21, 1995, the Research and Special Programs Administration published a final rule in Dockets HM 175a and 201, Crashworthiness Protection Requirements for Tank Cars; this rule was a comprehensive revision of the requirements for building railroad tank cars and for inspecting and maintaining them in hazardous materials service. The requirements for inspecting and testing specification tank cars are stated at 49 CFR 180.509; that rule states the "Conditions requiring inspection and test of tank cars" are as follows:

Without regard to any other periodic inspection and test requirement, a tank car must have an appropriate inspection and test according to the type of defect and the type of maintenance or repair performed if:

(1) The tank car shows evidence of abrasion, corrosion, cracks, dents, distortions, defects in welds, or any other condition that makes the tank car unsafe for transportation. * * *

(2) The tank car was in an accident and damaged to an extent that may adversely affect its capability to retain its contents.

(3) The tank bears evidence of damage caused by fire.

(4) The Associate Administrator for Safety, FRA, requires it based on the existence of probable cause that a tank car or a class or design of tank cars may be in an unsafe operating condition. (49 CFR 180.509(b))

Acting on the authority granted in this regulation, on September 9, 1998, FRA's Associate Administrator for Safety issued a requirement for the inspection of the outer shell of certain cars originally built between January 1, 1972, and December 31, 1982, with foam-in-place insulation and without a protective tank shell coating. The letter was mailed directly to each owner of record of every car meeting the defining characteristics, but FRA has learned that clerical errors in addressing the letters may have delayed or misdirected their delivery. Accordingly, the date listed above in this notice, under the heading **DATES**, extends the period within which inspections and tests must be completed. The letter is republished here in the event that ownership of a car has been transferred, or is subsequently transferred, from the owner of record to another entity. The text of the letter follows: