

provide the required enabling technology for the Federal Railroad Administration's Positive Train Control initiative, and will benefit the Federal Highway Administration's Intelligent Transportation Systems, precision farming, weather forecasting, survey, and other applications. NDGPS sites may be identified by one or more of the methods described in paragraph c.1-3 of this notice.

c. *System Identification/Notifications:* Occasionally, Maritime and Nationwide DGPS signals may not meet the established service requirements of accuracy, integrity and coverage. When such a condition occurs, one or more of the following notifications are made:

(1) Through Coast Guard Broadcast Notice to Mariners for those sites with maritime coverage. The processes to notify terrestrial (NDGPS) users have not been defined. Until such time as the process for those notices is developed, concerned users are encouraged to use the resources in (2).

(2) By the Navigation Information Center at (703) 313-5900 or <http://www.navcen.uscg.mil>.

(3) By a type 16 informational message transmitted by the site.

(4) By automatic transmission of "DO NOT USE" values, or Unmonitored/Unhealthy health codes embedded in the standardized GPS correction messages.

d. *Equipment.* The following equipment is capable of receiving and applying broadcast station DGPS correction messages:

1. A GPS receiver that has the ability to accept differential correction messages that comply with the BROADCAST STANDARD FOR THE USCG DGPS NAVIGATION SERVICE, COMDTINST M16577.1.

2. A differential beacon receiver designed to receive differential correction messages that comply with the BROADCAST STANDARD FOR THE USCG DGPS NAVIGATION SERVICE, COMDTINST M16577.1.

These two pieces of equipment are often integrated into a single unit. Users should note that the quality of equipment selected will have an effect on their ability to receive the differential transmissions, and on the final navigational accuracy achieved after these corrections are applied in the GPS receiver. Appropriate authority will promulgate specific standards.

Further international maritime DGPS signal standards are contained in the International Telecommunications Union document: ITU-R M.823. Maritime GPS/DGPS receiver specifications and minimum performance standards are prepared by

the International Maritime Organization's International Electrotechnical Committee. The GPS receiver specifications are contained in IEC-61108-1; the maritime DGPS receiver specifications are still under development, the draft specifications are contained in document IEC-61108-4.

Dated: May 14, 1999.

Ernest R. Riutta,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Operations.

[FR Doc. 99-13238 Filed 5-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Airworthiness and Operational Approval of Digital Flight Data Recorder Systems

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of availability for public comment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the availability of and requests comments on an advisory circular (AC) that provides guidance on design, installation, and continued airworthiness of Digital Flight Data Recorder Systems (DFDRS). The AC applies to applicants for type certificates and supplemental type certificates for aircraft that are required to have a digital flight data recorder installed. It also applies to operators of those aircraft. Specifically, the AC provides guidance for design approval, schedule of compliance, and post-installation actions, including functional and operational checks, demonstrations, documentation and maintenance program changes.

DATES: Comments submitted must be received on or before June 25, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments on the proposed advisory circular to: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aircraft Certification Service, Aircraft Engineering Division, Avionic Systems Branch, AIR-130, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591. Or deliver comments to: Federal Aviation Administration, Room 815, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michelle Swearingen, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Aircraft Certification Service, Aircraft Engineering Division, Avionic Systems Branch, AIR-130, 800 Independence

Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591. Telephone: (202) 267-3817, FAX: (202) 493-5173.

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed advisory circular listed in this notice by submitting such written data, views, or arguments, as they desire, to the specified address. Comments received on the proposed advisory circular may be examined, before and after the comment closing date, in Room 815, FAA Headquarters Building (FOB-10A), 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591, weekdays except Federal holidays, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. All communications received on or before the closing date for comments specified above will be considered by the Director of the Aircraft Certification Service before issuing the final AC.

Background

AC 20-DFDRS, Airworthiness and Operational Approval of Digital Flight Data Recorder Systems, provides guidance on design, installation, and continued airworthiness of DFDRS. On July 17, 1997, the FAA revised 14 CFR parts 121, 125, 129, and 135 to require that certain aircraft be equipped to accommodate additional flight data recorder parameters. The purpose of this revision was to provide additional information to enable the National Transportation Safety Board to conduct more thorough investigations of accidents and incidents. The additional information would also be available to manufacturers and operators to detect and evaluate trends that may be useful in determining modifications or other actions to avoid accidents and incidents. The FAA determined that an AC should be published to include guidance for type certificate and supplemental type certificate applicants as well as certificate holders operating under 143 CFR Parts 121, 125, 129, and 135. The AC would address the type certification requirements of parts 21, 23, 25, 27, and 29 and the operating requirements of parts 121, 125, 129 or 135, emphasizing the changes introduced on July 17, 1997.

The AC is effective on publication. Should the FAA determine that changes are required as a result of comments received, a revised AC will be published.

How To Obtain Copies

A copy of the proposed AC 20-DFDRS may be obtained via Internet (<http://www.faa.gov/avr/air/airhome.htm>) or on request from the

office listed under "For Further Information Contact."

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 19, 1999.

James C. Jones,

*Manager, Aircraft Engineering Division,
Aircraft Certification Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-13232 Filed 5-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Adequacy of Truck Parking Facilities; Notice of Conference

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of conference.

SUMMARY: This notice is an invitation to participate in a 1½ day commercial truck Rest Area Forum, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia. The forum will address the issue of how best to improve the availability and safety of commercial vehicle parking along the Nation's highways.

DATES: The Rest Area Forum will be held on June 29 and 30, 1999. The first day's session will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. The second day will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at approximately 2 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The forum will be held at the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel, in midtown Atlanta, Georgia (Telephone: (404) 892-6000. A block of rooms has been reserved until May 28, 1999 under "FHWA Rest Area Forum."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the forum and to obtain registration materials, contact Dr. Patricia Hamilton, NATEK Inc., 4200-G Technology Court, Chantilly, VA 20151. E-mail: pat@natekinc.com. Telephone: (703) 818-7070, extension 3028. FAX: (703) 818-0165. To register on-line: <http://www.natekinc.com/>. Questions about the Forum may also be addressed to Mr. Robert Davis, Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards (HMCS-30), Office of Motor Carrier and Highway Safety, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; Telephone: (202) 366-2997; FAX: (202) 366-8842; E-mail: robert.davis@fhwa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may

reach the **Federal Register's** home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's database at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Background

On June 29 and 30, 1999, in Atlanta, Georgia, the Office of Motor Carrier and Highway Safety of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will host a 1½ day Rest Area Forum for representatives of State enforcement and department of transportation officials, motor carriers, private truck stop operators, commercial drivers, safety advocates, and other interested parties. During the Forum, attendees will be asked to: (1) Review various issues associated with the current provision, by both public and private parties, of parking spaces for commercial drivers; (2) describe and document "success stories" and "best practices" being employed to alleviate shortages of parking spaces and enhance their safety during day and nighttime hours; (3) consider effective means to provide "real-time" information to commercial drivers about available parking spaces at privately owned truck stops or public rest areas; (4) identify appropriate actions, initiatives, and pilot efforts that could be undertaken by both public and private sources to expand the number of safe, accessible parking spaces across the United States; and (5) identify any needed legislative initiatives, including the provision of resources, that would be helpful in facilitating the improvement of commercial vehicle parking.

The impetus for the Rest Area Forum is taken from the requirements of section 4027, "Study of Adequacy of Parking Facilities", of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Pub.L. 105-178, 112 Stat.107), which calls upon the Secretary of Transportation to "conduct a study to determine the location and quantity of parking facilities at commercial truck stops and travel plazas and public rest areas that could be used by motor carriers to comply with Federal hours of service rules." According to section 4027, the study "shall include an inventory of current facilities serving the National Highway System, analyze where shortages exist or are projected to exist, and propose a plan to reduce the shortages."

In considering this requirement, the FHWA has determined that a first step in satisfying it should include a national work session with public and private sector officials experienced in dealing with this issue, who have researched it, or who want to contribute to its resolution. The FHWA believes that the feedback that would be obtained from

the forum would help focus the FHWA's response to the section 4027 effort, while also providing for an healthy exchange of ideas and recommendations among the participants.

Accordingly, the Rest Area Forum will provide attendees with the opportunity to directly contribute to the dialogue on how best to improve the availability and safety of commercial vehicle parking along the Nation's highways. Aside from introductory and concluding plenary sessions, most of the 1½ day Forum will be conducted in break-out sessions, during which the groups will be asked to consider a variety of issues and contribute their experiences and perspectives. Attendees will be asked to contribute their experiences and recommendations through an interactive discussion with their peers; formal presentations will not be required or solicited.

Ultimately, the discussions and recommendations of these collective sessions will be used to construct a final Forum report that will: (1) Offer a "best practices" guide; (2) identify for Federal, State and private sector customers how best they may proceed to influence and bring about better, more available, and safer commercial vehicle parking; and (3) provide the FHWA with needed information about challenges and workable solutions which can be used to both satisfy the immediate requirement of Section 4027 and ensure that the Congress and other interested parties are kept informed about progress in this area.

Due to limited seating, early registration is encouraged. For those registering by May 28, the registration fee is \$50. Those registering after May 28 or at the door will be charged \$75.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 U.S.C. 31136 and 31502; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on May 12, 1999.

Dwight A. Horne,

*Director, Office of Highway Safety
Infrastructure, Federal Highway
Administration.*

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