

With regard to Ford's application for an exemption to the fuel tank marking and certification requirements (§§ 393.67(f)(2) and (f)(3)(ii)), the FHWA agrees with Ford that there is no readily apparent adverse impact on safety associated with the absence of the required markings. Although the FHWA considers marking and certification important for helping enforcement officials and motor carriers quickly distinguish between fuel tanks that are certified as meeting the FHWA's requirements and those that are not, the FHWA does not believe the operators of the Ford Econoline vehicles should be penalized because the fuel tanks are not marked and certified in accordance with § 393.67.

The absence of certification labeling resulted in certain State enforcement officials prohibiting the operation of small buses built on Ford Econoline platforms. The State officials and motor carriers operating those vehicles discussed the issue with Ford and requested assistance in determining whether the fuel tanks met the requirements of § 393.67. Prior to notification from State enforcement officials and motor carriers, Ford was unaware that customers subject to the FMCSRs are required to have fuel tanks that meet the FHWA's requirements, including marking. As a vehicle manufacturer, Ford is fully aware of all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards issued and enforced by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the agency in the U.S. Department of Transportation responsible for regulating motor vehicle and equipment manufacturers. Ford is less familiar with the equipment requirements of the FHWA, the agency responsible for regulating motor carriers.

Ford has met with FHWA staff to discuss the agency's requirements and conducted certain tests to determine whether its fuel tanks satisfy § 393.67. It was determined that the tanks do not meet the fill pipe requirements, and do not have the necessary certification. An exemption to the certification is needed because Ford cannot misrepresent its product by certifying compliance with all applicable provisions in § 393.67 while its fill pipe designs allow only 17 gallons of gasoline fuel per minute to flow into the fuel tank. The agency believes granting exemptions for the affected motor carriers is the most effective way to resolve the problem while ensuring highway safety.

Terms and Conditions for the Exemption

The FHWA would provide exemptions to §§ 393.67(c)(7)(ii), 393.67(f)(2), and 393.67(f)(3)(ii) for motor carriers operating Ford Econoline-based vehicles. The exemption would be valid for two years from the date of approval, unless revoked earlier by the FHWA. Ford, or any of the affected motor carriers, may apply to the FHWA for a renewal. The exemption would preempt inconsistent State or local requirements applicable to interstate commerce.

The motor carriers operating these vehicles would not be required to maintain documentation concerning the exemption because the vehicles and fuel tanks have markings that would enable enforcement officials to identify them. The vehicles covered by the exemptions can be identified by their vehicle identification numbers (VINs). The VINs contain E30, E37, E39, E40, or E47 codes in the fifth, sixth, and seventh positions. The fuel tanks are marked with Ford part numbers F3UA-9002-G*, F3UA-9002-H*, F4UA-9002-V*, F4UA-9002-X*, F5UA-9002-V*, F5UA-9002-X*, F6UA-9002-Y*, F6UA-9002-Z*, F7UA-9002-C*, and F7UA-9002D* where the asterisk (*) represents a "wild card" character (any character of the alphabet). The FHWA believes this information is sufficient and requests public comment.

Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the FHWA is requesting public comment from all interested persons on the exemption applications from Ford. All comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated at the beginning of this notice will be considered and will be available for examination in the docket at the location listed under the address section of this notice. Comments received after the comment closing date will be filed in the public docket and will be considered to the extent practicable, but the FHWA may grant the exemptions at any time after the close of the comment period. In addition to late comments, the FHWA will also continue to file, in the public docket, relevant information that becomes available after the comment closing date. Interested persons should continue to examine the public docket for new material.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 31136 and 31315; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: August 2, 1999.

Kenneth R. Wykle,

Federal Highway Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-1999-6057]

Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) intentions to request approval for three years of an existing information collection entitled "Shipbuilding Orderbook and Shipyard Employment."

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before October 12, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel Seidman, Office of Ship Construction, Maritime Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8311, Washington, D.C. 20590, telephone number—202-366-1888. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Shipbuilding Orderbook and Shipyard Employment.

Type of Request: Approval of an existing information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0029.

Form Number: MA-832.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from the date of approval.

Summary of Collection of Information: In accordance with Sections 210 and 211 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, this collection of information will help facilitate MARAD's efforts to monitor the shipbuilding industry's health and current employment, facility utilization, and scheduling practices. Additionally, this data will facilitate the projection of future employment needs and facility availability for future shipbuilding work.

Need and Use of the Information: The collection of information is necessary in order for MARAD to perform and carry out its duties required by section 210 and 211 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936.

Description of Respondents: U.S. Shipyards which agree to complete the information and return it to the MARAD.

Annual Responses: 800 responses.

Annual Burden: 400 hours.

Comments: Signed written comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Specifically, address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the function of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., et. Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Dated: August 4, 1999.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-20484 Filed 8-9-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

Office of Hazardous Materials Safety; Notice of Delays in Processing of Exemption Applications

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: List of applications delayed more than 180 days.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5117(c), RSPA is publishing the following list of exemption applications that have been in process for 180 days or more. The reason(s) for delay and the expected completion date for action on each application is provided in association with each identified application.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J. Suzanne Hedgepeth, Director, Office of

Hazardous Materials, Exemptions and Approvals, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4535.

Key to "Reasons for Delay"

1. Awaiting additional information from applicant
2. Extensive public comment under review
3. Application is technically very complex and is of significant impact or precedent-setting and requires extensive analysis
4. Staff review delayed by other priority tissues or volume of exemption applications

Meaning of Application Number Suffixes

- N—New application
- M—Modification request.
- PM—Party to application with the modification request

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 3, 1999.

J. Suzanne Hedgepeth,

Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Exemption and Approval.

NEW EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

Application No.	Applicant	Reason for delay	Estimated date of completion
11699-N	GEO Specialty Chemicals, Bastrop, LA	4	08/31/1999
11767-N	Ausimont USA, Inc., Thorofare, NJ	4	08/31/1999
11817-N	FIBA Technologies, Inc., Westboro, MA	1, 4	08/31/1999
11862-N	The BOC Group, Murray Hill, NJ	4	08/31/1999
11894-N	Quicksilver Fiberglass Manufacturing Ltd., Strome, Alberta, CN	4	08/31/1999
11927-N	Alaska Marine Lines, Inc., Seattle, WA	4	08/31/1999
12020-N	Rhone-Poulenc, Inc., Shelton, CT	4	08/31/1999
12029-N	NACO Technologies, Lombard, IL	4	08/31/1999
12032-N	Physical Acoustics Quality Services, Lawrenceville, NJ	4	08/31/1999
12033-N	PPG Industries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA	4	08/31/1999
12051-N	General American Transportation Corporation, Chicago, IL	4	08/31/1999
12064-N	Occident Chemical Corp., Webster, TX	4	08/31/1999
12071-N	Pennwalt India Limited, Worli, Mumbai, IN	4	08/31/1999
12106-N	Air Liquide America Corporation, Houston, TX	4	08/31/1999
12123-N	Eastman Chemical Co., Kingsport, TN	4	08/31/1999
12125-N	Mayo Foundation, Rochester, MN	4	08/31/1999
12126-N	LaRoche Industries Inc., Atlanta, GA	4	08/31/1999
12142-N	Aristech Chemical Corp., Pittsburgh, PA	4	08/31/1999
12144-N	Sea-Land Service, Inc., Charlotte, NC	4	08/31/1999
12146-N	Luxfer Gas Cylinders, Riverside, CA	4	08/31/1999
12148-N	Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, NY	4	08/31/1999
12156-N	Columbia Falls Aluminum Co., Columbia Falls, MT	4	08/31/1999
12158-N	Hickson Corporation, Conley, GA	4	08/31/1999
12164-N	Rhodia Inc., Shelton, CT	4	08/31/1999
12166-N	Dow Corning Corp., Midland, MI	4	08/31/1999
12171-N	Arichell Technologies, Inc., West Newton, MA	4	08/31/1999
12173-N	ARCO Alaska, Inc., Anchorage, AK	4	08/31/1999
12181-N	Aristech, Pittsburgh, PA	4	08/31/1999
12194-N	Air Products & Chemicals, Inc., Allentown, PA	4	08/31/1999
12203-N	Celanese Ltd., Dallas, TX	4	08/31/1999
12204-N	Express Service & Lockheed Martin, Princeton, NJ	1	08/31/1999
12205-N	Independent Chemical Corp., Glendale, NY	4	08/31/1999
12206-N	General Electric Silicones, Waterford, NY	4	08/31/1999