

The Prince William Sound Safety Fairway is described in 33 CFR 166.400. Most vessels operating in the area use the Prince William Sound Safety Fairway. The one exception is laden tankers chartered by British Petroleum departing from Cape Hinchinbrook. Instead of using the Hinchinbrook to Gulf Safety Fairway, these tankers use an alternate route to reduce the risk of an oil spill near the Copper River Flats and Delta.

What Data Did the Coast Guard Use to Help Conduct the Port Access Route Study?

We relied on data from a variety of sources. Two documents, the 1994 Disabled Tanker Towing Study and the 1996 Prince William Sound Risk Assessment, provided supporting data and analysis for the Port Access Routes Study. Copies of these studies are available from either of the persons listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. They are also available in the public docket at the address listed under the **ADDRESSES** section and electronically on the DMS website at <http://dms.dot.gov>. In addition, Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service Prince William Sound collected up-to-date vessel transit data to ensure data in the Prince William Sound Risk Assessment remained valid.

We also considered the 12 written comments we received from the public. The comments generally support the recommendations in the study.

Study Recommendations

The study recommends four changes to existing vessel routing and traffic management measures.

1. Remove the southern dogleg to provide a straight traffic lane between the Pilot Station and Cape Hinchinbrook

The study found that implementing this recommendation should reduce risk for vessels operating in the area. Removing the dogleg decreases the length of transit in Prince William Sound, reducing overall exposure time for vessels. It should also result in a smoother flow of traffic and reduce traffic congestion. In addition, if the dogleg were removed, the minimum distance from the center of the southbound traffic lane to Naked Island would increase from 6 nautical miles to 9 nautical miles, reducing the risk of drift groundings.

To implement this recommendation, the following coordinates would connect the TSS in central Prince William Sound:

Latitude	Longitude
60°49'29.4" N	146°58'11.6" W
60°20'35.3" N	146°48'10.5" W
60°20'36.0" N	146°54'18.7" W
60°49'06.3" N	147°04'11.5" W

Within the TSS, the Separation Zone would be connected by the following coordinates:

Latitude	Longitude
60°48'17.6" N	146°59'46.1" W
60°20'56.1" N	146°50'19.3" W
60°20'45.9" N	146°52'18.7" W
60°48'07.2" N	147°01'47.0" W

2. Establish a Precautionary Area at Bligh Reef Pilot Station

Implementing this recommendation should reduce risk for vessels operating in the area. Several vessels converge in this area, including ferries, cruise ships, and tankers. Navigation can sometimes be difficult in the area because of outflows from the Columbia Glacier. In addition, since the area offers little protection from the weather, vessels occasionally alter course to provide safe embarking and disembarking for pilots.

To implement the recommended Precautionary Area, the southbound traffic lane of the TSS within Valdez Arm would be widened to meet up with the Precautionary Area. The TSS would be modified to the following coordinates:

Latitude	Longitude
60°58'55.6" N	146°48'51.3" W
60°58'02.6" N	146°46'31.1" W
60°50'36.8" N	147°03'36.1" W
60°49'29.4" N	146°58'11.6" W

The recommended Precautionary Area would consist of a 1.5 nautical mile radius around the following position:

Latitude	Longitude
60°49'38" N	147°01'20" W

3. Establish a Precautionary Area southeast of Cape Hinchinbrook

Implementing this recommendation should reduce the potential for traffic congestion in this area. As discussed in the *Background and Purpose* section of this document, laden tankers chartered by British Petroleum departing from Cape Hinchinbrook do not follow the existing Prince William Sound Safety Fairway. Instead, the vessels use an alternate route to provide an extra measure of protection for the environmentally sensitive Copper River Flats Delta area. The recommended Precautionary Area would provide two distinct routes for departing and

returning vessels, improving vessel traffic management and safety.

The following coordinates would bind the recommended Precautionary Area:

Latitude	Longitude
60°20'35.3" N	146°48'10.5" W
60°12'40.1" N	146°40'25.9" W
60°11'00.7" N	146°28'39.0" W
60°05'28.2" N	146°00'00.6" W
60°00'48.6" N	146°03'31.7" W
60°05'26.1" N	146°27'34.9" W
59°51'47.8" N	146°37'30.4" W
59°53'31.1" N	146°46'50.2" W
60°07'45.6" N	146°36'14.6" W
60°11'30.7" N	146°46'38.1" W
60°20'36.0" N	146°54'18.7" W

4. Remove the Separation Zone within the Valdez Arm

Implementing this recommendation may improve safety in the area. Traffic in and out of the Valdez narrows is relatively light and is monitored by the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS). Due to ice conditions, the VTS often imposes "custom ice routing measures" which typically involve one way traffic requirements. During the study, vessel operators stated that they would like to have more access to the center of the waterway when there are no vessels on opposing courses. This option may reduce the risk of powered and drift groundings since vessels could stay as far off shoal water as possible and offer the vessel masters the flexibility to consider prevailing weather and ice conditions to identify the safest track for their vessels.

However, there are concerns that removing the Separation Zone may increase the risk of collisions in the area.

The Coast Guard will seek public comment on the recommended changes to the existing routing measures before making any submission to the International Maritime Organization.

Dated: August 6, 1999.

R.C. North,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

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BILLING CODE 4910-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Ch. VI

Office of Postsecondary Education; Review of Regulations Under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Outreach to customers and partners for advice and

recommendations on regulatory review for Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

SUMMARY: We solicit advice and recommendations from interested parties (our customers—such as students and borrowers, and our partners—such as guaranty agencies, lenders, and schools) regarding a review of the regulations for programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

DATES: You may submit comments in writing by September 30, 1999, to the addresses in this notice or at topic sessions and regional sessions we are holding in September. (See dates, times and locations of topic and regional sessions under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.)

ADDRESSES: Address all comments to Colleen McGinnis, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, ROB-3, Room 5102, Washington, DC 20202-5132. If you prefer to send your comments through the Internet, use the following address: ODS_regs@ed.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Colleen McGinnis, Telephone: (202) 708-7263. You may also obtain information on the Department's website at: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/ODS/regreview>

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternate format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to the contact person listed in the preceding paragraph.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On October 7, President Clinton signed into law Public Law 105-244, the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, (Amendments) amending the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). Section 498B of the HEA, as amended, requires that we review each regulation issued under title IV of the HEA that is in effect at the time of the review and that applies to the operations or activities of any participant in the programs assisted under title IV. The review will include a determination of whether the regulation is duplicative or no longer necessary. The review may also involve:

- An assurance of the uniformity of interpretation and application of the regulations under title IV.
- The establishment of a process for ensuring that eligibility and compliance issues, such as institutional audit,

program review, and recertification, are considered simultaneously.

- A determination of the extent to which unnecessary costs are imposed on institutions of higher education as a consequence of regulations prescribed for purposes of regulating industrial and commercial enterprises.

In addition, we will review and evaluate, in accordance with section 498B, the extent to which regulatory and statutory provisions may be improved, streamlined, or eliminated for institutions of higher education (other than institutions described in section 102(a)(1)(C) of the HEA) that have received less than \$200,000 in title IV funds in each of the last two award years.

We will then prepare a report to Congress based on the results of this review. To assist us in preparing the report for Congress, as required by section 498B, we are consulting with relevant participants in title IV programs. Through this notice, the topic sessions and regional sessions that we will conduct, and other contacts with these customers and partners, we will collect the information necessary to complete the report to Congress.

We have already conducted listening sessions relating to title IV of the HEA through the Office of Student Financial Assistance's (OSFA's) Customer Service Task Force (CSTF). In the 1998 Amendments, Congress made OSFA the first Performance-Based Organization in the Federal government. Congress further mandated that OSFA improve service to students and cut the overall cost of postsecondary financial assistance. To achieve this end, OSFA conducted over 200 listening sessions and received over 8,000 comments through the listening sessions and over the Internet. OSFA received comments from students, schools, financial institutions, and employees. Many of the comments concerned the title IV regulations and their impact on our customers and partners.

We also received numerous useful suggestions from members of the student financial aid community for improving current title IV regulations during negotiated rulemaking sessions held from January-June, 1999.

In addition to the work that the Department has already done, we will hold several more topic sessions and regional sessions. We will be holding four topic sessions in Washington D.C., and three additional regional sessions, one each in Atlanta, Chicago, and San Francisco, to solicit comments, advice, and recommendations on our title IV regulations, in accordance with section 498B.

We recognize that the timing of these sessions is difficult for some of our customers and partners because of the beginning of the new school year. Unfortunately, when combined with the time required to complete negotiated rulemaking, the statutory deadline for producing a report leaves us with no alternative. Please note, however, that you can submit comments even if you are unable to attend the topic or regional sessions, to Colleen McGinnis, at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice, or by e-mail to the internet address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Moreover, the process of reviewing regulations will not end with our report to Congress in October. We view this report as part of a continuing review and analysis of title IV regulations that will extend well beyond this report. If you are unable to provide comments at this time, there will be additional opportunities later this year, or next. Both the regional and listening sessions are intended to surface regulatory issues and identify regulatory sections in need of improvement. In addition, we would like to talk about an ongoing process for regulatory reform. The report will chronicle the issues identified at the sessions and outline the process for continuing our work on regulatory reform.

Specifically, we are interested in answers to the following five questions:

1. Are there any regulations that are duplicative or no longer necessary?
2. Are there any regulations that are not being interpreted and applied uniformly?
3. Are unnecessary burdens being placed on schools through the eligibility and compliance process? For example, is there a need to consider eligibility and compliance issues simultaneously?
4. Are unnecessary costs imposed on institutions of higher education by regulations that were designed to apply primarily to industrial and commercial enterprises?
5. Are there any regulations affecting public and private colleges and universities and proprietary schools that receive less than \$200,000 in title IV funds each year that could be improved, streamlined, or eliminated?

The Department is also engaged in a broader effort to reduce regulatory burdens while simultaneously assuring the effective administration of the title IV programs. This endeavor includes the recommendations of our customers and partners collected by the CSTF. In addition, to the extent time permits, this current review will also examine other ways in which our regulations could be improved.

In general, how can the Department's title IV regulations be revised to make them more effective? How can we reduce administrative burdens while still assuring the effective administration of the title IV programs? How can we improve the way we develop our regulations? Participants are welcome to address these issues either by attending the topic sessions, the regional sessions or by submitting written comments.

Topic Sessions

We are hosting four topic sessions in Washington, DC, in September. All four sessions are open to the public and will be held at the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202. The sessions are:

September 13, 1999; 8:30–12:30

Lender and Guaranty Agency Issues

September 13, 1999; 1:30–5:30

Loan Issues (FFEL, Direct Loan, and Perkins Loan Programs)

September 14, 1999; 8:30–12:30

Refunds, Program, and Student Eligibility Issues

September 14, 1999; 1:30–5:30

Institutional Eligibility Issues

Regional Sessions

We are also holding regional sessions in Atlanta, Chicago, and San Francisco. Individuals who wish to present comments at one of these regional sessions are encouraged to do so. It is likely that each participant choosing to make a statement will be limited to 5 minutes. Individuals interested in making oral statements will be able to sign up to make a statement beginning at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the session at the Department's regional session on-site registration table on a first-come, first-served basis. If additional time slots remain, individuals may be given additional time to speak. If no time slots remain, the Department has reserved one additional hour at the end of the day for people who were not able to register to speak. The amount of time available will depend upon the number of individuals who request reservations. Speakers may also submit written comments.

The Department has reserved a limited number of rooms at each of the following hotels at or below a special government per diem room rate. To reserve these rates, be certain to inform the hotel that you are attending the regional sessions with the Department of Education.

Dates, Times, and Locations of Regional Sessions

1. September 17, 1999, 9:00 a.m., Four Points Hotel Atlanta Perimeter, 1850 Cotillion Drive, Atlanta, GA. Call 1-770-394-5000 and ask for reservations. Sleeping room rate for September 16: \$89.00 plus taxes.

2. September 24, 1999, 9:00 a.m., The Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, 301 E. North Water Street, Chicago, Illinois. Call 1-312-464-1000, and ask for reservations. Sleeping room rate for September 23: \$89.00 plus taxes.

3. September 27, 1999, 9:00 a.m., Clarion Hotel San Francisco Airport, 401 Millbrae Avenue East, San Francisco, CA. Call 1-650-692-6363 and ask for reservations. Sleeping room rate for September 26 and 27: \$109.00 plus taxes.

In addition, for anyone unable to attend any of the sessions, the Department will also accept, and strongly encourages, written comments. You should send your comments to Colleen McGinnis at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice, or by e-mail to the internet address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities at the Listening Sessions

The listening session sites are accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you will need an auxiliary aid or service other than an interpreter to participate in the listening session (e.g., assistive listening device, or materials in an alternate format), notify the contact person listed in this notice at least two weeks before the scheduled listening session date. Although we will attempt to meet a request we receive after that date, we may not be able to make available the requested auxiliary aid or service because of insufficient time to arrange it.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following sites:

<http://ocfo.ed.gov/fedreg.htm>

http://ifap.ed.gov/csb_html/fedreg.htm

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/HEA/rulemaking/>

To use the PDF, you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader Program with Search, which is available free at the first of the previous sites. If you have questions about using the PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at (202) 512-1530.

Note: The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available on GPO Access at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>

Program Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1099c-2.

Dated: August 23, 1999.

Richard W. Riley,

Secretary of Education.

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POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 265

Release of Information

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document rescinds a proposal published on June 9, 1999, (64 FR 30929) to amend the Postal Service's regulations to allow the disclosure of certain information contained in PS Form 1583, Application for Delivery of Mail Through Agent. Under that proposed rule change, the recorded business name, address, and telephone number of the addressee using a Commercial Mail Receiving Agency (CMRA) private mailbox (PMB) for the purpose of doing or soliciting business with the public would be furnished to any person upon request without charge. The rule change would have been consistent with current postal policy applicable to post office boxholders.

As a result of public comment, discussed below, this document proposes a rule to preserve current postal policy that prohibits disclosure of information contained in PS Form 1583 except to federal, local, and state government agency requesters, including those engaged in law enforcement activities, or pursuant to subpoena or court order. In addition, this proposal would amend the Postal Service's current policy for disclosing information about post office boxholders contained in PS Form 1093, Application for Post Office Box or Caller Service. Under current policy, the recorded business name, address, and telephone number of the holder of a post office box used for doing or soliciting business with the public, or of any person applying for a box on behalf of a holder, are provided to any person. Under this proposed rule change, core disclosure policy for post office boxholder information will parallel that for PMB customers in that disclosure to