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**Dorothy W. Walker,**

*Federal Register Liaison.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

### Maritime Administration

[USCG 1998-3553]

### Marine Transportation System: Waterways, Ports, and Their Intermodal Connections

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, and Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard and the Maritime Administration announce the availability of the Report to Congress "An Assessment of the Marine Transportation System". A task force comprised of private and public members prepared the Report, which was mandated in the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998. The Report is available for your review and comment.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by the Docket Management Facility by November 8, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** To make sure your comments and related material are not entered more than once in the docket, please submit them by only one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility, (USCG 1998-3553), U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

(2) By hand delivery to room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251.

(4) Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. The comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401,

located on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building at the same address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also electronically access the public docket for this notice on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions on this notice, or the Marine Transportation System initiative, contact Ms. Margie Hegy, U.S. Coast Guard (G-MW), telephone 202-267-0415 or Mr. John Swank, Maritime Administration (MAR-240), telephone 202-366-5807. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Dorothy Walker, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Request for Comments

We encourage you to submit comments and related material on the Report. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this notice (USCG-1998-3553), and give the reasons for each comment. You may submit your comments and material by mail, hand delivery, fax, or electronic means to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**; but please submit your comments and material by only one means. If you submit them by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ × 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit them by mail and would like to know they reached the Facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

A copy of the Report is available for review in the docket and may be electronically accessed on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>. To request a printed copy of the Report, contact Ms. Joyce Short, telephone 202-267-6164, or Ms. Joann Spittle, telephone 202-366-4357.

#### Background

On November 13, 1998, the U.S. Congress directed, in Section 308 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998, that "The Secretary of Transportation, through the Coast Guard and the Maritime Administration, shall, in consultation with the National Ocean Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Corps of Engineers, and other interested Federal agencies and departments, establish a task force to assess the adequacy of the Nation's marine

transportation system (including ports, waterways, harbor approach channels, and their intermodal connections) to operate in a safe, efficient, secure, and environmentally sound manner."

The task force was to consider the capability of the MTS, the adequacy of the depth of channels and harbors, and the cost to the Federal government of accommodating projected increases in foreign and domestic traffic over the next 20 years. Evaluations of the Nation's capability to dispose of dredged materials and the future of the navigational aid system were additional components of this effort. This Report summarizes the results of the task force's assessment and constitutes the response to Congress.

The Report reflects a highly collaborative effort among public sector agencies, private sector organizations, and other stakeholders in the MTS. The process began with seven regional listening sessions in spring 1998, hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard, the Maritime Administration, and 12 other Federal agencies. The purpose of these sessions was to learn what users, stakeholders, and the public perceived to be the current state of the MTS and its future needs.

The input received at the regional listening sessions became the basis for a National Conference on the Marine Transportation System hosted by the Secretary of Transportation in November 1998. Executives from industry, labor, and government participated in this conference. Through breakout groups and plenary sessions, the participants addressed two overarching issues—the development of a shared national vision for the MTS and public and private sector coordination of MTS activities. Participants also addressed specific MTS issues concerning safety, competitiveness, infrastructure, security, and the environment.

After the National Conference, the Secretary established the Congressionally mandated MTS Task Force. The Task Force included MTS users and service providers, such as Federal agencies and departments, ports, commercial carriers, shippers, labor, recreational boaters, fishermen, environmental organizations, and other MTS stakeholders.

The Report is available for your review and comment. We request information from the general public and system users on the strategic areas of action recommended and how to accomplish them. Identification of sub-issues and relevant data or other information that will assist us in developing strategies and action plans is

also requested. In addition, information on relevant MTS activities that are ongoing or planned within the public or private sector is requested.

#### Next Steps

The Report is just another step in our process and is not intended to recommend absolute solutions. Comments received during the comment period will be considered by the Interagency Committee for the Marine Transportation System (ICMTS) as it begins the work to implement the recommendations. There is much work ahead for the public/private partnership that has emerged from this initiative.

**James M. Loy,**

*Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commandant.*

**Clyde J. Hart, Jr.,**

*Maritime Administrator.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

[Summary Notice No. PE-99-31]

#### 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 Ch. 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 September 30, 1999.

**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, DC 20591.

Comments may also be sent electronically to the following internet 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, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3132.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Cherie Jack (202) 267-7271 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, DC, on September 3, 1999.

**Donald P. Byrne,**

*Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations.*

#### Petitions for Exemption

*Docket No.:* 29583.

*Petitioner:* Dassault Aviation.

*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 25.785(b).

*Description of Relief Sought:* To allow installation of one or more side-facing divans on Falcon Model 2000 airplanes.

#### Dispositions of Petitions

*Docket No.:* 24541.

*Petitioner:* Boeing Commercial Airplane Group.

*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 91.611.

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To permit BCAG to conduct ferry flights with one engine inoperative on its Boeing 707, 720, 727, 747, DC-10, MD-10, and MD-11 series airplanes without obtaining a special ferry permit.

*GRANT:* 7/28/99, Exemption No. 4467G.

*Docket No.:* 28673.

*Petitioner:* EAA Aviation Foundation and Experimental Aircraft Association.

*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 91.315, 119.5(g), and 119.21(a).

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To permit EAA to operate its Boeing B-17 aircraft, which is certificated in the limited category, for the purpose of carrying its members for compensation or hire in its former military vintage airplane on local flights for educational and historical purposes. The exemption is further amended by (1) revising condition No. 13(c) to allow flight operations with a minimum flight visibility of not less than 3 statute miles and (2) revising condition No. 13(d) to

allow flight operations with a minimum ceiling of not less than 1500 feet AGL.

*GRANT:* 7/30/99, Exemption No. 6541B.

*Docket No.:* 28964.

*Petitioner:* Raytheon Aircraft Company.

*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 21.325(b)(3).

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To allow RAC to obtain airworthiness approval tags for its Hawker Model parts in accordance with §§ 21.21 and 21.303, and export those class II and class III parts located at certain Raytheon facilities outside the United States and modify conditions Nos. 1 and 2, adding condition No. 4, and redesignating condition No. 4 of the original exemption as condition No. 5.

*GRANT:* 7/26/99, Exemption No. 6720A.

*Docket No.:* 28991.

*Petitioner:* Joe Brigham, Inc.

*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 133.33 (d) and (e) and 133.45(d).

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To allow JBI to operate a Bell Model UH-1B helicopter (Huey) (Registration No. N204JB, Serial No. 63-13088), a restricted-category helicopter, in external-load operations over congested areas, subject to an approved Congested Area Plan.

*DENIAL:* 7/30/99, Exemption No. 6934.

*Docket No.:* 29342.

*Petitioner:* Airbus Industrie.

*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 61.77(a).

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To permit pilots and flight engineers employed by Airbus Industrie to be eligible for the issuance of special purpose pilot and flight engineer authorizations, under parts 61 and 65, as appropriate, for the purpose of performing delivery flights of U.S.-registered airplanes between foreign countries and from a foreign country to the United States.

*GRANT:* 7/28/99, Exemption No. 6850A.

*Docket No.:* 29451.

*Petitioner:* Boeing Commercial Airplane Group.

*Section of the FAR Affected:* 14 CFR 25.562(b)(2).

*Description of Relief Sought/*

*Disposition:* To permit relief from the floor warpage testing requirement for flight deck seats on the Boeing Model 767-400ER airplanes.

*GRANT:* 8/4/99, Exemption No. 6935.

*Docket No.:* 29598.

*Petitioner:* McDonnell Douglas Corp., now a wholly owned subsidiary of The Boeing Company.