

Dated: January 20, 2004.

Samuel Podberesky,

Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. OST 98-3304]

Amendments to Foreign Air Carrier Family Assistance Plans Pursuant to Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, (OST), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department is publishing the following notices regarding the obligation of foreign air carriers to amend their Family Assistance Plans in accordance with section 809 of Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Pub. L. 108-176; 117 Stat. 2490, December 12, 2003).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dayton Lehman, Jr., Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings (C-70), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-9349.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Requirement That Foreign Air Carriers Amend Plans To Address the Needs of Families of Passengers Involved in Aircraft Accidents

This is to advise foreign air carriers serving the United States that the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Pub. L. 108-176, 117 Stat. 2490, December 12, 2003) amends 49 U.S.C. 41313(c) to require, among other things, that foreign air carriers submit to the Department of Transportation (Department) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) additional assurances for their respective plans to address the needs of families of passengers involved in aircraft accidents. The content and filing requirements for the update to the plans applicable to foreign air carriers are set forth in section 809 of Vision 100. A copy of section 809 and an electronic version of this document are available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The additional assurances required to be submitted are described in paragraph (b) of section 809 of Vision 100. In accordance with paragraph (c), foreign air carriers must submit their updated plans to the Department and the NTSB

within 90 days of the statute's enactment. Since Vision 100 was signed into law on December 12, 2003, updated plans are due to be filed not later than March 11, 2004. Plans should be submitted to the Department and the NTSB at the following addresses:

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Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room PL 401, Washington, DC 20590.

Erik Grosf, Office of Transportation Disaster Assistance, National Transportation Safety Board, 490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW., Washington, DC 20594.

We note that the Department has exempted from the requirements of section 41313 those foreign air carriers that currently hold, or may subsequently receive, Departmental authority to conduct operations in foreign air transportation using only small aircraft. (Order 98-1-31, issued February 3, 1998.) For purposes of the exemption, small aircraft are those designed to have a maximum passenger capacity of not more than 60 seats or a maximum payload capacity of not more than 18,000 pounds. Unless a foreign air carrier falls within the above exemption, the requirements of section 41313 apply to all foreign air carriers that currently hold, or may subsequently receive, Departmental authority to conduct operations in foreign air transportation, including those holding only all-cargo authority.

Each foreign air carrier should submit its plan in its entirety, that is, the plan as it exists with the new assurances as set forth in Vision 100. We expect each affected foreign air carrier to give a high priority to the timely preparation and submission of its updated plan. We remind each foreign air carrier that, if it chooses to contract with an outside source to act as a point of contact and to provide services covered in the assurances, full responsibility for complying with the provisions of the law nevertheless remains with the foreign air carrier.

We would also like to take this opportunity to request, on behalf of the NTSB, that each foreign air carrier provide the NTSB an updated 24-hour telephone number for its operations center for use in the event of an emergency, and that the number be updated with the NTSB in the future as necessary.

Questions concerning contents of the plans may be addressed to Erik Grosf, Office of Transportation Disaster Assistance, NTSB, at (202) 314-6189. Questions concerning the applicability of the requirements of section 41313 to

a particular foreign air carrier should be addressed to Dayton Lehman, Jr., Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, DOT, at (202) 366-9342.

Dated: January 20, 2004.

Samuel Podberesky,

Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

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

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The nature of the information collection is described as well as its expected burden. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on October 15, 2003, and comments were due by December 15, 2003. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before February 26, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Celia Luck, Maritime Administration, MAR-810, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-3581; fax: (202) 366-6988; or e-mail: celia.luck@marad.dot.gov. Copies of this collection also can be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Title: Intermodal Access to U.S. Ports and Intermodal Access to U.S. Marine Terminals Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0533.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: U.S. Ports and Terminals.

Forms: Form MA-1024, MA-1024A.

Abstract: The Intermodal Access to U.S. Ports Survey and the Intermodal Access to U.S. Marine Terminals Survey were designed to be questionnaires of critical infrastructure impediments that impact the Nation's ports and marine terminals. The collection will provide

key highway, truck, rail and waterside access data and will highlight the access impediments that affect the flow of cargo through U.S. ports and terminals. The annual data received will be used to demonstrate statistically the change in access impediments to the Nation's ports and terminals.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 81 hours.

Addressee: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency'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 best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Dated: January 21, 2004.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-1600 Filed 1-26-04; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. NHTSA-2004-16932]

Plan for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Vehicle and Behavioral Programs, Calendar Years 2004-2007

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the publication by NHTSA of its Evaluation Program Plan for Calendar Years 2004-2007. The report describes the agency's ongoing and planned evaluations of its existing Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards [49 CFR part 571] and other vehicle-safety, behavioral-safety and consumer programs. It also summarizes the results of completed evaluations. The agency's evaluation program responds to Executive Order 12866, which provides for Government-wide review of existing significant Federal

regulations. This notice solicits public review and comment on the evaluation plan. Comments received will be used to improve the plan.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than May 26, 2004.

ADDRESSES:

Report: The Evaluation Program Plan is available on the Internet for viewing on line in HTML format at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/regrev/evaluate/809699.html> and in PDF format at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/regrev/evaluate/pdf/809699.pdf>. You may obtain a copy of the plan free of charge by sending a self-addressed mailing label to Charles J. Kahane (NPO-321), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

Comments: You may submit comments [identified by DOT DMS Docket Number NHTSA-2004-16932] by any of the following methods:

- Web Site: <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

- Fax: (202) 493-2251.

- Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-001.

- Hand Delivery: 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.

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

You may call Docket Management at (202) 366-9324 and visit the Docket from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles J. Kahane, Chief, Evaluation Division, NPO-321, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Budget, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5208, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-2560. Fax: (202) 366-2559. E-mail: ckahane@nhtsa.dot.gov.

For information about NHTSA's evaluations of the effectiveness of existing regulations and programs: Visit the NHTSA Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> and click "Regulations & Standards" underneath "Car Safety" on the home page; then click "Regulatory Evaluation" on the "Regulations & Standards" page.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NHTSA has rigorously evaluated its major programs as a matter of policy since 1970. The evaluation of the effectiveness of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) began in 1975. The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and Executive Order 12866, "Regulatory Planning and Review," issued in October 1993 (58 FR 51735), now oblige all Federal agencies to evaluate their existing programs and regulations. Previously, Executive Order 12291, issued in February 1981 (46 FR 13193), also required reviews of existing regulations. Even before 1981, however, NHTSA was a leader among Federal agencies in evaluating the effectiveness of existing regulations and technologies. There are large databases of motor vehicle crashes that can be analyzed to find out what vehicle and behavioral safety programs work best.

This four-year plan presents and discusses the vehicle and behavioral programs, regulations, technologies and related areas NHTSA proposes to evaluate, and it summarizes the findings of past evaluations. Depending on scope, evaluations typically take a year or substantially more, counting initial planning, contracting for support, OMB clearance for surveys, data collection, analysis, internal review, approvals, publication, review of public comments, and the last phase of preparing recommendations for subsequent agency action.

Most of NHTSA's crashworthiness and several crash avoidance standards have been evaluated at least once since 1975. A number of consumer-oriented regulations, e.g., bumpers, theft protection, fuel economy and NCAP also have been evaluated. So have promising safety technologies that were not mandatory under Federal regulations, such as antilock brake systems for passenger vehicles. The plan for calendar years 2004-2007 includes evaluations of new and existing vehicle and behavioral safety programs, regulations, technologies and consumer information programs.

The plan will be periodically updated in response to public and agency needs, with a complete revision scheduled every five years. The most recent plan before this one was published on May 8, 1998 (63 FR 25543).

How Can I Influence NHTSA's Thinking on This Subject?

NHTSA welcomes public review of the evaluation plan and invites the reviewers to comment about the selection, priority, and schedule of the regulations to be evaluated. The agency