

than February 28, 2003. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or working groups in advance of a meeting, please submit 17 copies to the Assistant Executive Director no later than February 28, 2003. You may also submit this material electronically to the e-mail address in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, no later than February 28, 2003.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact the Assistant Executive Director as soon as possible.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Howard L. Hime,

Acting Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security & Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 03-4146 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG-2003-14500]

Merchant Mariners' Documents: Forms and Procedures for Renewals and Issuances

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of policy.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard suspended renewing and issuing Merchant Mariners' Documents (MMDs) using the previously issued form and has begun renewing and reissuing MMDs using a new form. The new MMD form is more tamper-resistant and facilitates verification of an MMD holder's identity, citizenship, and qualifications to work aboard U.S.-flagged vessels. MMDs in the new form will enhance maritime security.

DATES: The Coast Guard began renewing MMDs using the new form on February 3, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this notice, call Mr. Donald J. Kerlin, Deputy Director, Coast Guard National Maritime Center (NMC), (202) 493-1006.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

MMDs both serve as identity cards for merchant mariners and provide information about the mariners' professional qualifications. MMDs, in the previously issued form (CG-2838 [Rev. 7-94]), serve the second of these

purposes well enough; however, they no longer serve the first with sufficient confidence. The Coast Guard is replacing them using a new form (CG-2838 [Rev 09/02]) that will be issued through a more secure process. The Coast Guard will make every effort to effect a smooth and easy transition from the previously issued form to the new form. The Coast Guard will begin issuing MMDs in the new form to new applicants as soon as possible.

The Coast Guard also is considering whether to allow mariners to replace their previously issued MMDs with new MMDs on an accelerated basis, *i.e.*, at an earlier date than current expiration date. To ensure that only eligible mariners receive MMDs, the Coast Guard will conduct a criminal-record review of mariners seeking renewal or re-issuance of a previously issued MMD, or issuance of an original MMD. The review may include verification of identities; criminal histories; and sobriety (as gauged from, among other sources, the National Drivers' Register). This review will be consistent with applicable law and Coast Guard regulations set forth in Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations (46 CFR 12.02-4). Because of the importance of establishing positive proof of identity to facilitate the background investigation, it will be necessary for holders of, and applicants for, an MMD to be present at a Regional Examination Center (REC) to be fingerprinted.

Mariners may encounter delays incident to the new processes' going into practice and the delays may persist for some weeks. Holders and new applicants seeking re-issuance, renewal, and original issuance of their MMDs should inquire at their nearest REC, a list of which appears at 46 CFR 12.01-7, or contact Mr. Donald Kerlin at the National Maritime Center, 4200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 630, Arlington, VA 22203-1804, (202) 493-1006.

Authority

46 U.S.C. 7301, 7302, 7303, 7304, 7305, 7503, 7505, and 49 CFR 1.46.

Dated: February 13, 2003.

Kevin J. Eldridge,

Rear Admiral, Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Governmental and Public Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-4145 Filed 2-19-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Harmonization Initiatives

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration and the Joint Aviation Authorities will convene meetings to accept input from the public on the Harmonization Work Program. The Federal Aviation Administration and the Joint Aviation Authorities use the Harmonization Work Program to carry out a commitment to harmonize, to the maximum extent possible, various rules. These rules include the operation and maintenance of civil aircraft, and the standards, practices, and procedures governing the design materials, workmanship, and construction of civil aircraft, aircraft engines, and other components. The purpose of this meeting is to give the public an opportunity to provide input to the Harmonization Work Program. This notice announces the date, time, location, and procedures for the public meeting.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on March 4, 2003, starting at 10:30 a.m. Written comments are invited and must be received by February 24, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at Central Joint Aviation Authorities, 8-10 Statuusstraat, Hoofddorp, The Netherlands. Persons unable to attend the meeting may mail their comments in triplicate to: Florence Hamn, Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking, ARM-200, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests to attend and present a statement at the meeting or questions about the logistics of the meeting should be directed to Florence Hamn, Office of Rulemaking, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3625, telefax (202) 267-5075.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Aviation Administration and the Joint Aviation Authorities will convene meetings to accept input from the public on the Harmonization Work Program. On March 3, there will be an authorities only meeting that addresses various certification, operations, maintenance, and harmonization issues. The March 4 public meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and the agenda will include:

- Debrief on Items from Authorities only meeting of the Harmonization Management Team (HMT).
- Debrief on Operations/Maintenance/Licensing Harmonization Group specific items.
- Debrief on Certification Codes Harmonization Group specific items.
- FAA/JAA 20th International Conference, May 29–June 3, 2002.
- Review/Approval of Minutes of November 18–19 HMT meeting.
- Update on Airworthiness Rulemaking Prioritization Activities.
- Any Other Business.

Individuals wishing to attend and participate in the meetings must submit name, address, telephone/fax/email, and citizenship information to the person listed under the title **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** not later than February 24, 2003. The list of attendees must be submitted to the Joint Aviation Authorities before the meeting for security reasons and to prepare name badges that must be worn while in the building.

Lodging Arrangements: There are multiple hotels located near the meeting location. For further information about lodging, please contact the person listed under the title **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Participation at the Meetings

The FAA should receive requests from persons who wish to present oral statements at the public meetings by February 24, 2003. Such requests should be sent to Florence Hamn as listed in the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** and should include a written summary of oral remarks to be presented, and an estimate of time needed for the presentation. Requests received after the date specified above will be scheduled if time is available; however, the name of those individuals may not appear on the written agenda.

The FAA will prepare a final agenda of speakers, which will be available at the meeting. Every effort will be made to accommodate as many speakers as possible. In addition, the time allocated to each speaker may be less than the amount of time requested.

Meeting Procedures

The following procedures are established to facilitate the meetings:

(1) There will be no admission fee or other charge to attend or to participate in the meeting. The meetings will be open to all persons who have requested in advance to present statements or who register on the day of the meeting subject to availability of space in the meeting room.

(2) There will be morning and afternoon breaks and lunch breaks.

(3) The meetings may adjourn early if scheduled speakers complete their statements in less time than currently is scheduled.

(4) An individual, whether speaking in a personal or a representative capacity for an organization, may be limited to a 10-minute statement. If possible, we will notify the speaker if more time is available.

(5) The FAA will try to accommodate all speakers. If the available time does not permit this, speakers generally will be scheduled on a first-come-first-served basis. However, the FAA reserves the right to exclude some speakers if necessary to present a balance of viewpoints and issues.

(6) Representatives of the FAA and JAA will preside over the meetings.

(7) The FAA and JAA will review and consider all material presented by participants at the meetings. Position papers or material presenting views or information related to proposed harmonization initiatives may be accepted at the discretion of the FAA and JAA presiding officers. The FAA requests that persons participating in the meetings provide five (5) copies of all materials to be presented for distribution to the panel members; other copies may be provided to the audience at the discretion of the participant.

(8) Statements made by members of the meeting panel are intended to facilitate discussion of the issues or to clarify issues. Any statement made during the meeting by a member of the panel is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, a position of the FAA or JAA.

(9) The meetings are designed to solicit public views and more complete information on proposed harmonization initiatives. Therefore, the meetings will be conducted in an informal and nonadversarial manner. No individual will be subject to cross-examination by any other participant; however, panel members may ask questions to clarify a statement and to ensure a complete and accurate record.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 14, 2003.

Florence L. Hamn,

Acting Manager, Aircraft and Airport Rules Division.

[FR Doc. 03–4054 Filed 2–14–03; 1:49 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Bronx County, NY

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed construction project for the Bruckner-Sheridan Expressway Interchange and for Improved Access to the Hunts Point Peninsula, in Bronx County, New York.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Currey, P.E., Regional Director, New York State Department of Transportation, Hunters Point Plaza 47–40 21st Street, Long Island City, New York 11101, Telephone: (718) 482–4526; or Robert Arnold, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, New York Division, Leo W. O'Brien Federal Building, 7th Floor, Clinton Avenue and North Pearl Street, Albany, New York 12207, Telephone (518) 431–4127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposal to improve safety and traffic flow at the Bruckner Expressway (I–278) at its interchange with the Arthur V. Sheridan Expressway (I–895) as well as to improve access in and out of the Hunts Points Peninsula from the Expressway System.

The objectives of the project are:

- Effectively move people and goods in faster, safer and easier ways by improving the existing roadways, bridges, bicycle paths and pedestrian walkways. This will include improvements to the Bruckner-Sheridan Interchange and local arterials for a better access into and from the Hunts Point Peninsula.

- Reduce the number of accidents in the project area and increase pedestrian safety at busy intersections, such as at Bruckner Boulevard and Hunts Points Ave.

- Support economic development by providing easier access to and from the Hunts Point Peninsula, while eliminating the bottlenecks at the Bruckner Expressway.

- Enhance the quality of life for the residential community by reducing the volume of commercial vehicles on residential streets and easing congestion