

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. *Quality of the program idea:*

Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to the Bureau's mission. Proposals should demonstrate effective use of community and regional resources to enhance the cultural and educational experiences of participants.

2. *Program planning:* Relevant work plan and a detailed calendar should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Plan and calendar should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above. The proposal should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives.

3. *Institutional Capacity:* Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve a substantive academic program and effective cross-cultural communication with South African participants. Proposal should show evidence of strong on-site administrative capabilities with specific discussion of how logistical arrangements will be undertaken.

4. *Multiplier effect/impact:* Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

5. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate substantive support of the Bureau's policy on diversity. Achievable and relevant features should be cited in both program administration and program content (orientation and wrap-up sessions, program meetings, resource materials and follow-up activities).

6. *Institution's Record/Ability:* Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Bureau grants as determined by Bureau Grant Staff. The Bureau will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

7. *Follow-on Activities:* Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without Bureau support) ensuring that Bureau supported programs are not isolated events.

8. *Project Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the

activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. A draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives are recommended.

9. *Cost-effectiveness:* The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

10. *Cost-sharing:* Proposals should maximize cost sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

Authority

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program above is provided through legislation.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFGP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFGP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures.

Dated: December 17, 2003.

Patricia S. Harrison,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-31579 Filed 12-22-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4534]

Cultural Property Advisory Committee Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*) there will be a meeting of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee on Tuesday, January 13, 2004, from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Wednesday, January 14, 2004, from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, at the United States Department of State, Annex 44, 301 4th St., SW., Washington, DC. Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2605(g), the Committee will conduct a review of the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of El Salvador Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Certain Categories of Archaeological Material from the Pre-Hispanic Cultures of the Republic of El Salvador;" and the "Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Material from the Pre-Hispanic Cultures of the Republic of Nicaragua." The Committee's review will focus attention on Article II of each agreement.

Portions of the meeting will be closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B). There will also be an open session to receive comments from interested parties regarding these two agreements. The open portion of the meeting will be held from approximately 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on January 13. Seating is limited. Persons wishing to attend this open portion of the meeting must notify the Cultural Property office at (202) 619-6612 by 5 p.m. (EDT) Wednesday, January 7, 2004, to arrange for admission. Persons wishing to present oral comments at the open portion of the meeting, or to submit written comments for the Committee's consideration, must provide them in writing by 5 p.m., (EDT) January 7, 2004. All comments may be faxed to (202) 260-4893. Oral presentations will be limited to ensure time for the Committee to pose questions. Information about the Convention on

Cultural Property Implementation Act and these two agreements may be found at <http://exchanges.state.gov/culprop>.

Dated: December 11, 2003.

Patricia S. Harrison,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-31578 Filed 12-22-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4568]

Bureau of Administration; Notice of Availability of Alternative Fueled Vehicle (AFV) Report for Fiscal Year 2003

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Administration, is issuing this notice in order to comply with the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and 42 U.S.C. 13218(b). The purpose of this notice is to announce the public availability of the Department of State's interim Fiscal Year 2003 report at the following Web site: <http://www.state.gov/m/a/26931.htm>. A final report will be made available upon completion of data collection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding reports on the AFV report Web site should be addressed to the Domestic Fleet Management and Operations Division (A/OPR/GSM/FMO) [Attn: Barry Shpil], 2201 C Street NW (Room B258), Washington, DC 20520, phone 202-647-3628.

Dated: December 9, 2003.

Vincent J. Chaverini,

Deputy Assistant Secretary Office of Operations, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 03-31585 Filed 12-22-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2003-15642 and FMCSA-2001-11060]

Safety Auditor Certification; Notice of Statutory Compliance Date

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of statutory compliance date.

SUMMARY: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) gives

notice that after December 31, 2003, all safety inspections, audits, and compliance reviews will be conducted by FMCSA or State employees certified under the Certification of Safety Auditors, Safety Investigators, and Safety Inspectors interim final rule (67 FR 12776, Mar. 19, 2002; 67 FR 41196, Jun. 17, 2002) (commonly referred to as the "Certification rule") or qualified under the grandfather provisions of 49 U.S.C. 31148(b). The Certification rule was one of three interim final rules set aside by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on January 16, 2003, on the grounds that FMCSA failed to comply with statutory environmental impact analysis requirements in developing these regulations. On July 28, 2003, FMCSA notified the public (68 FR 44378) that, as authorized by Sec. 211 of the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 (MCSIA), the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) had extended by 12 months the agency's December 31, 2002, statutory deadline for compliance with the safety certification requirements. The extension of the statutory compliance deadline provided FMCSA the necessary time to comply with the court's mandate by preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Certification rule. The EA concluded that implementation of the Certification rule would have no adverse environmental consequences and, in fact, would likely have a positive, if minimal, impact on the affected environment. On October 2, 2003, the agency issued a notice announcing the EA's availability in the docket and requesting public comment (68 FR 56863). The agency received no comments on the EA. Following the close of the public comment period, FMCSA prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact document for the Certification rule. The Finding of No Significant Impact is attached to the EA in the docket. Compliance with the statutory certification requirement by FMCSA and its State partners will assure the agency's continued fulfillment of its statutory responsibilities to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses.

DATES: Compliance with 49 U.S.C. 31148(b) begins January 1, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Pat Woodman, Chief of the Enforcement and Compliance Division (MC-ECE), (202) 366-9699, FMCSA, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sec. 210 of the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act (MCSIA) of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-159, 113 Stat. 1748) directs that all motor carriers (both foreign and domestic) granted new operating authority must undergo a safety audit within 18 months of commencing operations in interstate commerce in the United States [49 U.S.C. 31144(c)(1)]. Sec. 211 of the MCSIA requires that any safety audit conducted after December 31, 2002, be performed by: (1) A motor carrier safety auditor certified under rules established for that purpose, or (2) a Federal or State employee qualified to perform such an audit or review at the time MCSIA was enacted [49 U.S.C. 31148(b)]. The legislation gives the Secretary oversight responsibility for these motor carrier safety auditors and investigators, including the authority to decertify them [49 U.S.C. 31148(e)]. In addition, section 31148(c) authorizes the Secretary to extend (by no more than 12 months) the December 31, 2002, deadline for compliance with the safety certification requirements of MCSIA if it is determined that the rulemaking required by the statute cannot be timely implemented.

As required by Sec. 211, FMCSA published an interim final rule entitled "Certification of Safety Auditors, Safety Investigators, and Safety Inspectors," establishing procedures to certify and maintain certification for safety auditors, inspectors, and investigators (67 FR 12776, Mar. 19, 2002; 67 FR 41196, Jun. 17, 2002). The rule amends 49 CFR parts 350 and 385 to provide for three types of certification, as follows: (1) Certification to conduct safety audits, (2) certification to conduct compliance reviews, and (3) certification to conduct roadside vehicle and driver inspections. The Certification rule took effect on July 17, 2002 (67 FR 41196).

The rule requires certification not only for Federal employees performing safety audits, inspections, and compliance reviews but also for State and local employees conducting these activities under the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP). States must certify that safety employees meet minimal Federal standards as a condition of their continued participation in the MCSAP. Federal and MCSAP employees qualified to perform compliance reviews on December 9, 1999, are grandfathered by 49 U.S.C. 31148(b)(2) and are not required to be certified under the rule. The Certification rule extended this grandfather period to include personnel who were fully trained and performing