

heading FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 26, 1996.

Ava L. Robinson,

*Assistant Executive Director for Emergency
Evacuation Issues, Aviation Rulemaking
Advisory Committee.*

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RTCA, Inc., Special Committee 165; Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Aeronautical Mobile Satellite Services

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., appendix 2), notice is hereby given for Special Committee (S.C.) 165 meeting to be held July 31-August 2, 1996, starting at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1020, Washington, DC, 20036.

The agenda will be as follows:

- (1) Welcome and Introductions;
- (2) Approval of the Summary of the Previous Meeting;
- (3) Chairman's Remarks;
- (4) Overview of New Developments Relevant to AMSS and SC-165
 - a. Required Communications Performance (SC-169/Working Group (WG) #2); b. AMCP WG-A on AMSS; c. Industry, Users Government (Planned Presentations on Next-Generation Satellite Systems and Their Relevance to Aeronautical Safety Communications);
 - (5) Review of Working Group Activities: a. WG#1 (AMSS Avionics Equipment MOPS); b. WG#3 (System/Service Performance Criteria); c. WG#5 (AMS(R)S Satcom Voice);
 - (6) Other Business;
 - (7) Date and Place of Next Meeting.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1020, Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone) or (202) 833-9434 (fax). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 9, 1996.

Janice L. Peters,

Designated Official.

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Federal Transit Administration

[FTA Docket No. FTA-96-1527]

Notice of Request for the Extension of Currently Approved Information Collections

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the intention of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to extend the following currently approved information collections:

- (1) Prevention of Alcohol Misuse in Transit Operations;
- (2) Nondiscrimination as it applies to FTA Grant Programs;
- (3) Title VI as it applies to FTA Grant Programs;
- (4) Technical Activities Form;
- (5) Bus Testing Program.

DATES: Comments must be submitted before September 13, 1996.

ADDRESSES: All written comments must refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and be submitted to the United States Department of Transportation, Central Dockets Office, PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard/envelope.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Control of Alcohol Misuse in Transit Operations—Ms. Judy Meade, Office of Program Management, (202) 366-2896

Nondiscrimination as it applies to FTA Grant Programs and Title VI as it applies to FTA Grant Programs—Mr. Akira Sano, Office of Civil Rights, (202) 366-4018

Reporting of Technical Activities by FTA Grant Recipients—Sean Libberton, Office of Program Management, (202) 366-1626

Bus Testing Program—Mr. Frank Borris, Office of Research, Demonstration and Innovation, (202) 366-8089.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Interested parties are invited to send comments regarding any aspect of these information collections, including: (1) the necessity and utility of the information collection for the proper performance of the functions of the FTA; (2) the accuracy of the estimated

burden; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways to minimize the collection burden without reducing the quality of the collected information. Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB reinstatement of this information collection.

Title: Prevention of Alcohol Misuse in Transit Operations (OMB Number: 2132-0557)

Background: The Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 (Pub.L. 102-143, October 28, 1991, now codified in relevant part at 49 U.S.C. Section 5331) requires any recipient of Federal financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. Sections 5309, 5307, or 5311 or under 23 U.S.C. Section 103(e) (4) to establish a program designed to help prevent accidents and injuries resulting from the misuse of drugs and alcohol by employees who perform safety-sensitive functions. FTA's regulation, 49 CFR Part 654, "Prevention of Alcohol Misuse in Transit Operations," effective March 17, 1994, requires recipients to submit to FTA annual reports containing data which summarize information concerning the recipients' alcohol testing program, such as the number and type of test given, number of positive test results, and the kind of safety-sensitive function the employee performs. FTA uses these data to ensure compliance with the rule, to assess the misuse of alcohol in the transit industry, and to set the random testing rate. The data will also be used to assess the effectiveness of the rule in reducing the misuse of alcohol among safety-sensitive transit employees and making transit safer for the public.

Respondents: State and local government, business or other for-profit, non-profit institutions, and small businesses organizations.

Estimated Annual Burden on Respondents: 20.1 hours for each of the 1,615 respondents.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 32,480 hours.

Frequency: Annual.

Title: Nondiscrimination As It Applies to FTA Grant Programs (OMB Number: 2132-0542)

Background: All entities receiving Federal financial assistance from FTA are prohibited from discriminating against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age, or disability. To ensure that FTA's equal employment opportunity (EEO)

procedures are followed, FTA requires grant recipients to submit written EEO plans to FTA for approval. FTA's assessment of this requirement shows that the formulating, submitting, and implementing of EEO programs should minimally increase costs for FTA applicants and recipients.

To determine a grantee's compliance with applicable laws and requirements, grantee submissions are evaluated and analyzed based on the following criteria. First, an EEO program must include an EEO policy statement issued by the chief executive officer covering all employment practices, including recruitment, selection, promotions, terminations, transfers, layoffs, compensation, training, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment. Second, the policy must be placed conspicuously so that employees, applicants, and the general public are aware of the agency's EEO commitment.

The data derived from written EEO and affirmative action plans will be used by the Office of Civil Rights in monitoring grantees' compliance with applicable EEO laws and regulations. This monitoring and enforcement activity will ensure that minorities and women have equitable access to employment opportunities and that recipients of Federal funds do not discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, or age, or disability.

Respondents: FTA grant recipients.

Estimated Annual Burden on

Respondents: 40 hours for each of the 150 EEO submissions.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 6,000 hours.

Frequency: On occasion, every 3 years, annually.

Title: Title VI As It Applies to FTA Grant Programs (OMB Number: 2132-0542)

Background: Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states: "No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." This information collection is required by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Title VI Regulation, 28 CFR Part 42, Subpart F (Section 42.406), and DOT Order 1000.12. FTA policies and requirements are designed to clarify and strengthen these regulations. This requirement is applicable to all applicants, recipients, and subrecipients receiving Federal financial assistance. Experience has demonstrated that a

program requirement at the application stage is necessary to assure that benefits and services are equitably distributed by grant recipients. The requirements prescribed by the Office of Civil Rights accomplish that objective while diminishing possible vestiges of discrimination among FTA grant recipients. FTA's assessment of this requirement indicated that the formulation and implementation of the Title VI program should occur with a decrease in costs to such applicants and recipients.

All FTA grant applicants, recipients, and subrecipients are required to submit applicable Title VI information to the FTA Office of Civil Rights for review and approval. If FTA did not conduct pre-award reviews, solutions would not be generated in advance and program improvements could not be integrated into projects. FTA's experience with pre-award reviews for all projects and grants suggests this method contributes to maximum efficiency and cost effectiveness of FTA dollars and has kept post-award complaints to a minimum. Moreover, the objective of the Title VI statute can be more easily attained and beneficiaries of FTA funded programs have a greater likelihood of receiving transit services and related benefits on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Respondents: FTA grant recipients.

Estimated Annual Burden on

Respondents: 8.1 hours for each of the 371 Title VI submissions.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 2,998 hours.

Frequency: Annual.

Title: Reporting of Technical Activities by FTA Grant Recipients (OMB Number: 2132-0549)

Background: 49 U.S.C. Sections 5303 and 5313 (a) and (b) authorize the use of Federal funds to assist metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), states, and local public bodies in developing transportation plans and programs to serve future transportation needs of urbanized areas over 50,000 in population and States throughout the nation. As part of this effort, MPOs are required to consider a wide range of goals and objectives and to analyze alternative transportation system management and investment strategies. These objectives are measured by definable activities such as suburban mobility planning and other related activities.

The information collected by these forms is used to report annually to Congress, the Secretary, and to the FTA Administrator on how grantees are responding to national emphasis areas

and congressional direction, and allows FTA to track grantees' use of Federal planning and research funds.

Respondents: FTA grant recipients.

Estimated Annual Burden on

Respondents: 3 hours for each of the 50 respondents.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 150 hours.

Frequency: Annual.

Title: Bus Testing Program (OMB Number: 2132-0550)

Background: 49 U.S.C. Section 5323(c) provides that no Federal funds appropriated or made available after September 30, 1989, may be obligated or expended for the acquisition of a new bus model (including any model using alternative fuels) unless the bus has been tested at the Bus Testing Center (Center) in Altoona, Pennsylvania. 49 U.S.C. Section 5318(a) further specifies that each new bus model is to be tested for maintainability, reliability, safety, performance (including braking performance), structural integrity, fuel economy, emissions, and noise.

The operator of the Bus Testing Center, the Pennsylvania Transportation Institute (PTI), is under contract to the FTA. PTI operates and maintains the Center, and establishes and collects fees for the testing of the vehicles at the facility. Upon completion of the testing of the vehicle at the Center, a test report is provided to the manufacturer of the new bus model. The bus manufacturer certifies to an FTA grantee that the bus the grantee is purchasing has been tested at the Center. Also, grantees about to purchase a bus use this report to assist them in making their purchasing decisions. PTI maintains a reference file for all the test reports which are made available to the public.

Respondents: Bus manufacturers.

Estimated Annual Burden on

Respondents: 3 hours for each of the 20 bus manufacturers.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 60 hours.

Frequency: Annual.

Issued: July 10, 1996.

Gordon J. Linton,

Administrator.

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