

participants will be provided with tentative agendas as well as copies of the comments submitted in response to the ANPR.

Part D—Schedule of Public Workshop Conferences

The first public workshop will be held on July 28 and 29, 1997, at the Federal Trade Commission, Room 432, 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. The roundtable discussion on July 28, 1997, will focus on the possible exemption of trade show promoters from the Rule's disclosure requirements and the development of possible voluntary industry standards.

The second public workshop conference will be held on August 21 and 22, 1997, at the Chicago Regional Office, Federal Trade Commission, 55 E. Monroe Street, Suite 1860, Chicago, Illinois 60603. The roundtable discussion on August 21, 1997, will focus on revisions to the business opportunity section of the Rule, including a definition of the term "business opportunity."

The third public workshop conference will be held on September 18 and 19, 1997, at the Jacob Javits Federal Building, 26 Federal Plaza, Floor 36, Conference Room 3604, New York, NY 10278. The roundtable discussion on September 18, 1997, will focus on whether the Commission should revise the Rule based upon the UFOC model and possible modifications; the sale of franchises through the Internet; the sale of co-branded franchise systems; and alternative approaches to Franchise Rule law enforcement.

The fourth public workshop conference will be held on October 20 and 21, 1997, at the Dallas Regional Office, Federal Trade Commission, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 2150, Dallas, Texas 75201. The roundtable discussion on October 20, 1997, will focus on proposals for a revised definition of the term "business opportunity," and specific proposed disclosure requirements for business opportunity sellers.

The fifth public workshop conference will be held on November 6 and 7, 1997, at the Seattle Regional Office, Federal Trade Commission, 915 Second Avenue, Suite 2886, Seattle, Washington 98174. The roundtable discussion on November 6, 1997, will focus on whether the Commission should revise the Rule based upon the UFOC model and possible modifications; the sale of franchises through the Internet; the sale of co-branded franchise systems; and alternative approaches to Franchise Rule law enforcement.

The final public workshop conference will be held on November 20 and 21, 1997, at the Federal Trade Commission, Room 432, 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580. The roundtable discussion on November 20, 1997, will focus on drafting revised business opportunity disclosures.

List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 436

Advertising, Business and industry, Franchising, Trade practices.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 41–58.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97–13870 Filed 5–27–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

30 CFR Part 251

RIN 101–AC10

Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Extending comment period for proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document extends to July 29, 1997 the reopening of the comment period published on May 1, 1997 (62 FR 23705), the deadline for the submission of comments on the proposed revision of requirements governing Geological and Geophysical Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf, that was published February 11, 1997.

DATES: We will consider all comments received by July 29, 1997. We will review comments at that time and may not fully consider comments received after July 29, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand-carry written comments to the Department of the Interior; Minerals Management Service; 381 Elden Street; Mail Stop 4700; Herndon, Virginia 20170–4817; Attention: Rules Processing Team.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kumkum Ray, Engineering and Operations Division, at (703) 787–1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 15, 1997 MMS met with industry representatives to discuss issues raised by the proposed revisions of MMS's requirements governing geological and geophysical explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf that were published

February 11, 1997 (62 FR 6149). On the basis of the discussion MMS is extending the comment period to allow respondents more time to prepare detailed and comprehensive comments. We will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** to announce a meeting date and place to further discuss this rulemaking.

Dated: May 21, 1997.

E.P. Danenberger,

Chief, Engineering and Operations Division.

[FR Doc. 97–13848 Filed 5–27–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MR–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Parts 95, 100, 173, 174, 175, 177, 179, 181, and 183

46 CFR Part 25

[CGD 97–029]

Review of Regulations on Boating Safety

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will conduct a comprehensive review of currently effective boating safety regulations during and after the meeting of the National Boating Safety Advisory Council (NBSAC) in October 1997. This Request describes which of them will come within the review and solicits comments from the boating community in response to issues that this Request will pose. The review is to determine which if any of those regulations need change. The Coast Guard will provide a summary of the comments received to the members of the NBSAC for them to consider before that meeting, and will itself consider all relevant comments as it determines which if any of those regulations need change.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard on or before July 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G–LRA, 3406) [CGD 97–029], U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593–0001, or deliver them to room 3406 at the same address between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–267–1477.

The Executive Secretary maintains the public docket for this regulatory review. Comments, and documents as indicated in this preamble, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room 3406,

U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carlton Perry, Project Manager, Office of Boating Safety, Program Management Division, 202-267-0979. You may obtain a copy of this Request by calling the Coast Guard Customer Infoline at 1-800-368-5647, or on the Internet Office of Boating Safety Web Site at URL address <http://www.access.digex.net/~prostech/uscg/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose

NBSAC is an advisory committee created under 46 U.S.C. 13110(a) and section 304(f) of Pub. L. 104-324. It advises the Coast Guard on substantive matters of boating safety. It comprises 21 members drawn equally from 3 segments of the boating community: the boating industry; State officials on boating safety; and representatives of national recreational boating organizations and of the general public. The Coast Guard must consult it in the formulation of boating safety regulations.

The Coast Guard conducted comprehensive reviews of its boating safety regulations in conjunction with meetings of NBSAC in May 1981, 1986, and 1992. It asked NBSAC to determine whether the regulations were still necessary, beneficial, cost-effective, and in step with current technology. These reviews led NBSAC to make numerous recommendations to improve and update specific provisions in the regulations. The next comprehensive review is due at the meeting of NBSAC in October 1997. (The Coast Guard will publish details of the exact time and place of the meeting in the **Federal Register** at a later date. The meeting will be open to the public.) The review will encompass currently effective regulations issued under the authority of the Assistant Commandant for Operations, at Coast Guard Headquarters, or of his predecessors. It will not encompass any rules not yet final. The review will encompass at least these rules:

- Restrictions on and responsibilities of persons operating recreational vessels while intoxicated (33 CFR part 95).
- Requirements for persons organizing regattas and marine parades to notify the Coast Guard and apply for permits before the event (33 CFR part 100).
- Requirements for operators of recreational vessels and for States to number, or register, those vessels and

report accidents (33 CFR parts 173 & 174).

- Requirements for operators of recreational vessels to carry personal flotation devices (PFDs) on the vessels (33 CFR part 175).
- Requirements for operators of recreational vessels to carry visual distress signals (VDSs) on the vessels (33 CFR part 175).
- Requirements for operators of recreational vessels regarding especially hazardous conditions (33 CFR part 177).
- Requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels and associated equipment to notify purchasers of the vessels about safety defects and to recall products (33 CFR part 179).
- Requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels to certify compliance of boats and associated equipment (33 CFR part 181, subpart B).
- Requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels to identify the vessels with hull identification numbers (33 CFR part 181, subpart C).
- Requirements for manufacturers of PFDs to furnish informational pamphlets about the PFDs (33 CFR part 181, subpart G).
- Requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels to calculate and display safe capacities for loading and powering (33 CFR part 183, subparts B, C, D, and N).
- Requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels regarding standards for flotation of recreational vessels (33 CFR part 183, subparts F, G, and H).
- Requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels regarding electrical and fuel systems (33 CFR part 183, subparts I and J).
- Requirements for manufacturers and importers of recreational vessels regarding powered and natural ventilation systems (33 CFR part 183, subpart K).
- Requirements for manufacturers and importers of outboard engines to protect against the engines starting in gear (33 CFR part 183, subpart L).
- Requirements for operators of recreational vessels to carry fire extinguishers on the vessels (46 CFR subpart 25.30).
- Requirements for operators of recreational vessels to carry an acceptable means of backfire flame control on the vessels (46 CFR subpart 25.35).
- Requirements for operators of recreational vessels regarding operable ventilation systems on the vessels (33

CFR part 175, subpart D; and 46 CFR subpart 25.40).

You may read copies of the boating safety regulations under review at any of the many public libraries that carry the United States Code of Federal Regulations. You may buy them from the Superintendent, Government Printing Office, telephone: 202-512-2250; facsimile: 202-512-1800. You may also read them on, and run copies of them from, the Internet at URL address <http://law.house.gov/cfrhelp.htm>.

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested person from all segments of the boating community to participate in this regulatory review by submitting written data, views, or arguments regarding any changes to the currently effective boating safety regulations, including elimination or revocation of any requirements. (This review is not required by but is consistent with 5 U.S.C. 610, which directs agencies to conduct periodic reviews of regulations they issue that have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities.) Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this Request [CGD 97-029] and the specific provision in the regulation to which each comment applies, state each change needed, and give all reasons to support each change. Please submit two copies of all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. Persons wanting acknowledgment of receipt of comments should enclose stamped, self-addressed postcards or envelopes.

The Coast Guard is especially interested in receiving data, views, and arguments on the following issues:

- *Need*—Is there still a reasonable need for the regulations? Is the problem that the regulation was originally intended to solve still a problem?
- *Technical Accuracy*—Has the regulation kept pace with the technological, economic, or other relevant conditions? Would any particular changes make it more effective in achieving its intended goal?
- *Cost/Benefit*—What are the costs, or other burdens or adverse effects, of the regulation? What are the benefits of the regulation in terms of person safety or other values? Do the benefits outweigh the cost?
- *Problems*—Are there any problems or complaints in understanding or complying with the regulations?
- *Alternatives*—Are there any nonregulatory ways to achieve the goal

the regulation at lower cost, or lower burden or adverse effect?

The Coast Guard will summarize—and will provide to the members of NBSAC for them to consider before the meeting in October 1997—all comments received during the comment period in response to this Request. It will consider all relevant comments in the formulation of any changes to the boating safety regulations that may result from this review.

Dated: May 21, 1997.

N.T. Saunders,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Operations.

[FR Doc. 97-13872 Filed 5-27-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

49 CFR Part 385

[FHWA Docket No. MC-94-22; FHWA-97-2252]

RIN 2125-AC 71

Safety Fitness Procedure; Safety Ratings

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document is in response to a decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, entered on March 18, 1997. In this rulemaking the FHWA is proposing to incorporate a modified Safety Fitness Rating Methodology (SFRM), which would be used to measure the safety fitness of motor carriers against the safety standard, as an appendix to its Safety Fitness Procedures regulations. An interim final rule published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register** incorporates the current SFRM for an interim period to rate motor carriers that are transporting hazardous materials in quantities for which vehicle placarding is required, or transporting 15 or more passengers including the driver.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 28, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit written, signed comments to the docket number that appears in the heading of this document to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal

holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William C. Hill, Vehicle and Operations Division, Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards, (202) 366-4009, or Mr. Charles Medalen, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1354, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that the FHWA's procedures for assigning safety ratings were adopted contrary to law. *MST Express and Truckers United for Safety v. Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration*, No. 96-1084, March 18, 1997. The court ruled that the FHWA had failed to carry out its statutory obligation to establish, by regulation, a means of determining whether a motor carrier has complied with the safety fitness requirements of the Motor Carrier Safety Act of 1984 (MCSA) (codified at 49 U.S.C 31144). Because the carrier's safety rating was determined based upon rules that were not promulgated pursuant to notice and comment rulemaking, as 49 U.S.C. 31144(a) requires, the petitioner's *conditional* safety rating was vacated and the matter remanded to the FHWA "for such further action as it may wish to take, consistent with the decision."

In this notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), the FHWA proposes to modify the SFRM, incorporate it as Appendix B to Part 385, and use it as the means for deciding whether motor carriers meet the safety fitness requirements.

The FHWA has been using an SFRM, comprised of six rating factors, since October 1, 1989, as the mechanism for determining how well motor carriers are adhering to 49 CFR 385.5, Safety fitness standard. In addition to making the detailed explanation available since August 16, 1991, the FHWA has sought comments from interested members of the public in FHWA Docket Nos. MC-91-8 (56 FR 40801) and MC-94-22 (59 FR 47203).

In the first docket, the FHWA solicited public comment on an interim final rule (56 FR 40801) (August 16, 1991) implementing that provision of the MCSA of 1990, Pub. L. 101-500, § 15(b)(1), 104 Stat. 1218, 49 U.S.C. 5113, prohibiting a motor carrier with

an *unsatisfactory* safety rating from operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMVs) to transport: (1) hazardous materials in quantities for which vehicle placarding is required, or (2) more than 15 passengers including the driver. This prohibition becomes effective after 45 days have elapsed following receipt of an *unsatisfactory* safety rating issued by the FHWA. During the 45-day period, the motor carrier should take such action as may be necessary to improve its safety rating to *conditional* or *satisfactory* or be subject to the prohibition. Fourteen comments were received in response to the 1991 interim final rule. Such of those comments as provide relevant information to this NPRM are discussed herein. The FHWA will also determine whether the 1991 interim rule is to be made final after consideration of the comments received in response to today's NPRM.

In the second docket, the FHWA published in the **Federal Register** on September 14, 1994, a notice and request for comments (59 FR 47203) explaining changes made to the SFRM in 1993, which was then being used to evaluate a motor carrier's adherence to the § 385.5 safety fitness standard. Additional changes to the SFRM, which became effective on October 1, 1994, were also explained. These changes initiated the use of violations of the safety regulations designated as "acute" or "critical" to rate each of the five regulatory factors evaluated when performing a compliance review (CR) at a carrier's place of business.

The FHWA also solicited comments concerning: (1) changes made in 1994, (2) the direction that future modifications to the SFRM should take, and (3) how best to disseminate information to the industry about new regulations and the FHWA programs that encourage "voluntary compliance."

The 17 comments received in response to changes to the rating criteria are discussed in this notice to the extent they provide relevant information to this NPRM. Comments that are duplicative of those discussed under the prior docket discussion are not repeated.

In today's NPRM, the FHWA is proposing to incorporate as Appendix B to Part 385 the SFRM in a form substantially similar to that which has been used over the past 8 years and adopted by the interim final rule published elsewhere in today's **Federal Register**. The SFRM proposed in this NPRM has been modified, however, to change the accident factor. The reasons for this proposed modification are as follows. The preventable recordable accident criteria have been used by