

1. Selection criteria for third party testing organizations (testers), including type of organizations (e.g. driving schools, motor carriers, vocational schools, etc.);

2. Proposed number of third party testers;

3. Proposed number of examiners per third party tester;

4. Number of testing sites and identification of their locations;

5. Applicants third parties will examine (e.g. own employees, truck driving school students, etc.);

6. Training requirements for third party testers and examiners;

7. Percentage of total tests sites to be administered by third party testers;

8. Estimate of percentage of total tests to be administered by third party testers;

9. Clear and concise procedures for:

(a) Monitoring third party testers;

(b) Ensuring safe and secure shipment, receipt and storage of the tests;

(c) Conducting comprehensive background checks on potential third party knowledge testers for any violations which might compromise the administration of the CDL knowledge test;

(d) Verifying identity of test applicants;

(e) Imposing penalties on third party testers and examiners who breach test security;

(f) Monitoring pass/fail rates;

(g) Collecting evaluation data.

States participating in the pilot project must agree to participate during the entire period of the project. In addition, the States must submit quarterly progress reports and a final evaluation report based on the FHWA's evaluation criteria.

Security Measures

As a condition of the proposal, the State must agree to the following minimum security measures:

1. Prohibit use of fax machines, computers or cellular and non-cellular telephones in the transmission of knowledge tests and/or answer keys;

2. Prohibit test applicants from retaining a copy of the test questions or their completed knowledge tests;

3. Limit test applicant computer access only to programs which relate to the actual knowledge tests and test instructions or to information relating to the identity of the test applicant.

Quarterly and Final Reports

Quarterly reports must be submitted within two weeks after the end of each quarter. These reports must include the following information for the quarter:

1. Number of third party testers administering the knowledge test;

2. For each third party tester:

(a) Number of examiners being used;

(b) Number of test sites being used;

(c) Number of knowledge tests administered by type (e.g. general, passenger endorsement, tank vehicle endorsement, etc.);

(d) Pass/fail rates for knowledge tests administered by type.

(e) Breaches of security, including, but not limited to, testing materials being lost, stolen, or improperly secured;

(f) Incidences of cheating;

(g) Incidences of examiners found to be undermining the security of the written, oral, or automated tests;

(h) Increases/decreases in the pass/fail rate with an explanation for any changes;

(i) Other problems identified and proposed solutions.

The final report must be submitted to the FHWA within two months after completion of the pilot. This report will be based on the FHWA's evaluation criteria. The FHWA will review and evaluate the project results in the submitted reports and make a determination as to whether or not to proceed with the rulemaking process to allow all States the choice to contract with third party testers to administer the CDL knowledge tests.

Evaluation Criteria

The FHWA will evaluate the pilot project based on the following criteria:

1. Data collected in quarterly reports;

2. Uniformity of training/education preparation of test candidates;

3. Standardized test administration procedures;

4. Monitoring of third party testing by the State;

5. Increases/decreases in pass/fail rates;

6. Security procedures and practices used by the third party testers, focusing on the following elements:

(a) Monitoring the administration of the knowledge tests at the testing site at all times during the test;

(b) Ensuring the physical and procedural safeguards, for the shipment, receipt, and storage of test materials;

(c) Verifying the identity of test applicants before allowing them to begin the testing process;

(d) Reporting number of candidates found cheating;

(e) Reporting to the State those examiners who undermine the security of written, oral and/or automated knowledge tests;

(f) Comparative data for State administered knowledge tests for items a-e;

7. Cost/benefit analysis of using third party testers.

Request for Public Comment

The FHWA requests comments on the proposed third party CDL knowledge testing pilot project. The FHWA would also be interested in having the following six questions addressed:

1. Is 18-months sufficient time to conduct and evaluate such a pilot?

2. Should the FHWA consider additional criteria for selection of pilot project participants?

3. Should there be additional evaluation criteria?

4. Should there be additional security measures?

5. Should there be any other restrictions on who is authorized to be a third party tester and/or examiner?

6. Should there be a limit on the number of third parties conducting CDL knowledge testing within a State during the pilot?

Based on the comments received on this proposed pilot project, the FHWA will develop a solicitation for State proposals to participate in the pilot project.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 31305; 23 U.S.C. 315; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: April 1, 1998.

Gloria J. Jeff,

Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration.

[FR Doc.98-9689 Filed 4-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Announcing the Sixteenth Meeting of the Motor Vehicle Safety Research Advisory Committee

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

ACTION: Meeting announcement.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the sixteenth meeting of the Motor Vehicle Safety Research Advisory Committee (MVSRAAC) and a tentative agenda. The Committee was established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to obtain independent advice on motor vehicle safety research. Discussions at this meeting will include specific topics in NHTSA's Crashworthiness, Crash Avoidance and Behavioral research programs.

DATE AND TIME: The meeting is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on April 29, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Room 6244-48 of the U.S. Department

of Transportation Building, which is located at 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In May 1987, the Motor Vehicle Safety Research Advisory Committee was established. The purpose of the Committee is to provide an independent source of ideas for motor vehicle safety research. The MVSAC will provide information, advice and recommendations to NHTSA on matters relating to motor vehicle safety research, and provide a forum for the development, consideration and communication of motor vehicle safety research, as set forth in the MVSAC Charter.

Tentative Agenda for April 29, 1998 MVSAC Meeting

Research and Development Program Status

International Harmonized Research Activities

—Status and Plans

Subcommittee Reports

Crash Avoidance Subcommittee:

—Light Vehicle Antilock Brake Systems Working Group

Crashworthiness Subcommittee:

—Vehicle Aggressivity and Fleet Compatibility Working Group

—Advanced Air Bag Technology Working Group

—Biomechanics Working Group (Establishment)

Event Data Recorder Program

Intelligent Vehicle Initiative and Intelligent Transportation Systems Programs

Discussion of Future MVSAC Activities and Membership

The meeting is open to the public, but attendance may be limited due to space availability. Participation by the public will be determined by the Committee Chairperson.

A public reference file (Number 88-01) has been established to contain the products of the Committee and will be open to the public during the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Technical Information Services office in Room 5110 at 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, telephone: (202) 366-2768.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Barbara Coleman, Office of Research and Development, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 6206, Washington, DC 20590, telephone: (202) 366-1537.

Issued on: April 6, 1998.

Raymond P. Owings,

Acting Chairperson, Motor Vehicle Safety Research Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 98-9485 Filed 4-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Agency Information Collection; Activity Under OMB Review; Airline Service Quality Performance

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) invites the general public, industry and other Federal Agencies to comment on the continuing need for and usefulness of BTS collecting data on the timeliness of scheduled domestic passenger flights and the incidence of lost or damaged baggage. The 10 largest domestic passenger carriers report this data on a monthly basis.

Commenters should address whether BTS accurately estimated the reporting burden and if there are other ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collected.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by June 12, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to: Office of Airline Information, K-25, Room 4125, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

Comments: Comments should identify the OMB # 2138-0041 and submit a duplicate copy to the address listed above. Commenters wishing the Department to acknowledge receipt of their comments must submit with those comments a self-addressed stamped postcard on which the following statement is made: Comments on OMB # 2138-0041. The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned to the commenter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bernie Stankus, Office of Airline Information, K-25, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4387.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Approval No: 2138-0041.

Title: Airline Service Quality

Performance.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Large domestic passenger air carriers—Alaska Airlines,

America West Airlines, American Airlines, Continental Air Lines, Delta Air Lines, Northwest Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Trans World Airlines, United Air Lines, US Airways.

Number of Respondents: 10.

Estimated Time Per Response: 19 hours.

Total Annual Burden: 2,280 hours.

Needs and Uses

Consumer Information

Since Part 234 has been effective, carriers' quality of service has improved, resulting in a decrease in the number of consumer complaints. The Department discloses the carriers' on-time performances and mishandled baggage information to the public. Airline passengers are now more informed to make carrier selections based on the quality of service provided.

Reducing Air Traffic Delays

Aircraft tail number, wheels-up and wheels-down time gives the FAA valuable data for pinpointing and analyzing air traffic delays. Wheels-up and wheels-down time are used in conjunction with departure and arrival times to show the extent of ground delays. Elapsed flight time (computed from the wheels-up time and the wheels-down time) reveals delays experienced in the air. The reporting of the aircraft tail number allows the FAA to track an aircraft through the air network, which enables the FAA to study the ripple effects of delays at hub airports. Data by aircraft type allows the FAA to calculate the capacity impacted by air traffic congestion. The data can be analyzed for airport design changes, new equipment purchases, the planning of new runways or airports based on current and projected airport delays, and traffic levels.

Timothy E. Carmody,

Director, Office of Airline Information, Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

[FR Doc. 98-9610 Filed 4-10-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-FE-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

AGENCY: Advisory Committee to the National Center for State, Local, and International Law Enforcement Training.

ACTION: Notice of Meeting.

SUMMARY: The agenda for this meeting includes remarks by the Committee co-chairs, Elizabeth Bresee, Deputy Assistant Secretary (LE), Department of