

Vehicle Survivability and Travel Mileage Schedules (DOT HS808339, November 1995). These updated schedules will be used to assess the effects of proposed fuel economy and safety standards.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND COPIES OF THE REPORT CONTACT:

Alan Berkowitz, Office of Planning and Consumer Programs, Safety Performance Standards, NHTSA, Washington, DC 20590, extension 202 366-4795.

Issued on: February 21, 1996.

Barry Felrice,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 96-4385 Filed 2-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Announcement of National Customs Automation Program Test Regarding Remote Location Filing

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is to announce that Customs is permitting an extension and expansion of the current Remote Location Filing Prototype One until the implementation of Remote Prototype Two. Remote Prototype Two will be conducted under the National Customs Automation Program (NCAP) prototype in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). This notice also invites public comments concerning any aspect of Remote Prototype One, informs interested members of the public of the eligibility requirements for voluntary participation in the testing of the extension of the first prototype, and describes the basis on which Customs will select the additional participants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The first prototype test which began on June 19, 1995 will be extended until implementation of the NCAP Prototype, which includes Remote Prototype Two, and is scheduled to commence no sooner than January 1, 1997. Comments concerning the methodology of the first remote filing prototype must be received on or before March 28, 1996. To participate in the first prototype test, the necessary information, as outlined in this notice, must be filed with Customs on or before March 28, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding this notice, and information submitted to be considered for voluntary participation in the extension

of the first prototype should be addressed to the Remote Filing Team, U.S. Customs Service, 4455 Genesee Street Room 342, Buffalo, New York 14225.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For systems or automation issues: Russ Lanouette (202) 927-0322, or Jackie Jegels (202) 927-0201. For operational or policy issues: Linda LeBaron (716) 626-0400 extension 204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Title VI of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the Act), Public Law 103-182, 107 Stat. 2057 (December 8, 1993), contains provisions pertaining to Customs Modernization (107 Stat. 2170). Subtitle B of title VI establishes the National Customs Automation Program (NCAP)—an automated and electronic system for the processing of commercial importations. Section 631 in Subtitle B of the Act creates sections 411 through 414 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1411-1414), which define and list the existing and planned components of the NCAP (section 411), promulgate program goals (section 412), provide for the implementation and evaluation of the program (section 413), and provide for remote location filing (RLF) (section 414). Section 101.9(b) of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 101.9(b)), implements the testing of NCAP components. See, T.D. 95-21 (60 FR 14211, March 16, 1995).

On April 6, 1995, Customs published a document in the Federal Register (60 FR 17605) announcing Customs plan to conduct the first of at least two prototype tests regarding remote location filing. The document invited public comments concerning any aspect of the test, informed interested members of the public of the eligibility requirements for voluntary participation in the testing and described the basis on which Customs would be selecting participants. The test was to commence no earlier than June 1, 1995, and was planned to be run for approximately six months. The test began on June 19, 1995.

On September 12-13, 1995, the Remote Team held an interim evaluation session for Remote Prototype One. The group discussed the positive and negative aspects of the Remote prototype.

Positive factors identified were: faster release and other processing; facilitation of cargo movement; decrease in need for paper; increased cost savings; promotion of service and account based processing; and established good

partnership between Customs and Trade.

Negative factors identified as high priority for resolution were:

1. The test is limited in scenarios, Customs locations, and participants;
2. There are problems or limitations under Customs current Automated Commercial System (ACS) as well as uncertainty about the specifics of future capabilities under Customs Automated Commercial Environment (ACE);
3. There are issues that revolve around lack of coordination with other government agencies and computer interfaces that are incomplete or nonexistent;
4. There is a need for more complete training, cross training, and coordination for Customs, trade, and other government agencies.

After several structured group interview sessions, sub-teams were formed with internal and external participants to coordinate ideas and assign taskings to address or resolve issues #2-4. These sub-teams will remain intact in an effort to move forward with the resolution of the factors identified.

To address the first factor, the Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations has approved the extension and expansion of Remote Prototype One until the implementation of Remote Prototype Two. Remote Prototype Two will be conducted under the ACE/NCAP Prototype umbrella and commence no sooner than January 1, 1997. This extension will allow for the Remote Team to work on improving systems planning, coordinating with other government agencies, and developing better training efforts with the benefit of additional scenarios, and an increased volume of transactions and participants. In addition, the NCAP Prototype will afford the Remote team the opportunity to test Remote under a more developed ACE system and within the developing Trade Compliance process.

Please note that participants for Remote Prototype Two will be selected under separate criteria to be outlined in a separate NCAP Prototype Federal Register notice. Therefore, Remote Prototype One participants may or may not qualify for Remote Prototype Two.

I. Description of Proposed Test

The Concept of Remote Location Filing

Remote Location Filing (RLF) will allow a program participant to file electronically an entry of merchandise with Customs from a location within the United States other than at the port of arrival or location of examination. Due to the nature of this prototype test,

certain Customs Regulations pertaining to brokers permits, surety bonds, and the entry of merchandise will be suspended.

Implementation of the extension of the first RLF prototype (Prototype One) will begin no sooner than March 29, 1996 and continue until the implementation of Remote Prototype Two. Prototype One will continue to be conducted with minimal system changes requiring Customs and participants to manually intervene in tracking and processing. All procedures and processes will be closely coordinated with all selected participants and affected parties before implementation.

The intent of extending this prototype is to continue to test such operational issues as communication, cargo movement and release, and service to and from remote locations with a greater volume of entry transactions and participants.

Regulatory Provisions Suspended

Certain provisions in Part 111, pertaining to Customs brokers, Part 113, pertaining to Customs bonds, and Part 141, pertaining to the entry of merchandise, of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR Parts 111, 113, and 141) will continue to be suspended during this prototype test to allow remote filings by brokers at locations where they currently do not hold permits, and to allow for the movement of cargo from its port of arrival to a designated examination site.

II. Eligibility Criteria

Note that participation in this testing is not confidential information. Lists of participants will be made available to the public by means of the Customs Electronic Bulletin Board and the Customs Administrative Message System, and upon written request.

In order to qualify for filing from a remote location, a prototype participant must have the capability to provide, on an entry-by-entry basis, the electronic entry of merchandise; the electronic entry summary of required information; the electronic transmission of invoice information (ABI/AII or EDIFACT); and the electronic payment of duties fees, and taxes (ACH). Other requirements and conditions are as follows.

1. Participants must have operational experience with the Customs Electronic Invoice Program (EIP) with ABI/AII or EDIFACT. Please note that this prototype is a test of Remote Location Filing and not of EIP;

2. Participants must be operational on Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) 30 days before implementation;

3. Only entry types 01 (consumption) and 11 (informal) will be accepted;

4. Cargo release must be certified from the entry summary (EI) transaction with the exception of immediate delivery, as explained in #5;

5. Participants will be allowed to file Immediate Delivery releases for direct arrival road and rail freight at the land border (essentially 19 CFR 142.21(a)) with use of paper invoices under Line Release, Border Cargo Selectivity (BCS), or Cargo Selectivity (CS). Submission of all line items at the time of release will be required of northern border filers, if the release is effected using BCS or CS. If an examination is required for a line release transaction, the filer must submit all relevant line item information through BCS or CS. Under BCS and CS, the examination will be performed at the port of arrival with the use of paper invoices. If the filer wishes the examination to be performed at an alternate site, full entry summary information (EI transaction) with electronic invoice must be transmitted;

6. Participants will not be allowed to file a RLF entry against cargo that has been moved in-bond;

7. Participants will be required to use OGA interfaces where they are available; and

8. If an examination is determined to be necessary, the cargo will be examined at the Customs port of arrival, or, at Customs discretion, at a filer's requested designated examination site which would be a Customs port which is at or nearest the final destination. This movement of cargo to a designated examination port will be under the importer's bond.

9. A participant must maintain an average of 1-2 entries per day throughout the testing period.

10. Locations available for prototype participation are those ports currently operational with the Remote test for release and summary processing. It is possible, however, that additional ports may be added.

The following are locations currently operational under the Remote test: (POA indicates port of arrival, ESP indicates summary processing location, and DES indicates designated examination site).

DDDP location	Electronic processing status
0901 Buffalo	ESP.
0903 Rochester	DES, ESP done in 0901.
1001 NY Seaport	POA, DES, ESP.
1303 Baltimore	POA, DES, ESP.
2704 Los Angeles	POA, DES, ESP.
4601 Newark	POA, DES, ESP.
4701 JFK	POA, DES, ESP.

DDDP location	Electronic processing status
5501 Dallas	DES, ESP done in 2704.

Prototype One Applications

This notice requests importers, or brokers on behalf of importers, to voluntarily apply for participation in Prototype One extension by submitting the following information to the Remote Filing Team, U.S. Customs Service, 4455 Genesee Street, Room 342, Buffalo, New York 14225 on or before the date set forth in the effective date paragraph at the beginning of this notice:

1. Name, address, and filer code of importer and, if applicable, broker.
2. Supplier/Vendor name, address, and manufacturer's number.
3. Types of commodities to be imported (high volume Harmonized Tariff numbers).
4. Other agency requirements.
5. Port(s) of arrival.
6. Designated examination site(s) (location nearest the final destination).
7. Monthly volume anticipated.
8. Requested entry summary processing location(s), if different from port of arrival.
9. Electronic Invoicing Program status and projected start date.
10. Electronic Payment (ACH) status and projected start date.
11. Main contact person and telephone number for participation questions.
12. Any comments on prototype participation.

Basis For Participant Selection

Eligible importers or importers with brokers will be considered for selection as participants in the Prototype One extension. Customs is looking for a variety of circumstances and participants in this first prototype. We stress that those not selected for participation will be invited to comment on the design, conduct, and evaluation of this prototype. Selection will be based on Customs EIP operational experience, volume anticipated, electronic abilities, and available electronic interfaces with other agency's import requirements. Participants selected will be notified in writing and selections will be announced by means of the Customs Electronic Bulletin Board and the Customs Administrative Message System.

III. Test Evaluation Criteria

Once participants are selected, the Remote Filing Team will review all public comments received concerning any aspect of the prototype, enhance

procedures in light of those comments, and form problem-solving teams.

Upon conclusion of the prototype the final results will be published in the Federal Register as required by § 101.9(b), Customs Regulations and reported to Congress.

Dated: February 21, 1996.

Samuel H. Banks,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations.

[FR Doc. 96-4425 Filed 2-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Human Radiation Interagency Working Group; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 that a meeting of the VA Human Radiation Interagency Working Group will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 1996, in room C-7C, at the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. This meeting will convene at 9:00 a.m. and will adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

The purpose of the Working Group's meeting is to receive briefings and hold discussions to consider the feasibility of updating and expanding the epidemiological tables that are used to determine the likelihood that certain diseases could result from prior exposure to ionizing radiation. Additionally, the Working Group will receive briefings and hold discussions to determine whether existing laws governing the compensation of atomic veterans are now administered in ways that best balance allocation of resources between financial compensation to eligible veterans and administrative costs, including the costs and scientific credibility of dose reconstruction.

The meeting is open to the public to the capacity of the room. For those wishing to attend, contact Ms. Kathy Collier, Department of Veterans Affairs (213B), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, phone (202) 273-7230, prior to March 4, 1996.

Members of the public may direct questions or submit prepared statements for review by the Working Group in advance of the meeting, in writing only, to Mr. R. J. Vogel, Under Secretary for Benefits (20/213B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Submitted

material must be received at least five business days prior to the meeting. Members of the public may be asked to clarify submitted material prior to consideration by the Working Group.

Dated: February 20, 1996.

By Direction of the Secretary.

R.J. Vogel,

Under Secretary for Benefits.

[FR Doc. 96-4306 Filed 2-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8300-01-M

Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special-Disabilities Programs; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special-Disabilities Programs will be held Wednesday and Thursday, March 27-28, 1996, at Techworld Plaza, 801 I Street, NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will be held in Room 1105. The March 27 session will convene at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 4 p.m. and the March 28 session will convene at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 12 noon. Both days will involve briefings by the National Program Directors of the Special-Disabilities Programs regarding the status of their activities over the last six months. Other topics will be: centralized funding, waiting time in the Blind Rehabilitation Program and the impact of the Veterans Health Administration's reorganization on the delivery of services for these special-disabilities programs.

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to advise the Department on its prosthetics programs designed to provide state-of-the-art prosthetics and the associated rehabilitation research, development, and evaluation of such technology. The Advisory Committee also advises the Department on special disability programs which are defined as any program administered by the Secretary to serve veterans with spinal cord injury, blindness or vision impairment, loss of or loss of use of extremities, deafness or hearing impairment, or other serious incapacities in terms of daily life functions.

The Designated Federal Official for the Committee is Timothy Gerrity, Ph.D., Deputy Director for Medical Research Service. His phone number is (202) 565-4004.

Dated: February 19, 1996.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-4308 Filed 2-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

Advisory Committee on Research Realignment, Notice of Meeting

As required by Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the VA hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Research Realignment Advisory Committee will be held March 7-8, 1996. The meeting will start at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m. on both days. The meeting will be held in the Sheraton Washington Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road, at Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC, 20008. The purpose of the meeting is to review the present research programs to ensure that VA research meets the present and future healthcare needs.

The agenda for March 7 will address the details for implementing Special Emphasis Areas. The first day's agenda will also cover career development in a realigned research program and policies and procedures for informed consent in VA research.

On March 8 the committee will discuss Technology Transfer in VA, partnerships with industry, non-profit organizations, and other organizations. The Committee will also address activities of the Advisory Committee to Realign VA Residency Programs, and the role of academic affiliations in a realigned VA research program.

The meeting will be open to the public. Due to limited seating capacity, those who plan to attend or who have questions concerning the meeting should contact Efrend Z. Garcia, Chief Career Development, Department of Veterans Affairs at (202) 565-7133.

The meeting is open to the public to the capacity of the room. For those wishing to attend or who would like a copy of the meeting's final agenda, please contact Kathy Pessagno, Veterans Health Administration (117C), phone (202) 565-7296, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20420, prior to March 15, 1996.

Dated: February 19, 1996.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-4307 Filed 2-26-96; 8:45 am]

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