

vessels which are not to be included in the program for the first time." Therefore, Congress "amended this section to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate regulations to include sufficient flexibility to make the new bulk cargo vessels competitive." Senate Rept. 91-1080, 91st Cong. 2d Sess., reprinted in 1970 USCCAAN, p. 4194. Similar considerations require a nonspecific definition of the "trade" of liquid bulk vessels under the Maritime Security Act.

OSG asserts that the vessels "provided" in that "trade" are all the U.S.-flag tankers of OSG's affiliates. The service "provided" is construed to include periods of lay-up because the failure to operate was due to conditions beyond the control of OSG's affiliates. Compare Section 805 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936. 46 U.S.C. 1223, which includes in grandfathered service "interruptions of service over which the applicant or its predecessor in interest had no control."

Any person, firm or corporation having any interest in the application for section 656 consent and desiring to submit comments concerning OSG's request must by 5:00 PM December 16, 1996 file comments in triplicate to the Secretary, Maritime Administration, Room 7210, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.
Dated: November 13, 1996.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

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National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Safety Performance Standards, Research and Safety Assurance Programs Meetings

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of NHTSA Industry Meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting at which NHTSA will answer questions from the public and the automobile industry regarding the agency's vehicle regulatory, safety assurance and other programs. In addition, NHTSA will hold a separate public meeting to describe and discuss specific research and development projects.

DATES: The Agency's regular, quarterly public meeting relating to its vehicle regulatory, safety assurance and other

programs will be held on December 12, 1996, beginning at 9:45 a.m. and ending at approximately 12:30 p.m. Questions relating to the above programs must be submitted in writing by December 3, 1996, to the address shown below. If sufficient time is available, questions received after December 3 may be answered at the meeting. The individual, group or company submitting a question(s) does not have to be present for the question(s) to be answered. A consolidated list of the questions submitted by December 3, 1996, and the issues to be discussed will be transmitted to interested persons by December 6, 1996, and will be available at the meeting. Also, the agency will hold a second public meeting on December 11, devoted exclusively to a presentation of research and development programs. This meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at approximately 5:00 p.m. That meeting is described more fully in a separate announcement. The next NHTSA Industry Meeting will take place in March. More details on the date and its location will be announced at the December 12, Industry Meeting.

ADDRESSES: Questions for the December 12, NHTSA Technical Industry Meeting, relating to the agency's vehicle regulatory and safety assurance programs, should be submitted to Delia Gage, NPS-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, Fax Number 202-366-4329. The meeting will be held at the Royce Hotel, 315000 Wick Road, Romulus, Michigan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steven Kratzke, (202) 336-4931.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NHTSA will hold this regular, quarterly meeting to answer questions from the public and the regulated industries regarding the agency's vehicle regulatory, safety assurance and other programs. Questions on aspects of the agency's research and development activities that relate to ongoing regulatory actions should be submitted, as in the past, to the agency's Safety Performance Standards Office. The purpose of this meeting is to focus on those phases of NHTSA activities which are technical, interpretative or procedural in nature. Transcripts of these meetings will be available for public inspection in the NHTSA Technical Reference Section in Washington, DC, within four weeks after the meeting. Copies of the transcript will then be available at ten cents a page, (length has varied from 100 to 150 pages) upon request to NHTSA Technical Reference Section, Room 5108, 400 Seventh Street, SW.,

Washington, DC 20590. The Technical Reference Section is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We would appreciate the questions you send us to be organized by categories to help us to process the questions into agenda form more efficiently. Sample format as follows:

- I. Rulemaking
 - A. Crash avoidance
 - B. Crashworthiness
 - C. Other Rulemakings
- II. Consumer Information
- III. Miscellaneous

NHTSA will provide auxiliary aids to participants as necessary. Any person desiring assistance of "auxiliary aids" (e.g., sign-language interpreter, telecommunications devices for deaf persons (TDDs), readers, taped texts, Brailled materials, or large print materials and/or a magnifying device), Please contact Delia Gage on (202) 366-1810, by COB December 3, 1996.

Issued November 12, 1996.

L. Robert Shelton,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

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[Docket No. 96-116, Notice 1]

Capacity of Texas, Inc.; Receipt of Application for Temporary Exemption From Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 121

Collins Industries of Hutchinson, Kansas, on behalf of its subsidiary, Capacity of Texas, Inc., of Longview, Texas, has applied for a temporary exemption from paragraph S5.1.6 of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 121 *Air Brake Systems*. The basis of the application is that compliance will cause substantial economic hardship to a manufacturer that has tried to comply with the standard in good faith.

This notice of receipt of the application is published in accordance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 30113(b)(2) and does not represent any judgment of the agency on the merits of the application.

Paragraph S5.1.6 (which includes S5.1.6.1-S5.1.6.3) of Standard No. 121 requires in pertinent part that each truck tractor manufactured on and after March 1, 1997, be equipped with an antilock brake system. Capacity of Texas ("Capacity") has asked that one of its truck tractors be exempted for three months from the provisions of S5.1.6 that will apply to it effective March 1, 1997. Capacity manufactures the Trailer Jockey "Model TJ-5000 (Off Highway)" truck tractor. Terming it a "yard