

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Office of the Secretary****Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval of a new collection. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on April 30, 1997 (62 FR, 23530).

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before August 15, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Weaver, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-2811.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Maritime Administration**

*Title:* Information to Determine Seamen's Reemployment Rights—National Emergency.

*Type of Request:* Approval of a New Information Collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-New.

*Affected Public:* U.S. Merchant Seamen who have completed designated national service in time of war or national emergency and are seeking reemployment with a prior employer.

*Abstract:* Approval is requested in an effort to implement provisions of the Maritime Security Act of 1996. These provisions amend the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, to grant reemployment rights and other benefits to certain merchant seamen serving on vessels used by the United States for a war; armed conflict, national emergency or maritime mobilization need. As such, this rule establishes the procedure for obtaining the necessary MARAD certification for reemployment rights and other benefits conferred by statute and its assistance in pursuing these statutory rights and benefits.

*Need and Use of the Information:* The information collection requires merchant seamen to provide documents indicating their period of employment and their merchant mariner's status. The information provided will allow MARAD to determine eligibility for

reemployment rights when the employment is related to a designated national service.

*Estimated Annual Burden Hours:* 50 hours.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention DOT/MARAD Desk Officer. Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 10, 1997.

**Vanester M. Williams,**

*Clearance Officer, United States Department of Transportation.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Coast Guard**

[CGD 97-043]

**Notice and Request for Comments Regarding Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fair Act of 1996 Implementation**

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard has implemented certain programs to comply with the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996. We developed these programs to help small entities understand and comply with statutes and our regulations. We are seeking comments about our programs from the public.

**DATES:** The programs went into effect on March 29, 1997. Comments must be received by September 15, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail your comments to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G-LRA/3406) (SBREFA Comments), 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Christine Meers, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (G-MSR) at (202) 267-6819; or Ms. Brenda Beasley, Operations (G-0-1) at (202) 267-0825.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act ("SBREFA"), Public Law 104-121, 110 Stat. 847, was enacted on March 29, 1996. Sections 213 and 223 of SBREFA require agencies to establish specific policies or programs to assist small entities. Small entities include small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and small governmental jurisdictions.

Section 213 requires each covered agency to establish a program to answer inquiries concerning information and advice about compliance with statutes and regulations within the agency's jurisdiction. The agency must use information received during these inquiries to help small entities interpret and apply the regulations to specific facts.

Section 223 requires each covered agency to establish a policy or program to reduce or waive civil penalties when a small entity violates a statute or regulation. Under appropriate circumstances, an agency may consider ability to pay when it assesses a penalty against a small entity.

**Informal Small Entity Guidance**

To help small entities understand their obligations under the regulations administered by the Coast Guard, we provide both general guidance and individualized advice. We are available to assist small entities at our headquarters location in Washington, DC, and at our field offices located in port cities around the nation.

When we issue or propose new regulations, we identify a point of contact within the text of each rule who will provide small business advice. Depending on the nature of the rule, that person may be a Headquarters project officer, a subject matter expert at the Coast Guard's National Maritime Center, or a Coast Guard official assigned to a local port. This contact person is available, by phone, fax, or e-mail, to help small entities understand the rule so they can better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process.

In those instances where we hold public meetings to solicit views from the public regarding proposed or anticipated rules, we plan to develop a