

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

46 CFR Parts 10 and 15

[CGD 94-055]

RIN 2115-AF23

Licensing and Manning for Officers of Towing Vessels

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is holding four public meetings on its proposed rule to revise the requirements for licensing mariners who operate inspected as well as uninspected towing vessels. The proposed rule would ensure that all towing vessels are manned by officers holding licenses specifically authorizing their service. The Coast Guard is holding the public meetings to receive additional views on the licensing issues in the proposed rule.

DATES: The meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, will be held on February 11, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The meeting in Houston, Texas, will be held on February 13, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, will be held on February 18, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The meeting in Seattle, Washington, will be held on February 24, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Written material must reach the Coast Guard not later than February 20, 1998. Comments on the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking must be received on or before February 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The Memphis meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers, 125 North Main, Memphis, TN 38103. The Boston meeting will be held in the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, 455 Commercial Street, Boston, MA 02109-1045. The Houston meeting will be held at Hollywood Marine Inc., 16402-1/2 Dezavala, Channelview, TX 77530. The Seattle meeting will be held in the South Auditorium, Federal Building, 915 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98174-1067. You may send written comments to the Executive Secretary, Marine Safety Council (G-LRA) [CGD 94-055], 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 rulemaking.

Comments 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: LCDR Don Darcy, Operating and Environmental Standards Division (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001, telephone 202-267-0221.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Request for Comments**

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this rulemaking [CGD 94-055] and the specific section of the proposed rule to which each comment applies, and give the reasons for each comment. 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 comment should enclose stamped, self-addressed postcards or envelopes.

The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period. It may change this proposed rule in view of the comments.

Public Meeting

Attendance is open to the public. Persons who are hearing-impaired may request sign translation by asking the person under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at least one week before the meeting. With advance notice, and as time permits members of the public may make oral presentations during the meeting. Persons wishing to make oral presentations should notify the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** no later than the day before the meeting. Written material may be submitted before, during, or after the meeting. Persons unable to attend the public meetings should submit written comments as outlined in the interim rule by February 24, 1998.

Dated: January 13, 1998.

R. L. Skewes,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Director of Standards Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

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BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 79

[MM Docket No. 95-176; FCC 98-3]

Closed Captioning of Video Programming

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: Viewers with hearing disabilities may not always have access to the same televised emergency information that is currently available to other viewers. The Commission adopted this *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* ("Further Notice") seeking information and comment regarding appropriate rules and policies to promote and to ensure the accessibility of televised emergency information to persons with hearing disabilities. Closed captioning rules for emergency information programs were not adopted in the *Report and Order* in MM Docket No. 95-176, *In the Matter of Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming, Video Programming Accessibility* ("Closed Captioning Order") due to the limited comments submitted in that proceeding on the issue of captioning of such programs.

The *Further Notice* does not contain proposed or modified information collections subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104-13.

DATES: Comments are due on or before February 25, 1998 and reply comments are due on or before March 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alexis D. Johns, Cable Services Bureau, (202) 418-7038, TTY (202) 418-7172.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, MM Docket 95-176, adopted January 9, 1998 and released January 14, 1998. The full text of this *Further Notice* is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center (Room 239), 1919 M Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20554, and may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Service, (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.