

appropriate for the particular type of motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment for which it is prescribed, and whether such standards will contribute to carrying out the purpose of the Act. The Secretary is authorized to revoke such rules and regulations as deemed necessary to carry out this subchapter.

Using this authority, the agency issued the initial FMVSS No. 115, Vehicle Identification Number, specifying requirements for vehicle identification numbers to aid the agency in achieving many of its safety goals.

The standard was amended in August 1978 by extending its applicability to additional classes of motor vehicles and by specifying the use of a 30-year, 17-character Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for worldwide use. The standard was amended in May 1983 (Attachment 8) by deleting portions of FMVSS No. 115 and reissuing those portions as a general agency regulation, Part 565. The provisions of these two regulations require vehicle manufacturers to assign a unique VIN to each new vehicle and to inform the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the code used in forming the VIN. These regulations apply to all vehicles: passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, buses, trailers, incomplete vehicles, and motorcycles. b. 49 CFR Parts 541 and 567.

The Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act was amended by the Anti-Car Theft Act of 1992 (Pub.L. 102-519). The enacted Theft Act states that passenger motor vehicles, multipurpose passenger vehicles, and light-duty trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 6,000 pounds or less be covered under the Theft Prevention Standard. Each major component part must be either labeled or affixed with the VIN and for the replacement component part it must be marked with the DOT symbol, the letter (R) and the manufacturers' logo.

Estimated Annual Burden: 376,591 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, within 30 days, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention DOT 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.

A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 29, 1998.

Phillip A. Leach,

Clearance Officer, United States Department of Transportation.

[FR Doc. 98-14890 Filed 6-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG-1998-3584]

Proposed Modernization of the Coast Guard National Distress System

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of the availability of the USCG draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coast Guard requests comment on its draft of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the National Distress System Modernization Project (NDSMP). The PEA is posted on the Internet for review. This environmental assessment examines in detail: (1) The reasonable alternatives available to the USCG to fulfill current mission needs for an efficient, cost-effective, and technologically improved NDS; and (2) the potential for significant environmental impacts from each alternative. The precise solution to the Coast Guard's NDS modernization needs will ultimately be selected through a fully competitive process with industry offering a variety of potential solutions. At this time, and in compliance with NEPA, the PEA identifies the replacement system as using dual mode (digital and analog) transceivers. In the digital mode these transceivers would be programmable and adaptable to digital signal processing technologies and narrow band channel spacing. In the analog mode, the transceivers would be compatible with VHF marine radios in use by the maritime public. This alternative integrates radio position localization, Digital Select Calling (DSC), encryption capability, digital recording equipment, and data transmission capability. This option

also incorporates more radio spectrum, and increases communication coverage for the modernized NDS. It is expected that additional antenna sites will be added in coastal locations. The PEA is available at the Internet web site:

<http://comms.rdc.uscg.mil/NDSmod/NDS.html>

or

<http://dms.dot.gov/>

Please review the PEA located at the Internet web site and send any comments in writing to the address provided below. Early comments are encouraged. If you would like to review a copy of the PEA and are unable to access our web site, please contact Mr. Dan Muslin at (619) 532-3403, or at the address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 6, 1998.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to the Docket Management Facility, [USCG-1998-3584], U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001, or deliver them to room PL-401, located on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the same address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number to the Docket Management Facility is (202) 366-9329.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments, and documents as indicated in this notice, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401, located on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the above address between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Dan Muslin, telephone: (619) 532-3403, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1220 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92132-5190, for questions concerning this notice, the proposed modernization project, or the associated EA. For questions concerning the Docket Management Facility contact Paulette Twine, Chief, Documentary Services, Division, U.S. Department of Transportation, telephone (202) 366-9329.

Dated: May 28, 1998.

Fred N. Squires,

Acting Assistant Commandant for Acquisition.

[FR Doc. 98-15036 Filed 6-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-M