

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard**

[USCG-1998-4353]

Towing Safety Advisory Committee**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) and its working groups will meet to discuss various issues relating to shallow-draft inland and coastal waterway navigation and towing safety. All meetings are open to the public.

DATES: TSAC will meet on Wednesday, September 23, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. TSAC working groups will meet on Tuesday, September 22, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. These meetings may close early if all business is finished. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before September 14, 1998. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or working group should reach the Coast Guard on or before September 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: TSAC will meet in the North Auditorium, Jackson Federal Building, 915 2nd Avenue, Seattle, Washington. The working groups will meet in the same room. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to Lieutenant Lionel Mew, Commandant (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on this notice, contact Lieutenant Lionel Mew, Assistant Executive Director of CTAC, telephone 202-267-0218, fax 202-267-4570. For questions on viewing, or submitting material to, the docket, contact Dorothy Walker, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, 202-366-9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of these meetings is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Agendas of Meetings

Towing Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) and working group meetings. The agendas tentatively include the following:

- (1) Report of the Coast Guard Research and Development Center study on inland towing vessel crew fatigue.
- (2) Progress report from the Voyage Planning working group.
- (3) Discussion on Alternative Convention Tonnage issues.

(4) Recommendations on the G-M Performance Plan.

(5) Discussion of the Merchant Marine Licensing and Documentation Reengineering Plan.

(6) Status update on the National Marine Safety Incident Reporting System.

(7) Progress report from the Electronic Charting Standards working group.

(8) Presentation by working groups of their accomplishments and future plans.

Procedural

Both meetings are open to the public. Please note that the meetings may close early if all business is finished. At the Chairs' discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meetings. If you would like to make an oral presentation at a meeting, please notify the Assistant Executive Director no later than September 14, 1998. Written material for distribution at a meeting should reach the Coast Guard no later than September 14, 1998. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or subcommittee in advance of a meeting, please submit 25 copies to the Assistant Executive Director no later than September 8, 1998.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact the Assistant Executive Director as soon as possible.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

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BILLING CODE 4910-15-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee; Transport Airplanes and Engine Issues—New Task**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of new task assignment for the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC).

SUMMARY: Notice is given of a new task assigned to and accepted by the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC). This notice informs the public of the activities of ARAC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stewart R. Miller, Transport Standards

Staff (ANM-110), Federal Aviation Administration, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, WA 98055-4056; phone (425) 227-1255; fax (425) 227-1320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The FAA has established an Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the FAA Administrator, through the Associate Administrator for Regulation and Certification, on the full range of the FAA's rulemaking activities with respect to aviation-related issues. This includes obtaining advice and recommendations on the FAA's commitment to harmonize its Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) and practices with its trading partners in Europe and Canada.

One area ARAC deals with is Transport Airplane and Engine Issues. These issues involve the airworthiness standards for transport category airplanes and engines in 14 CFR parts 25, 33, and 35 and parallel provisions in 14 CFR parts 121 and 135.

The Task

This notice is to inform the public that the FAA has asked ARAC to provide advice and recommendation on the following harmonization task:

Task 2: Passenger Seat Safety

The primary issue for FAR 25.562:

FAR 25.562(b) states "Each seat type design approved for crew or passenger occupancy during takeoff and landing must successfully complete dynamic test or be demonstrated by rational analysis based on dynamic tests of a similar type seat * * *." The method for determining the required "rational analysis based on dynamic tests" is different between regulatory bodies.

The FAA has accepted the Revised Means of Compliance (RMCC) as a method of determining which members of a seat family must be demonstrated by dynamic test so that the rest may be certified by similarity. The JAA has not accepted this method of determining the test seats. Harmonization of test article selection is the objective.

A secondary issue for FAR 25.562:

Harmonization should also occur on other methods of compliance to FAR 25.562, including pass/fail criteria and test methodology.

The primary issue for FAR 25.785:

FAR 25.785(c) states that each seat or berth must be approved. The FAA requires all seats that are "in-flight only" to have a restraint system before they will be approved. The JAA does not require restraints for seats that are not occupied for taxi, takeoff and