

have received exemptions from the start-in-gear protection requirement.

The Exemption Process

A boat manufacturer petitions for an exemption from regulations by sending the Coast Guard's Recreational Boating Product Assurance Division a letter describing the boat for which the exemption is sought, the reasons why the application of a regulation is impractical or unreasonable, and providing data or arguments that demonstrate why boating safety will not be adversely affected. Each petition for an exemption is considered on its own merits. To obtain an exemption, the manufacturer must show that the boat for which the exemption is sought achieves an acceptable level of safety in keeping with the intent of Federal boating safety laws.

The grant of exemption contains language that requires the manufacturer to display a label different than the typical certification label to alert the owner or operator that the boat does not comply with the Coast Guard standards published in the Code of Federal Regulations. An exemption lasts for a period of three years after which the manufacturer must petition the Coast Guard for an extension. If the manufacturer changes the design or construction of a boat subject to the provisions of an exemption, or if the manufacturer begins producing additional model boats, the manufacturer must petition the Coast Guard for an amendment to the provisions of the grant of exemption.

Petition for Rulemaking

On September 20, 1998, Mr. Fernando Garcia, Chairman, National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) PWC Certification Committee, sent a petition for rulemaking to the Commandant of the Coast Guard on behalf of the NMMA and the Personal Watercraft Industry Association (PWIA). The petition encourages the Coast Guard to allow manufacturers to comply with certain industry standards for PWC instead of requiring them to undergo the exemption process for every new model. Specifically, the petition recommends the Coast Guard adopt the ISO 13590 manufacturing standards as an alternative to the exemption process. The petition is available for inspection in the public docket for this rulemaking. You can access the petition for rulemaking in the public docket. To access the public docket, see the ADDRESSES section of this publication.

NTSB Report

On May 19, 1998, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a report that recommended the Coast Guard eliminate the existing process of exempting personal watercraft from the regulations in 33 CFR Parts 181 and 183 and develop safety standards specific to personal watercraft. You can access the excerpt from the NTSB report in the public docket. To access the public docket, see the ADDRESSES section of this publication. You can purchase your own copy of the entire NTSB report by ordering report number PB98-917002 from: National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA, 22161, (703) 605-6000.

Public Meeting

The Coast Guard does not now plan to hold a public meeting in response to this petition. But you may request one by submitting a request to the Docket Management Facility at the address under ADDRESSES explaining why one would be beneficial. If the Coast Guard determines that one would aid the consideration of this petition, we will hold one at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages you to submit comments and related material answering the questions below. We also welcome any other comments in connection with this notice. Please include with your submission your name and address, identify the docket number for this rulemaking (USCG-1998-4734), indicate the specific question of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. You may submit your comments and material by mail, hand delivery, fax, or electronic means to the Docket Management Facility at the address under ADDRESSES; but please submit your comments and material by only one means. If you submit them by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit them by mail and would like to know they reached the Facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Your comments will help us to determine whether to initiate a rulemaking in accordance with the petitioner's request.

Questions

1. Should the Coast Guard formally recognize a definition of PWC? If no,

why not? If yes, what definition of PWC should the Coast Guard adopt? What types of vessels should the definition of PWC include or exclude? Should the definition of PWC include vessels equipped to carry multiple persons and large volumes of cargo? How many people and how large should a PWC be allowed to get before it would fall outside of the definition? Vessels called PWC also have been referred to as thrill craft, sport boats, jet skis, water scooters, etc. What should this type of vessel be called? Why?

2. Should the Coast Guard continue to require PWC manufacturers to petition the Coast Guard for exemptions to the manufacturing regulations for recreational boats? Why or why not?

3. Should the Coast Guard develop a method other than the exemption process to require PWC manufacturers comply with Federal recreational boating safety laws? If no, why not? If yes, what alternate method should the Coast Guard develop? Examples of alternate regulatory methods to the exemption process include (1) requiring that PWC manufacturers meet prescribed industry design standards such as ISO 13590 standards, SAE standards, or some other industry standard or (2) developing manufacturing regulations that address accidents associated with the specific design of PWC.

4. The Coast Guard also grants exemptions for other categories of non-conventionally designed recreational boats. Some include airboats, hovercraft, submarines, drift boats, race boats, and mini bass boats. Should the Coast Guard develop a method other than the exemption process to require manufacturers of those non-conventionally designed boats to comply with Federal recreational boating safety laws? Why or why not?

Dated: October 6, 1999.

Terry M. Cross,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Assistant Commandant for Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

36 CFR Parts 217 and 219

National Meetings on Forest Service System Land and Resource Management Planning Regulations

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: On October 5, 1999, the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service published proposed regulations guiding land and resource management planning on national forests and grasslands (64 FR 54073). The Forest Service is scheduling 23 national town hall meetings to discuss the proposed planning regulations.

DATES: The town hall meetings are scheduled from October 26 through December 9.

ADDRESSES: The meetings will be held at the locations and times listed in the

table under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

Written comments on the proposed planning regulations can be sent to the following: via mail at CAET-USDA, Attn. Planning Rule, Forest Service, USDA 200 East Broadway, Room 103, PO Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807; via email at planreg/wo_caet@fs.fed.us; or via facsimile at (406) 329-3021.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Cunningham, telephone: (202) 205-2494.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 23 town hall meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the proposed planning regulations. Participants will be briefed on major themes of the proposed regulations which were published in the **Federal Register** on October 5, 1999 (64 FR 54073).

The meetings will be held at the locations and times listed in the following table:

Date	City	Location	Time
Tuesday, October 26	St. Louis, MO	St. Louis Airport Hilton, 10330 Natural Bridge Road	6-9 p.m.
Tuesday, October 26	Hanover, NH	Dartmouth College, Kendall Lounge	6-9 p.m.
Thursday, October 28	Duluth, MN	Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, 350 Harbor Drive.	6-9 p.m.
Monday, November 1	Boise, ID	Owyhee Plaza Hotel, 1109 Main Street	6-9 p.m.
Tuesday, November 2	Olympia, WA	Olympic National Forest Headquarters, 1835 Black Lake Boulevard, SW.	6-9 p.m.
Thursday, November 4	Juneau, AK	Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, Glacier Spur Road	6-9 p.m.
Thursday, November 4	Salem, OR	Quality Inn Salem, 3301 Market Street, NE	6-9 p.m.
Tuesday, November 9	Casper, WY	Parkway Plaza, I-25 & Center Street	6-9 p.m.
Wednesday, November 10	Reno, NV	Sands Regency Hotel, 345 North Arlington Avenue	6-9 p.m.
Saturday, November 13	Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles River Center, 570 West Avenue 26	9 a.m.-12 noon.
Saturday, November 13	Denver, CO	Rocky Mountain Regional Office, USDA Forest Service Auditorium, 740 Simms Lakewood, CO.	9 a.m.-12 noon.
Tuesday, November 16	Little Rock, AR	Hilton Inn, 925 South University	6-9 p.m.
Tuesday, November 16	Bozeman, MT	Holiday Inn, 5 Baxter Lane	6-9 p.m.
Thursday, November 18	Jackson, MS	Ramada Inn Southwest Conference Center, Ellis Avenue and I-20 West.	6-9 p.m.
Thursday, November 18	Missoula, MT	4B's Inn, Missoula South, 3803 Brooks Street	6-9 p.m.
Saturday, November 20	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Idaho Panhandle National Forest Headquarters, 3815 Schreiber Way.	9 a.m.-12 noon.
Tuesday, November 30	Montrose, CO	Montrose Pavilion, 1800 Pavilion Drive	6-9 p.m.
Wednesday, December 1	Grayling, MI	Grayling Holiday Inn, 2650 I-75 Business Loop	6-9 p.m.
Thursday, December 2	Albuquerque, MN	Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 Second Street, NW.	6-9 p.m.
Saturday, December 4	Asheville, NC	North Carolina Arboretum, 100 Fredrick Law Olmstead Way.	9 a.m.-12 noon.
Tuesday, December 7	Salt Lake City, UT	Hilton Hotel, 150 West, 500 South	6-9 p.m.
Thursday, December 9	Sacramento, CA	Sacramento Convention Center, 1030 Fifteenth Street	6-9 p.m.
Thursday, December 9	Phoenix, AZ	Chaparral Suites Hotel, 5001 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale.	6-9 p.m.

Dated: October 14, 1999.

Gloria Manning,

Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

42 CFR Part 8

[Docket No. 98N-0617]

Narcotic Drugs in Maintenance and Detoxification Treatment of Narcotic Dependence; Repeal of Current Regulations and Proposal To Adopt New Regulations; Notice of Public Hearing

AGENCIES: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse

Treatment (CSAT) in conjunction with the Food and Drug Administration and other Federal agencies will convene a public hearing on proposed regulations for opioid drugs in the treatment of narcotic addiction. The purpose of the hearing is to provide an opportunity for interested parties to convey comments on the proposed rule to a panel composed of representatives from Federal agencies.

DATES: The hearing will be held on November 1, 1999, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Written notice of participation should be filed by October 26, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held in Conference Room D, 6001 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD 20852. Written notices of participation and any comments are to be sent to CSAT