

The interest rate for eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives is 4 percent.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59002)

Dated: February, 29, 2000.

Aida Alvarez,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-5567 Filed 3-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

National Advisory Council Meeting; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Administration National Advisory Council, will hold the National Advisory Council Meeting on April 10, 2000 through April 12, 2000, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel located at 2 West Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia to discuss matters as may be presented by members of the National Advisory Council.

For further information, write or call Kimberly Mace, Staff Assistant, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, South West, Washington, DC 20416, (202) 401-8252.

Bettie Baca,
Counselor to the Administrator/Public Liaison.

[FR Doc. 00-5561 Filed 3-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Western States Regional Fairness Board Public Hearing

Date: March 30, 2000.

Location: Maricopa Community College, 2411 W. 14th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281.

Time: 1:00 p.m.

The Space is being donated by the Community College.

Purpose: To receive comments and testimony from small businesses and representatives of trade associations concerning regulatory enforcement or compliance taken by federal agencies.

Note: Transcripts of these proceedings will be posted on the Internet. These transcripts are subject only to limited review by the National Ombudsman.

Contact: Gary P. Peele (312) 353-0880.

Bettie Baca,
Counselor to the Administrator/Public Liaison.

[FR Doc. 00-5560 Filed 3-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region 1 Advisory Council Meeting; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Region 1 Advisory Council, located in the geographical area of Augusta, will hold a public meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday March 14th, 2000 at the Resource Hub, 441 Congress Street, Portland, Maine, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

For further information, write or call Mary McAleney, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 40 Western Avenue, Augusta, Maine 04330, 207-622-8378.

Bettie Baca,
Counselor to the Administrator/Public Liaison.

[FR Doc. 00-5559 Filed 3-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region V District Advisory Council Meeting; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Region V District Advisory Council, located in the geographical area of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, will hold a public meeting on March 10th at 11:30 a.m., at The Ground Round, 1500 East 78th Street, Richfield, Minnesota to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or other present.

For further information, write or call Nancy Gilbertson, Deputy District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 610-C Butler Square, 100 North Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403, (612) 370-2319.

Bettie Baca,
Counselor to the Administrator/Public Liaison.

[FR Doc. 00-5568 Filed 3-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Proposed Advisory Circular 21-23A, Airworthiness Certification of Civil Aircraft, Engines, Propellers, and Related Products Imported to the United States

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document announces the availability of and requests comment on a proposed revised advisory circular (AC) that provides information on the Federal Aviation's (FAA) objectives, regulations, and general practices for United States of America (U.S.) airworthiness certification or acceptance of civil aeronautical products imported to the U.S. This notice is necessary to give all interested persons an opportunity to present their views on the proposed AC.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than May 8, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send all comments on the proposed AC to: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Attention: Marilyn DonCarlos, International Airworthiness Program, AIR-4, Aircraft Certification Service, 800 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, DC 20591. Comments may be inspected at the above address between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marilyn DonCarlos, International Airworthiness Program Staff, AIR-4, Aircraft Certification Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3319; fax (202) 267-3319; e-mail marilyn.doncarlos@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Comments Invited

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed AC by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Commenters must identify the AC by title and submit comments in duplicate to the address specified above. The Aircraft Certification Service will consider all communications received on or before the closing date for comments before issuing the final AC.

Availability of Proposed AC

Requests for copies should be directed to the person named above under the

caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.** Please specify whether a paper copy or an e-mailed copy is needed.

Discussion

The proposed revisions to the advisory circular (AC) provide a convenient source of current policies, guidance, and practices for U.S. airworthiness certification and acceptance of civil aeronautical products imported to the U.S. Since the publication of current AC 21-23 in 1987, a new format of bilateral aviation agreement, the Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA), has been established. A BASA consists of an Executive Agreement, signed by the Department of State and its foreign counterpart, and one or more Implementation Procedures (e.g., for airworthiness, maintenance, flight simulators, environmental approval) signed by the FAA and its foreign civil aviation counterpart. Both a BASA and its predecessor, a Bilateral Airworthiness Agreement (BAA), are intended to facilitate reciprocal airworthiness certification of civil aeronautical products imported or exported between the two signatory countries. Both are based on a high degree of mutual confidence in the technical competence and regulatory capability of the aviation authority of the exporting country for performing aircraft certification functions within the scope of the agreements, but a BASA is more flexible, because it allows for later expansion into other FAA regulatory disciplines. The FAA's objective in issuing this proposed revised AC is to provide guidance on the current procedures and requirements for design and airworthiness approvals of aviation products imported to the United States, including requirements in BASA Implementation Procedures for Airworthiness.

Issued in Washington, DC, on March 3, 2000.

Mary Cheston,

Manager, International Airworthiness Programs Staff, AIR-4.

[FR Doc. 00-5599 Filed 3-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received

a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Metro-North Commuter Railroad & Connecticut Department of Transportation

[Docket Number FRA-2000-6778]

Metro-North Commuter Railroad (MNCW) and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) seek a temporary waiver of compliance with the Passenger Equipment Safety Standards, 49 CFR Part 238.235, which requires that by December 31, 1999, each power operated door that is partitioned from the passenger compartment shall be equipped with a manual override adjacent to that door. They request that the waiver be granted for 159 passenger coaches equipped with power operated side doors outside the passenger compartment. The waiver if granted would grant an extension of time until July 1, 2001, for the installation manual overrides.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2000-6778) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401, Washington, DC. 20590-0001. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 24, 2000.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 00-5537 Filed 3-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Mount Dora Scenic Railway Company

[Docket Number FRA-2000-6850]

Mount Dora Scenic Railway Company seeks a permanent waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Safety Glazing Standards, 49 CFR 223.9, which requires certified glazing, for two locomotives (self propelled railway motor cars) utilized in excursion service on the Mount Dora Scenic Railway in Mount Dora, Florida. Mount Dora indicates that they would provide front and rear facing windows with FRA Type I glazing but would like to equip the side facing windows with safety glazing. They state that the two motor cars are not air conditioned, and the passenger compartment side windows can be opened.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number 2000-6850) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will