

means to apply the emergency brake that is accessible to passengers and located in the vestibule or passenger compartment.

The passenger equipment safety standards in part 238 are geared toward the transportation of passengers in typical passenger equipment compartments that have side walls, roofs, windows, doors and other structures commonly found on rail passenger cars to provide protection to persons riding in those cars. See part 238 subparts B and C, standards for existing and new equipment; see also part 239, requirements for passenger train emergency preparedness.

The transportation of passengers on flat cars is not specifically addressed by part 238 and, therefore, a waiver of the requirements of part 238 is necessary to permit ARRC to continue the service. In particular, part 238 has the following requirements designed to protect passengers that ARRC flatcars may not meet (additional requirements would apply to any new equipment): emergency window exits designed to permit rapid and easy removal without requiring the use of a tool or other implement (§ 238.113); glazing (§ 238.221; part 223); safety appliances (§ 238.229); and brake system (§ 238.231, especially (i)—a means to apply the emergency brake that is accessible to passengers and located in the vestibule or passenger compartment). FRA assumes that ARRC is seeking relief from each of the enumerated sections, but will be consulting with ARRC whether this assumption is correct.

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 1999-6517) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. 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 a.m.–5 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 March 29, 2000.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 00-8166 Filed 4-3-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-1999-6364]

Northeast Illinois Railroad Corporation; Public Hearing

The Northeast Illinois Railroad Corporation (Metra) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking a permanent waiver of compliance with the *Passenger Equipment Safety Standards*, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 238.303, which requires exterior calendar day inspection, and 238.313, which requires a Class I brake test be performed by a qualified maintenance person. Metra requests that on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) and holidays these tests be performed by a qualified person, not a qualified maintenance person as required in the *Passenger Equipment Safety Standards*. Metra states that in many cases, the qualified person can be a member of the train crew.

This proceeding is identified as FRA-1999-6364. FRA issued a public notice seeking comments of interested parties and conducted a field investigation in this matter. After examining the carrier's proposal, letters of protest, and field report, FRA has determined that a public hearing is necessary before a final decision is made on this proposal.

Accordingly, a public hearing is hereby set for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 2000, at the John Kluczynski Federal Building, Room 240, at 230 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. Interested parties are invited to present oral statements at the hearing. The hearing will be an informal one and will be conducted in accordance with Rule 25 of the FRA Rules of Practice (49 CFR Part 211.25) by a representative designated by FRA. The hearing will be a non-adversarial proceeding; therefore, there will be no cross-examination of persons presenting statements. The FRA representative will make an opening

statement outlining the scope of the hearing. After all initial statements have been completed, those persons wishing to make a brief rebuttal will be given the opportunity to do so in the same order in which initial statements were made. Additional procedures, if necessary for the conduct of the hearing, will be announced at the hearing.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on March 29, 2000.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 00-8167 Filed 4-3-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2000-7158]

Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD's) intentions to request extension of approval for three years of a currently approved information collection.

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before June 5, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Wiegand, Maritime Administration, MAR 611, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone:—202-366-2627. FAX 202-366-3889.

Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Maintenance and Repair Cumulative Summary.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0007.

Form Numbers: MA-140.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2000.

Summary of Collection of Information: The collection consists of form MA-140 to which are attached invoices and other supporting documents for expenses claimed for subsidy. Subsidized operators submit form MA-140 to the appropriate MARAD region office for review within 60 days of the termination of a subsidized voyage.

Need and Use of the Information: The collected information is necessary to