

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Railroad Administration****49 CFR Parts 222 and 229**

[Docket No. FRA-1999-6439, Notice No. 2]

RIN 2130-AA71

Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Proposed rule; notification of congressional contacts.

SUMMARY: On January 13, 2000, FRA published in the *Federal Register* a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) regarding the use of locomotive horns at highway-rail grade crossings (65 FR 2230). This document provides information pertaining to contacts that FRA officials have had with various with members of Congress regarding the NPRM.

ADDRESSES: The public docket is available at DOT's Docket Management Facility at room PL-401, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. All documents are also available at the docket facilities web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark H. Tessler, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: 202-493-6061).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Backgrounds***Congressional Meeting*

In the NPRM published on January 13, 2000, FRA established a comment period during which the public could provide its views on the NPRM. FRA stated: "Comments must be received by May 26, 2000. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent possible without incurring additional expense or delay."

On June 22, 2000, Federal Railroad Administrator Jolene Molitoris met with certain members of Congress at their request to discuss the pending rulemaking. At the meeting, attended by Administrator Molitoris, FRA Chief Counsel S. Mark Lindsey, Speaker Dennis Hastert, Senator Richard Durbin, and Representatives William Lipinski, Judy Biggert, and John Porter, the FRA officials received a proposal from the Members concerning the proposed locomotive horn rule.

A summary of the discussion, together with the proposal presented to the

Administrator has been placed in the public docket of this proceeding and is identified as Document Number 2316 of Docket No. FRA-1999-6439. This document, together with all other documents contained in the public docket is available at DOT's Docket Management Facility at room PL-401, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. All documents are also available at the docket facilities web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Congressional Hearing

On July 18, 2000, Deputy Administrator John V. Wells testified before the House Subcommittee on Ground Transportation of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure regarding the NPRM. FRA will submit to the docket a copy of the transcript of that hearing when it is made available to FRA.

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 25, 2000.

S. Mark Lindsey,
Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 00-19397 Filed 7-31-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-M**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****National Highway Traffic Safety Administration****49 CFR Part 575**

[Docket No. NHTSA-2000-6859; Notice 2]

RIN 2127-AC64

Consumer Information Regulations; Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Rollover Prevention

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.
ACTION: Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This document grants a request by the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers to extend, for 30 days, the comment period on the agency's request for comment on the proposal to include ratings for rollover resistance in the New Car Assessment Program.

DATES: The comment period will close on August 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to Docket No. NHTSA-2000-6859 and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh St, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Docket room hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gayle Dalrymple, Office of Crash

Avoidance Standards 202-366-5559 or by FAX to 202-493-2739. The mailing address is National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NPS-23, 400 Seventh St, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On Thursday, June 1, 2000, NHTSA published a request for comment on the agency's intent to include a vehicle measure of rollover resistance, its Static Stability Factor (SSF), as an addition to the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP).

The agency believes that consumer information on the rollover risk of passenger cars and light multipurpose passenger vehicles and trucks, based on the vehicle's SSF, would reduce the number of injuries and fatalities from rollover crashes. This information would enable prospective purchasers to make informed choices about new vehicles based on differences in real-world rollover risk and serve as a market incentive to manufacturers in striving to design their vehicles with greater rollover resistance.

Included in the notice was a new statistical study undertaken to demonstrate a relationship between SSF and rollover rate representative of the whole country. A relationship between rollover rate and SSF normalized to the national rollover rate and to a nationally representative set of driver and road use variables was developed as a basis for a comparative rating system for rollover risk in the event of a single-vehicle crash. We had available crash reports of 185,000 single-vehicle crashes from six states from 1994 to 1997 in which it was possible to determine the make/model of the vehicles and whether rollover occurred in the course of a single-vehicle crash, and for which SSF data were also available. We also had the NASS GES data sampling system, with far fewer but nationally representative crash reports, to determine the national average rollover rate for the population of vehicles investigated in the state reports.

The notice specified a comment closing date of July 31, 2000 (60 days after date of publication). However, on July 10, 2000 we received a request for an extension of the comment closing date from the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers (AAM). The AAM stated that it would need an additional 30 days to allow for replication and analysis of the statistical study presented in the appendix to the notice.

NHTSA wants the public to have adequate time to analyze the statistical study and other facts that are the basis for our proposed rollover rating system. The request for an additional 30 days

does not seem excessive. Thus, in order to provide the AAM and other interested parties ample time and opportunity to analyze the study presented in the notice and to express their views on the proposal, NHTSA believes that there is good cause for the extension of the comment period and that such extension is consistent with the public interest. Accordingly, the AAM request to extend the comment period for an additional 30 days is granted. The comment period will now close August 30, 2000.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 30111, 30115, 30117, and 30166; delegation of authority is at 49 CFR 1.50.

Issued on: July 26, 2000.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 00-19398 Filed 7-31-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 635

[I.D. 070500C]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Additional Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: On July 19, 2000, NMFS published a notice of intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS); notice of availability

of Biological Opinion (BO); and an announcement of scoping meetings. NMFS also announced that additional scoping meetings may be scheduled at a later date. NMFS herewith announces two additional scoping meetings.

To accommodate people unable to attend a scoping meeting or wishing to provide written comments, NMFS also solicits written comments on these documents.

DATES: The additional scoping meetings are scheduled as follows:

1. Wednesday, August 16, 2000—Manteo, NC 7–9:30 p.m.
2. Thursday, August 18, 2000—Cape Canaveral, FL 7–9:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The locations for the additional scoping meetings are as follows:

1. N.C. Aquariums, Roanoke Island, Neptune Theater, 374 Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954.
2. Radisson Resort at the Port & Conference Ctr. 8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920.

Written comments on the proposal to prepare the SEIS and requests for copies of the BO should be sent to: Rebecca Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Comments also may be sent via facsimile (fax) to (301) 713-1917. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Margo Schulze-Haugen or Karyl Brewster-Geisz, 301-713-2347; fax 301-713-1917.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Background information about the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), the Biological Opinion, and a list of other scoping

meetings are contained in the announcement published July 19, 2000 (65 FR 44753) and is not repeated here.

Public Hearings and Special Accommodations

The public is reminded that NMFS expects participants at the public hearings to conduct themselves appropriately. At the beginning of each public hearing, a NMFS representative will explain the ground rules (e.g., alcohol is prohibited from the hearing room; attendees will be called to give their comments in the order in which they registered to speak; each attendee will have an equal amount of time to speak; and attendees should not interrupt one another). The NMFS representative will attempt to structure the hearing so that all attending members of the public will be able to comment, if they so choose, regardless of the controversial nature of the subject(s). Attendees are expected to respect the ground rules, and, if they do not, they will be asked to leave the hearing.

Special Accommodations

The scoping meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Margo Schulze-Haugen or Karyl Brewster-Geisz (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 7 days prior to the hearing or meeting.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*, and 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 27, 2000.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 00-19389 Filed 7-31-00; 8:45 am]

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