

documents the working group determines to be appropriate; or, if new or revised requirements or compliance methods are not recommended, a draft report stating the rationale for not making such recommendations.

4. Provide a status report at each meeting of the ARAC held to consider Transport Airplane and Engine issues.

The Secretary of Transportation has determined that the formation and use of the ARAC are necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the FAA by law.

Meetings of the ARAC will be open to the public. Meetings of the General Structures Harmonization Working Group will not be open to the public, except to the extent that individuals with an interest and expertise are selected to participate. No public announcement of working group meetings will be made.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 18, 2000.

Anthony F. Fazio,

Executive Director, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Harmonization Initiatives

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration and the Joint Aviation Authorities will convene a meeting to accept input from the public on the Harmonization Work Program. The Harmonization Work Program is the means by which the Federal Aviation Administration and the Joint Aviation Authorities carry out a commitment to harmonize, to the maximum extent possible, the rules regarding the certification, operation and maintenance of civil aircraft, and the standards, practices, and procedures governing the design, materials, workmanship, and construction of civil aircraft, aircraft engines, and other components. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the public to submit input to the Harmonization Work Program. This notice announces the date, time, location and procedures for the public meeting.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on November 28 and November 30, 2000, starting at 10:30 a.m. each day.

Industry comments, presentations and proposals must be received on or before November 10, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Latham Hotel, 3000 M Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20007.

Persons unable to attend the meeting may mail their comments in triplicate to: Brenda Courtney, Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking (ARM-200), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591. You may also submit your comments to Brenda Courtney by e-mail: brenda.courtney@faa.gov or by facsimile at (202) 267-5075.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests to attend and present a statement at the meeting or questions regarding the logistics of the meeting should be directed to Brenda Courtney, Office of Rulemaking, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-3327, e-mail: brenda.courtney@faa.gov; or facsimile at (202) 267-3327.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA) will convene a meeting to accept input from the public on the Harmonization Work Program. The meeting will be held on November 28 and November 30, 2000, at the Latham Hotel, 3000 M Street, NW., Washington, DC beginning at 10:30 a.m. each day. The agenda will include: November 28, 2000

Review of Action Items from the March 2000 Public Meeting
Review of Action Items from the FAA/JAA 17th Annual Conference
Presentations from the Public Nobember 30, 2000
FAA, JAA and Transport Canada News of Interest
General Session—Response to Industry Issues and Concerns

The Latham Hotel is located in the Georgetown area of Washington, DC. It is approximately 6 blocks from the Foggy Bottom/George Washington University Metrorail Stop (blue/orange lines). The hotel is approximately 6 miles from Washington Reagan National Airport, 25 miles from Dulles International Airport, and 40 miles from Baltimore/Washington International Airport. Parking is available for \$20 per night for individuals who will be lodging at the hotel. For those individuals who plan to attend the meeting, but will not stay at the hotel, parking at the hotel will be \$10 per day.

For hotel reservations at the Latham Hotel, please call (202) 726-5000 or 1-800-368-5922. Conference attendees should advise the hotel that you plan to

attend the "FAA/JAA Harmonization Meeting". The corporate rate offered for those attending the meeting is \$129 plus 14½ percent sales tax or \$147.71 per night for a single room. An additional \$20 will be charged for double occupancy. Note that there is a 24-hour cancellation policy. The hotel will hold a block of rooms at this rate until October 26.

Participation at the Meeting

The FAA should receive requests from persons who wish to present oral and written statements at the public meeting no later than November 10, 2000. Statements and presentations should be provided on diskette or forwarded by e-mail to the person identified under the caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** to be made part of the official minutes of the meeting. Requests to present oral statements received after November 10 will be scheduled if time is available during the meeting.

Meeting Procedures

The following procedures are established to facilitate the meeting:

(1) There will be no admission fee or other charge to attend or to participate in the meeting. The meeting will be open to all persons who have requested in advance to present statements or who register on the day of the meeting, subject to availability of space in the meeting room.

(2) The meeting may adjourn early if scheduled speakers complete their statements in less than the time scheduled for the meeting.

(3) The FAA will try to accommodate all speakers. If the available time does not permit this, speakers generally will be scheduled on a first-come-first-served basis. However, the FAA reserves the right to exclude some speakers if necessary to present a balance of viewpoints and issues.

(4) Sign and oral interpretation can be made available at the meeting, as well as an assistive listening device, if requested at the above number listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** at least 10 calendar days before the meeting.

(5) Representatives from FAA and JAA will preside over the meeting.

(6) The FAA and JAA will review and consider all material presented by participants at the meeting. Position papers or material presenting views or information related to proposed harmonization initiatives may be accepted at the discretion of the FAA and JAA. The FAA requests that persons participating in the meeting provide copies of all materials to be presented.

Copies may be provided to the audience at the discretion of the participant.

(7) Statements made by the FAA and JAA are intended to facilitate discussion of issues or to clarify issues. Any statement made during the meeting by an official is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, a position of the FAA or JAA.

(8) The meeting is designed to solicit public views and more complete information on proposed harmonization initiatives. Therefore, the meeting will be conducted in an informal and nonadversarial manner. No individual will be subject to cross-examination by any other participant; however, panel members may ask questions to clarify a statement and to ensure a complete and accurate record.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 18, 2000.

Brenda D. Courtney,

*Manager, Aircraft and Airport Rules Division.
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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 from certain requirements of its safety regulations. 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 favour of relief.

Texas Parks and Wildlife

[Docket Number FRA-2000-7270]

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) seeks a permanent waiver of compliance from 49 CFR 232.17(b)(2) to extend the clean, oil, test, and stencil (COT&S) period from 15 to 48 months on passenger cars they operate equipped with UC and L type air brakes. TPW operates the Texas State Railroad between Rusk and Palestine, Texas. They have two cars equipped with L type brakes and the rest have UC type brakes. Section 232.17(b)(2) requires that brake equipment on passenger cars must be clean, repaired, lubricated and tested as often as necessary to maintain it in a safe and suitable condition for service but not less frequently than as required in Standard S-045 in the Manual of Standards and Recommended Practices of the Association of American

Railroads. Standard S-045, A-III-256, Section 2.1.2, requires a COT&S every 15 months for this brake equipment. TPW has concluded that a car that runs on a passenger railroad using a 15 month cycle would be legal for 10,800 hours. TPW has calculated that if the equipment is in service only 60 percent of the 15 month cycle, then only 6,480 hours would be used. TPW claims that all of their annual runs, including specials and school runs, only total 1,100 hours a year. Therefore, TPW would like to extend the COT&S time period to 48 months, which would be less than 4,400 hours of actual service time.

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-2000-7270) and must be submitted in triplicate 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 DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 Seventh Street S.W., Washington, DC. 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 October 18, 2000.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System or Relief From the Requirements of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 236

Pursuant to Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 235 and 49 U.S.C. App. 26, the following railroads have petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of the signal system or relief from the requirements of 49 CFR part 236 as detailed below.

Docket No. FRA-2000-7634.

Applicant: Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway, Mr. William G. Peterson, Director Signal Engineering, 4515 Kansas Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66106.

Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) seeks conditional relief from the requirements of Title 49 CFR, part 236, § 236.102(b) of the Rules, Standards, and Instructions, for the entire BNSF system, to the extent that those searchlight signal mechanisms, that have circuitry designed to automatically detect a sticking mechanism and automatically protect for the safety of train movements, not be required to be inspected and the mechanical movement of the mechanism observed operating to all positions, at least once every six months.

Applicants' justification for relief: Stuck mechanism circuits used in Vital Harmon Logic Controllers (VHLC), Wayside Interface Units (WIU), Microprocessor based coded track and control equipment, and relay based stuck mechanism circuits, continuously monitor searchlight mechanisms.

Any interested party desiring to protest the granting of an application shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which the protest is made and contain a concise statement of the interest of the Protestant in the proceeding. Additionally, one copy of the protest shall be furnished to the applicant at the address listed above.

All communications concerning this proceeding should be identified by the docket number 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