

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pam Blumenthal, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a synopsis of the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, MM Docket No. 00-246, adopted December 14, 2000, and released December 15, 2000. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center 445 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Television, Digital television broadcasting.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to amend 47 CFR part 73 as follows:

PART 73—TELEVISION BROADCAST SERVICES

1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 303, 334, and 336.

§ 73.622 [Amended]

2. Section 73.622(b), the Table of Digital Television Allotments under Montana is amended by removing DTV Channel 44 and adding DTV Channel 7 at Great Falls.

Federal Communications Commission.

Barbara A. Kreisman,

Chief, Video Services Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 00-32133 Filed 12-15-00; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

47 CFR Part 73

[DA 00-2603, MM Docket No. 00-6, RM-9791, RM-9890]

Radio Broadcasting Services; McCook, Alliance, Imperial, NE, Limon, Parker, Aspen, Avon, Westcliffe, CO

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Commission, in response to the counterproposal of The Meadowlark Group, permittee of Station KAVD(FM), Limon, CO, requesting the substitution of Channel 276C for Channel 276C1, its reallocation to Parker, CO, as the community's first local aural service, and the modification of Station KAVD's permit accordingly, issues an Order to Show Cause to Halstead Communications, licensee of Station KPNY, Channel 271C1, Alliance, NE, as to why its license should not be modified to specify operation on Channel 263C1 and to Imperial Media Association, permittee of a new station on Channel 275C, Imperial, NE, as to why its permit should not be modified to specify operation on Channel 271C. The counterproposal was filed in response to the proposed allotment of Channel 271C1 to McCook, NE. See 65 FR 4798, February 1, 2000.

DATES: Comments must be filed on or before January 8, 2001, and reply comments must be filed on or before January 23, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325, Washington, DC 20554.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie K. Shapiro, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission proposes the following channel changes to accommodate the allotment of Channel 276C to Parker, CO, at coordinates 39-26-08 NL; 104-02-05 WL, or alternatively, to Limon, CO, at coordinates 39-25-27 NL; 104-00-38 WL: (1) The substitution of Channel 249C2 for Channel 276C2 at Avon, CO, at coordinates 39-37-52 NL; 106-27-42 WL, and modify the license of Station KZYR; (2) substitute Channel 276C3 for Channel 249C3 at Aspen, CO, at coordinates 39-13-33 NL; 106-50-00 WL, and modify the license of Station KSPN-FM; (3) substitute Channel 227A for vacant Channel 276A at Westcliffe, CO, at coordinates 38-04-28 NL; 105-32-13 WL; (4) substitute Channel 263C1

for Channel 271C1 at Alliance, NE, at coordinates 42-07-01 NL; 103-07-09 WL, and modify the license of Station KPNY; (5) substitute Channel 271C for Channel 275C at Imperial, NE, at coordinates 40-45-31 NL; 101-54-32 WL, and modify the construction permit of Imperial Media Association (BPH-19970924ML); allot Channel 275C1 to McCook, NE, at coordinates 40-12-00 NL; 100-51-25 WL. This is a synopsis of the Commission's Order to Show Cause, MM Docket No. 00-6, adopted November 8, 2000, and released November 17, 2000. The full text of this Commission decision is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in the FCC Reference Center, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. The complete text of this decision may also be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, International Transcription Services, Inc., (202) 857-3800, 1231 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to amend 47 CFR part 73 as follows:

PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

1. The authority citation for part 73 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 303, 334 and 336.

§ 73.202 [Amended]

2. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Colorado, is amended by adding Channel 276C3 and removing Channel 249C3 at Aspen, adding Channel 249C2 and removing Channel 276C2 at Avon, adding Channel 227A and removing Channel 276A at Westcliffe, adding Channel 276C and removing Channel 276C1 at Limon. Alternatively, remove Channel 276C1 at Limon and add Parker, Channel 276C.

3. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Nebraska, is amended by adding Channel 263C1 and removing Channel 271C1 at Alliance, adding Channel 275C1 at McCook, and by adding Channel 271C and removing Channel 275C at Imperial.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

[FR Doc. 00-31311 Filed 12-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

49 CFR Parts 392 and 393

[FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA-97-2289]

RIN 2126-AA27

Development of a North American Standard for Protection Against Shifting and Falling Cargo

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM); request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FMCSA proposes to revise the regulations concerning protection against shifting and falling cargo for commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) engaged in interstate commerce. We would issue new cargo securement standards based on the North American Cargo Securement Standard Model Regulations, reflecting: The results of a multi-year comprehensive research program to evaluate current U.S. and Canadian cargo securement regulations; the motor carrier industry's best practices; and recommendations presented during a series of public meetings involving U.S. and Canadian industry experts, Federal, State and Provincial enforcement officials, and other interested parties. Generally, the proposed revision would require motor carriers to change the way they use cargo securement devices to prevent certain articles from shifting on or within, or falling from CMVs. In some instances, the proposed changes could require motor carriers to increase the number of tiedown devices used to secure certain types of cargoes. The intent of this rulemaking is to reduce the number of accidents caused by cargo shifting on or within, or falling from, CMVs operating in interstate commerce, and to harmonize to the greatest extent practicable U.S., Canadian, and Mexican cargo securement regulations.

DATES: You must submit comments on or before March 19, 2001.

ADDRESSES: You can mail or hand deliver comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Management Facility, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. You can also submit your comments electronically at <http://dms.dot.gov>. We can view the NPRM and all items in the docket at that same internet address. You should include the docket number that appears in the heading of this document in your comment. You can examine and copy all comments in the Docket Management System (DMS) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you want to be notified that we received your comments please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard, or print the acknowledgment page that appears after submitting comments electronically.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Larry W. Minor, Office of Bus and Truck Standards and Operations, MC-PSV, (202) 366-1790; or Mr. Charles E. Medalen, Office of the Chief Counsel, MC-CC, (202) 366-1354, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On July 27, 1993, the House of Representatives held a hearing concerning the adequacy of Federal regulations on cargo securement, as well as the enforcement of those regulations ("Truck Cargo Securement Regulations and Enforcement, 1993: Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight of the House of Representatives' Committee on Public Works and Transportation," 103rd Cong., 1st Sess. 32 (1993)). The report of the July 1993 hearing is included in the public docket. The hearing was prompted by several cargo securement accidents that occurred in New York between 1990 and 1993. During the hearing, the Federal Highway Administrator stated that the Ontario Ministry of Transportation had requested that the FHWA review a proposal prepared on behalf of the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA)—a non-profit association of senior officials from Federal, Provincial, and Territorial departments and agencies responsible for the administration, regulation, and control of motor vehicle transportation

and highway safety—for a research program to evaluate cargo securement regulations and industry practices. The Administrator informed the subcommittee that the FHWA would participate in the research effort and consider incorporating the results of the research into the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs).

A cargo securement research working group was organized by the CCMTA and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to discuss the research methodology with industry groups and Federal, State, and Provincial governments in the United States and Canada. The working group, which included representatives from the FHWA, Transport Canada (the Federal department responsible for developing and enforcing the regulatory aspects of motor vehicle and motor carrier safety in Canada), the CCMTA, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), several States and Provinces, and U.S. and Canadian industry, held its first meeting August 16-17, 1993. A report identifying the cargo securement issues to be examined through the research program and describing the selected research methodology was published by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation in November of 1993. A copy of the minutes of the first meeting and a copy of the report entitled "A Proposal for Research to Provide a Technical Basis for a Revised National Standard on Load Security for Heavy Trucks" are included in the public docket.

Discussion of the Research Project

The North American Load Security Research Project was initiated to develop an understanding of the mechanics of cargo securement on heavy trucks. The research was intended to provide a sound technical basis for development of the North American Cargo Securement Standard Model Regulations. Tests were conducted to examine the fundamental issues of anchor points, tiedowns, blocking and friction, and issues related to securement of dressed lumber (representative of cargoes that are loaded lengthwise on a vehicle and secured with transverse tiedowns), large metal coils, concrete pipe, intermodal containers, and other commodities. The research is documented in the following reports:

1. "Experimental Evaluation of Friction Coefficients of Typical Loads and Trailer Decks Under Vertical Vibration, North American Load Security Research Project, Report 2," Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators, 1997.
2. "Slippage Tests with Anti-skid Mats, North American Load Security Research