

Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at least a one-hour advance notice for bridge openings is required and from 9 p.m. on Friday through 5 a.m. on Monday, at least a four-hour advance notice for bridge openings is required.

Dated: April 30, 2001.

G.N. Naccara,

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander,
First Coast Guard District.*

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BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD01-01-059]

Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Kennebec River, ME

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, First Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operation regulations for the Carlton Bridge, at mile 14.0, across the Kennebec River between Bath and Woolwich, Maine. This deviation from the regulations authorizes the bridge owner to keep the bridge in the closed position from 7 a.m. on May 24, 2001 through 7 p.m. on June 7, 2001. This deviation is necessary in order to facilitate necessary repairs at the bridge.

DATES: This deviation is effective from May 24, 2001, through June 7, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John McDonald, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, at (617) 223-8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Carlton Bridge, at mile 14.0, across the Kennebec River has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 10 feet at mean high water and 16 feet at mean low water. The existing drawbridge operating regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.525.

The owner of the bridge, the Maine Department of Transportation, requested a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operation regulations to facilitate the installation of an alternate diesel powered operating system at the bridge. The bridge will be out of service during the construction necessary to install the back-up diesel operating system.

This deviation to the operating regulations authorizes the owner of the Carlton Bridge to keep the bridge in the

closed position from 7 a.m. on May 24, 2001 through 7 p.m. on June 7, 2001.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(c), this work will be performed with all due speed in order to return the bridge to normal operation as soon as possible. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: April 30, 2001.

G.N. Naccara,

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander,
First Coast Guard District.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD01-01-055]

RIN 2115-AE47

Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Chelsea River, MA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary final rule governing the operation of the P.J. McArdle Bridge, at mile 0.3, across the Chelsea River between East Boston and Chelsea, Massachusetts. This rule allows the bridge owner to keep the bridge in the partial open position of 49 degrees for eight, three and a half day, closures. This action is necessary to facilitate structural maintenance at the bridge.

DATES: This temporary final rule is effective from June 11, 2001 through September 21, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, are part of docket (CGD01-01-055) and are available for inspection or copying at the First Coast Guard District, Bridge Branch Office, 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John McDonald, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, (617) 223-8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulatory Information

The Coast Guard has determined that good cause exists under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553) to forego notice and comment for

this rulemaking because notice and comment are unnecessary. The Coast Guard believes notice and comment are unnecessary because all the facilities that operate on the Chelsea River agreed to the requested closure dates at a meeting on March 1, 2001. The recreational vessels that use the Chelsea River will not be effected by the bridge not fully opening because there will still be 135 feet of navigable channel with unlimited airspace available when the bridge is opened to a 49 degree angle. Deep draft vessels will be prohibited from transiting the waterway during the specified dates closures as a result of a safety zone that is pending publication in the **Federal Register**.

Background

The P.J. McArdle Bridge, at mile 0.3, across the Chelsea River, has a vertical clearance of 21 feet at mean high water, and 30 feet at mean low water in the closed position. The existing drawbridge operating regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.593.

The bridge owner, the City of Boston, requested a temporary deviation from the drawbridge operating regulations at a meeting on March 1, 2001, between the Coast Guard and the upstream facilities that operate on the Chelsea River. All the facilities agreed to the proposed closure schedule. The recreational vessels that transit the Chelsea River will not be effected by the bridge being in the partial open position of 49 degrees because they will still have 135 feet of navigable channel with unlimited airspace to pass through the bridge.

During the closure periods the bridge bascule spans will be at approximately a 49 degree angle of opening. This will reduce the navigable channel with unlimited airspace from 175 feet to 135 feet. This partial open position is necessary in order to perform structural repairs at the bridge.

This temporary final rule allows the bridge owner to keep the bridge in the partial open position for eight, three and a half day, closure periods, from sunset on Monday through sunrise on Friday. This closure schedule will allow 10 days between each closed period for full operation of the bridge.

The bridge will be in the partial open position from sunset on Monday through sunrise on Friday on the following dates:

June 11, 2001 through June 15, 2001;
June 25, 2001 through June 29, 2001;
July 9, 2001 through July 13, 2001;
July 23, 2001 through July 27, 2001;
August 6, 2001 through August 10,
2001;