

Comments

How Do I Prepare and Submit Comments?

Your comments must be written and in English. To ensure that your comments are correctly filed in the Docket, please include the docket number of this document in your comments.

Your comments must not be more than 15 pages long. (49 CFR 553.21). We established this limit to encourage you to write your primary comments in a concise fashion. However, you may attach necessary additional documents to your comments. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Please submit two copies of your comments, including the attachments, to Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**.

You may also submit your comments to the docket electronically by logging onto the Dockets Management System website at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help & Information" or "Help/Info" to obtain instructions for filing the document electronically.

How Can I Be Sure That my Comments Were Received?

If you wish Docket Management to notify you upon its receipt of your comments, enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope containing your comments. Upon receiving your comments, Docket Management will return the postcard by mail.

How Do I Submit Confidential Business Information?

If you wish to submit any information under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Chief Counsel, NHTSA, at the address given above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. In addition, you should submit two copies, from which you have deleted the claimed confidential business information, to Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**. When you send a comment containing information claimed to be confidential business information, you should include a cover letter setting forth the information specified in our confidential business information regulation. (49 CFR part 512.)

Will the Agency Consider Late Comments?

We will consider all comments that Docket Management receives before the

close of business on the comment closing date indicated above under **DATES**. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments that Docket Management receives after that date. If Docket Management receives a comment too late for us to consider it in developing a final rule (assuming that one is issued), we will consider that comment as an informal suggestion for future rulemaking action.

How Can I Read the Comments Submitted by Other People?

You may read the comments received by Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**. The hours of the Docket are indicated above in the same location.

You may also see the comments on the Internet. To read the comments on the Internet, take the following steps:

1. Go to the Docket Management System (DMS) Web page of the Department of Transportation (<http://dms.dot.gov/>).
2. On that page, click on "search."
3. On the next page (<http://dms.dot.gov/search/>), type in the four-digit docket number shown at the beginning of this document. Example: If the docket number were "NHTSA-1998-1234," you would type "1234." After typing the docket number, click on "search."

4. On the next page, which contains docket summary information for the docket you selected, click on the desired comments. You may download the comments. Although the comments are imaged documents, instead of word processing documents, the "pdf" versions of the documents are word searchable.

Please note that even after the comment closing date, we will continue to file relevant information in the Docket as it becomes available. Further, some people may submit late comments. Accordingly, we recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new material.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 571

Imports, Motor vehicle safety, Motor vehicles, Rubber and rubber products, Tires.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is proposed that the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (49 CFR part 571), be amended as set forth below.

PART 571—FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS

1. The authority citation for part 571 continues to read as follows:

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

2. Section 571.3 is amended by adding a definition of "Multifunction school activity bus" to paragraph (b), in the appropriate alphabetical order, to read as follows:

§ 571.3 Definitions.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

Multifunction school activity bus (MFSAB) means a school bus with a gross vehicle weight rating of 6,804 kilograms (15,000 pounds) or less whose purposes do not include transporting students to and from home.

* * * * *

3. Section 571.108 is amended by revising the introductory sentence in § 571.108 to read as follows:

§ 571.108 Standard No. 108, Lamps, reflective devices, and associated equipment.

* * * * *

5.1.4 Except for multifunction school activity buses, each school bus shall be equipped with a system of either:

* * * * *

4. Section 571.131 is amended by revising S3 to read as follows:

§ 571.131 Standard No. 131, School bus pedestrian safety devices.

* * * * *

S3. *Application.* This standard applies to school buses other than multifunction school activity buses.

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Issued on: October 29, 2002.

Noble N. Bowie,

Acting Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Security Administration

49 CFR 1520, 1540, 1542, 1544, 1546, and 1548

RIN 2110-AA15 and 2110-AA16

Security of Checked Baggage on Flights Within the United States; Certification of Screening Companies; Notice of Rulemaking Status

AGENCY: Transportation Security Administration (TSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of rulemaking status.

SUMMARY: This notice provides information on the status of two notices of proposed rulemaking (NPRMs), entitled "Security of Checked Baggage on Flights Within the United States" and "Certification of Screening

Companies," which were published by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) but now are within TSA's authority as a result of the passage of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act. On February 22, 2002, TSA published a final rule transferring FAA's rules governing civil aviation security to TSA. The purpose of this document is to inform the public that TSA will take no further action on these two NPRMs issued by FAA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Angela Anderson, TSA-2 Chief Counsel, Transportation Security Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; telephone (202) 385-1641.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Background

On November 19, 2001, Congress enacted Public Law 107-71, 115 Stat. 597, the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (ATSA), which transferred authority over civil aviation security from FAA to TSA. In section 101(f), ATSA transferred FAA's authority in Chapter 449, Title 49 United States Code (U.S.C.), to issue aviation security regulations to TSA. On February 22, 2002, the TSA and FAA published a final rule titled "Civil Aviation Security Rules" (67 FR 8340), transferring the regulations at 14 CFR parts 107, 108, 109 and 191 to 49 CFR parts 1540, 1542, 1544, 1548 and 1520 and §§ 129.25 and 129.26 to part 1546.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that TSA will take no further action on the two outstanding FAA NPRMs described below.

Security of Checked Baggage on Flights Within the United States

On April 19, 1999, the FAA published an NPRM titled, "Security of Checked Baggage on Flights Within the United States" (64 FR 19220). The proposed rule would have required each aircraft operator with an FAA-approved security program to use the Computer-Assisted Passenger Screening (CAPS)¹ system to

¹ The NPRM used the term "Computer-Assisted Passenger Screening" system but the term used to describe this system has since been changed to Computer-Assisted Passenger Prescreening System (CAPPS).

select passengers (selectees) whose checked baggage would be subjected to additional security measures. The proposed rule also would have required aircraft operators to use FAA-certified explosives detection system (EDS) equipment, where available, to screen selectee baggage, or conduct 100 percent passenger-to-baggage matching (PBM). The proposed rule would have applied to each scheduled flight segment within the United States when using aircraft having a seating configuration of 61 or more passenger seats.

The FAA received 605 comments on the NPRM. These comments can be viewed by going to the search function of the Department of Transportation's electronic Docket Management System (DMS) Web page (<http://dms.dot.gov/search>) and typing in the last four digits of the docket number: FAA-1999-5536.

Certification of Screening Companies

On January 5, 2000, the FAA published an NPRM titled, "Certification of Screening Companies" (65 FR 560). The proposed rule would have required companies that perform aviation security screening for air carriers to be certificated by the FAA and meet enhanced requirements. It would have increased qualifications for managers, instructors, and screeners, and would have required the use of threat image projection (TIP) for all X-ray and EDS equipment. The proposed rule also would have made screening companies directly accountable to the FAA, with air carriers continuing to oversee the operations of their screening companies.

The FAA received 31 comments on the NPRM. These comments can be viewed by going to the search function of the Department of Transportation's electronic Docket Management System (DMS) Web page (<http://dms.dot.gov/search>) and typing in the last four digits of the docket number: FAA-1999-6673.

TSA Determination To Take No Further Action

The ATSA mandated sweeping changes to security requirements for the civil aviation system, including the transfer of responsibility for passenger and baggage screening from the private

sector to the federal government. *See* 49 U.S.C. 114. As a result of this change, the two NPRMs discussed above have become obsolete.

Because the two FAA NPRMs addressed civil aviation security under parts 108, and 129, responsibility for those proposed changes also transferred to TSA. The Screening Company NPRM also proposed to add a new part 111 that would have implemented requirements for screening company security. ATSA changed the screening requirements in section 110(b), codified at 49 U.S.C. 44901(a), which now require Federal employees to carry out the screening; and in section 108 which requires establishment of a pilot program for some screening to be done by private companies under contract to TSA. With all of these changes being made TSA has no need to regulate screening companies using the proposed rule. For TSA employees who screen, TSA will use internal policies for screening. We will use contract provisions to govern the screening conducted by contractors under the pilot program.

The ATSA also requires that all checked baggage, not just baggage checked by CAPPS selectees, be inspected using explosive detection systems. *See* 49 U.S.C. 44901(d), as amended by ATSA section 110(b). Further, Federal employees must do the inspection. TSA is working to install equipment and to hire the screeners to meet these requirements. In addition, TSA must use CAPPS to evaluate all passengers before boarding, not only those who are checking bags. *See* 49 U.S.C. 44903(i)(2). This requirement is now being met. Accordingly, the proposals in the NPRM are obsolete, and the rule is not needed for TSA to use CAPPS fully and effectively.

For these reasons, TSA will take no further actions on these two NPRMs.

Issued in Washington, DC, on October 23, 2002.

Francine J. Kerner,
Chief Counsel.

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