

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE****Office of the Secretary****32 CFR Part 199**

RIN 0720-AA86

**Coordination of Benefits Between TRICARE and the Department of Veterans Affairs**

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Withdrawal; correction.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense published a withdrawal of a final rule (68 FR 51705, August 28, 2003) on Coordination of Benefits Between TRICARE and the Department of Veterans Affairs (68 FR 49732, August 19, 2003). This document is published to correct the status of that rule as a "proposed" rule. All other information remains unchanged.

**DATES:** The correction effective September 5, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** L.M. Bynum, 703-601-4722 ext. 109.

Dated: August 21, 2003.

L.M. Bynum,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison,  
Department of Defense.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY****Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117**

[CGD13-03-027]

RIN 1625-AA09

**Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Columbia River, OR**

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard proposes to temporarily change the operating regulations of the dual vertical lift bridges on Interstate Highway 5 across the Columbia River, mile 106.5, between Portland, OR and Vancouver, WA to accommodate a major rehabilitation of the mechanical and electrical systems of the bridges. From July 15, 2004, to August 6, 2004, the lift spans would be closed and from August 6, 2004, to October 15, 2004, the draws would open for the passage of vessels once every two weeks according to an established schedule. The affected period approximates the annual season of low

water on the Columbia when the maximum vertical clearance will be available.

**DATES:** Comments and related material must reach the Coast Guard on or before October 20, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** You may mail comments and related material to Commander (oan), 13th Coast Guard District, 915 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98174-1067 where the public docket for this rulemaking is maintained. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at the Aids to Navigation and Waterways Management Branch between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Austin Pratt, Chief Bridge Section, (206) 220-7282.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Request for Comments**

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related material. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number for this rulemaking [CGD13-03-027], indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and related material in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying. If you would like to know they reached us, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. We may change this proposed rule in view of them.

An abbreviated comment period is in effect for this proposal in order to expedite processing. This will allow the bridge owner to advertise the project for bidding with adequate lead-time and as described by the limits to the project set by the temporary rule promulgated in the light of comments received.

**Public Meeting**

We do not now plan to hold a public meeting. But you may submit a request for a meeting by writing to the Aids to Navigation and Waterways Management Branch at the address under **ADDRESSES** explaining why one would be beneficial. If we determine that one would aid this rulemaking, we will hold one at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

**Background and Purpose**

The proposed temporary rule would enable the bridge owners to conduct a major rehabilitation project during the part of the year when water levels are typically low enough that most vessels do not need the drawspans to open for their passage. The seven million dollar project would completely replace the existing 1959 electrical system in both bridges and the 1916 gears in the northbound drawbridge. In addition, the operating control center would be rebuilt with improved visibility and new television cameras. During the first three weeks of the period, the dual lifts would remain in the down position to facilitate gear replacement. Thereafter, openings would be provided once every two weeks, if needed, until the end of the temporary period. Historically, water levels on the Columbia River fluctuate significantly over the course of an annual cycle. Essentially, water levels are dependent on the accumulation of snow in the winter and its melting in the spring and early summer. The annual dry season in the Pacific Northwest is typically from approximately July 15 to October 15. Usually rainfall begins to raise water levels again after October 15.

A river elevation of 6.0 feet Columbia River Datum (CRD) is the critical point for towboats on the Columbia River at and upstream of the bridges. Cargo towing is the main commercial use of the Columbia above the bridges. Large oceangoing vessels do not generally pass above these bridges. The towboats that ply that portion of the Columbia require 52 feet of vertical clearance. Most towing vessels and passenger tour vessels are able to pass through the highest fixed spans near midstream without requiring the vertical lift spans near the north shore to open when the river level is six feet or less.

The exceptions are the tallest sailboats, some construction derricks, and large structures that have been built upstream of the bridges at shore facilities. With the exception of the first three weeks of the affected period when the draws need not open, an opening will be provided every two weeks. During summer months the openings average less than one per day, mostly for sailboats, some of which could pass the higher fixed spans if antennas were lowered.

**Discussion of Proposed Rule**

The established operating regulation for the Interstate 5 bridges requires that the draws open on signal except that they need not open from 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.