

Corrective Actions

(g) If any crack is detected during any inspection required by paragraph (f) of this AD, before further flight, repair or replace the vertical beam web and associated parts with a new vertical beam web, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Service Bulletin 737-53A1225, Revision 1, dated April 14, 2005, except as provided by paragraph (h) of this AD.

(h) If any damage is beyond the scope of the service bulletin or structural repair manual, before further flight, repair the damaged vertical beam web in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, Seattle Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA; or using a method approved in accordance with paragraph (l) of this AD.

Terminating Preventative Modification

(i) Before the accumulation of 50,000 total flight cycles, or within 25,000 flight cycles after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, repair or replace the vertical beams at buttock lines (BL) 5.7 and 17.0 of the BS 178 bulkhead, in accordance with the Accomplishment Instructions of Boeing Service Bulletin 737-53A1225, Revision 1, dated April 14, 2005. Accomplishing the repair or replacement ends the repetitive inspections required by paragraph (f) of this AD.

(j) Actions done before the effective date of this AD in accordance with Boeing BOECOM M-7200-01-00546, dated March 1, 2001, are acceptable for compliance with the requirements of paragraph (i) of this AD.

Concurrent Requirements

(k) For Group 1 airplanes identified in Boeing Service Bulletin 737-53A1225, Revision 1, dated April 14, 2005: Concurrently with the requirements of paragraph (i) of this AD, unless already done before the effective date of this AD, do the preventative modifications of the center web, vertical chords, and side chord areas, including the side chord areas at water line 207, of the forward pressure bulkhead, specified in paragraph (c) of AD 2000-05-29, amendment 39-11639 (reference Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 737-53A1173, Revision 3, dated May 6, 1999).

(l) For Group 2 airplanes identified in Boeing Service Bulletin 737-53A1225, Revision 1, dated April 14, 2005: Concurrently with the requirements of paragraph (i) of this AD, but no later than the time specified in AD 2001-02-01, amendment 39-12085, do the preventative modifications of the vertical and side chord areas of the forward pressure bulkhead required by paragraph (c) of AD 2001-02-01 (reference Boeing Alert Service Bulletin 737-53A1208, dated May 6, 1999).

Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs)

(m)(1) The Manager, Seattle ACO, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested in accordance with the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19.

(2) Before using any AMOC approved in accordance with § 39.19 on any airplane to which the AMOC applies, notify the appropriate principal inspector in the FAA

Flight Standards Certificate Holding District Office.

(3) An AMOC that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used for any repair required by this AD, if it is approved by an Authorized Representative for the Boeing Commercial Airplanes Delegation Option Authorization Organization who has been authorized by the Manager, Seattle ACO, to make those findings. For a repair method to be approved, the repair must meet the certification basis of the airplane, and the approval must specifically refer to this AD.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on April 4, 2006.

Ali Bahrami,

*Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate,
Aircraft Certification Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. OST-2006-23999]

14 CFR Part 382

RIN 2105-AD41

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel—Accommodations for Individuals Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary (OST), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Extension of comment period on proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Department is extending through June 24, 2006, the period for interested persons to submit comments to its proposed rule on accommodations for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.

DATES: Comments must be received by June 24, 2006. Comments received after this date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by the docket number [OST-2005-23999] by any of the following methods: (1) Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> (follow the instructions for submitting comments); (2) Web site: <http://dms.dot.gov> (follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site); (3) Fax: 1-202-493-2251; (4) Mail: Docket Management System; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-001; or (5) Hand Delivery: To the Docket Management System; Room PL-401 on the plaza level

of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

You must include the agency name and docket number [OST-2005-23999] or the Regulatory Identification Number (RIN) for this notice at the beginning of your comment. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://dms.dot.gov> including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act section of this document. You may view the public docket through the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov> or in person at the Docket Management System office at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Blane A. Workie, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, 400 7th Street, SW., Room 4116, Washington, DC 29590. Phone: 202-366-9342. TTY: 202-366-0511. Fax: 202-366-7152. E-mail: blane.workie@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On February 23, 2006, the Department of Transportation (DOT or Department) issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that proposed to amend 14 CFR Part 382 (Part 382), the rule that implements the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA), to provide for additional accommodations for air travelers who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind. See 71 FR 9285. The NPRM would apply to U.S. air carriers, to foreign air carriers for their flights into and out of the United States, to airport facilities located in the U.S. that are owned, controlled or leased by carriers, and to aircraft that serve a U.S. airport.

On March 16, 2006, the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) requested an extension of the comment period, in order to permit it to gather expert opinion from many sources on the “complex” issues addressed in the NPRM. It requested an extension of at least a few weeks from the original comment closing date of April 24, 2006. This request was supported by the Air Carrier Association of America (ACAA), the Air Transport Association (ATA), the National Air Carrier Association (NACA), and the Regional Airline Association (RAA). The carrier associations further requested that the comment period for the NPRM be extended to June 24, 2006, to consider “the multiple and complicated technical and operational issues raised by the NPRM (for domestic and international operations) and the accompanying initial regulatory assessment.”

The Department concurs that an extension of the comment period is

necessary to allow intergovernmental organizations such as ECAC as well as members of industry sufficient time to analyze the impact of the proposed rule and is granting a 60-day extension, which we expect will result in more thorough comments to the docket than might otherwise be possible. Accordingly, the Department finds that good cause exists to extend the comment period on the proposed rule from April 24, 2006, to June 24, 2006.

Issued in Washington, DC this 11th day of April, 2006, under authority assigned to me by 14 CFR 385.17 (c).

Neil Eisner,

Assistant General Counsel for Regulation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of Transportation.

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ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

36 CFR Parts 1193 and 1194

[Docket No. 2006-1]

Telecommunications Act Accessibility Guidelines; Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of intent to establish advisory committee.

SUMMARY: The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) announces its intent to establish an Advisory Committee (Committee) to make recommendations for revisions and updates to accessibility guidelines for telecommunications products and accessibility standards for electronic and information technology. The Access Board requests applications from interested organizations for representatives to serve on the Committee.

DATES: Applications should be received by May 18, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Applications should be sent to the Office of Technical and Information Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. Fax number (202) 272-0081. Applications may also be sent via electronic mail to the Access Board at the following address: creagan@access-board.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy Creagan, Office of Technical

and Information Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. Telephone number (202) 272-0016 (Voice); (202) 272-0082 (TTY). Electronic mail address: creagan@access-board.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On February 8, 1996, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted. The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board)¹ was given the responsibility for developing accessibility guidelines for telecommunications equipment and customer premises equipment in conjunction with the Federal Communications Commission. The Board was also instructed to review and update the guidelines periodically. The Board published the guidelines on February 3, 1998. 63 FR 5608 (February 3, 1998); 36 CFR part 1193. The guidelines were based on recommendations from a Telecommunications Access Advisory Committee that the Board had created.

On August 7, 1998, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which includes the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998, was signed into law. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments generally requires that when Federal departments or agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use electronic and information technology, they must ensure that the technology is accessible to people with disabilities, unless an undue burden would be imposed on the department or agency. Section 508 required the Access Board to publish standards setting forth a definition of electronic and information technology and technical and functional performance criteria for such technology. In developing the standards, the Board was instructed to consult with various Federal agencies², the

¹ The Access Board is an independent Federal agency established by section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 792) whose primary mission is to promote accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The Access Board consists of 25 members. Thirteen are appointed by the President from among the public, a majority of who are required to be individuals with disabilities. The other twelve are heads of the following Federal agencies or their designees whose positions are Executive Level IV or above: The departments of Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Interior, Defense, Justice, Veterans Affairs, and Commerce; the General Services Administration; and the United States Postal Service.

² The Access Board is required to consult with the Secretary of Education, the Administrator of

electronic and information technology industry, and appropriate public or nonprofit agencies or organizations, including organizations representing individuals with disabilities. The Board was also required to periodically review and, as appropriate, amend the standards to reflect technological advances or changes in electronic and information technology. The Board published the standards on December 21, 2000. 65 FR 80500 (December 21, 2000); 36 CFR part 1194. The standards were based on recommendations from an Electronic and Information Technology Access Advisory Committee that the Board had created to assist it in developing the standards.

It has been over eight years since the Board issued the Telecommunications Act Accessibility Guidelines and over five years since the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards were issued. Technology has changed during that time. Additionally, several organizations have asked the Board to update its Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards so that they are harmonized with efforts taking place around the globe. The telecommunications provisions in the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards are based on and are consistent with the Telecommunications Act Accessibility Guidelines. Therefore, updating and revising the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards and the Telecommunications Act Accessibility Guidelines could be done together.

Advisory Committee

At its November 9, 2005 meeting, the Access Board voted to form a Federal Advisory Committee (Committee) to revise and update its Telecommunications Act Accessibility Guidelines and Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards in one rulemaking and that the committee should include representation from other countries and international standards setting organizations in addition to other groups. The Access Board will begin the process of updating its Telecommunications Act Accessibility Guidelines and Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards by establishing an Advisory Committee. The establishment of the Committee is in the public interest and

General Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of any other Federal department or agency that the Access Board determines to be appropriate.