

A three-year sampling cycle will provide additional data to improve the overall quality of the passenger mile data used in the apportionment of Federal funds. FTA recognizes that sampling for passenger miles may be burdensome on transit agencies, particularly small ones. As such, FTA is undertaking an effort to revise its sampling guidelines, so as to reduce some of the reporting burden. FTA notes that the new sampling requirements will not impact transit agencies until the 2011 report year, as transit agencies on both the five-year and the three-year cycle were already required to sample for the 2008 report year under the old cycles.

(c) Rail Peak Service Data

One comment requested further direction on FTA's proposal to expand its Federal Funding Allocation form to require transit agencies servicing one large urbanized area and two or more small urbanized areas to allocate their service data across the various small urbanized areas. (For NTD purposes, a large urbanized area is one with 200,000 or more in population, and a small urbanized area is one with less than 200,000 in population.) Previously, FTA's Federal Funding Allocation form only accounted for transit agencies serving one small urbanized area, not two or more. This comment expressed concern about the burden of conducting this allocation for the commenter's own agency.

*FTA Responds:* FTA notes that the above comment came from a transit agency that serves two large urbanized areas, and only one small urbanized area. As such, the revised guidance does not apply to this transit agency. FTA notes that transit agencies should allocate data across various small urbanized areas in the same way in which many transit agencies already allocate data across various large urbanized areas. Additionally, FTA will provide guidance on this allocation through the 2007 Annual Manual, through NTD training sessions, and through technical assistance available from NTD validation analysts.

(d) Collection of Funding Data by Specific FTA Programs

FTA received one comment in support of its proposal to collect funding data separately for each FTA Program, rather than through a catchall category for "Other FTA Funds."

*FTA Responds:* FTA thanks the commenter.

(e) CEO Certification Standard Form

FTA received one comment on its proposal to create a standard CEO Certification Form. This commenter was concerned that the standard CEO Certification Form would not be able to accommodate its practice of filing its NTD report before receiving the final report from its auditor.

*FTA Responds:* FTA notes that its proposed CEO Certification Form includes options 3a and 3b, each of which provides for a transit agency to file its NTD report before receiving the final report from its auditor.

(f) 2007 Reporting Deadlines

FTA received one comment that the ordinary reporting deadlines for transit agencies with 2007 fiscal years ending on or before June 30, 2007, would not be attainable, given that the 2007 Annual Reporting Manual was pending public notice-and-comment.

*FTA Responds:* FTA agrees with this comment, and establishes the following 2007 NTD Reporting Deadlines for transit agencies with 2007 fiscal years ending on or before June 30, 2007:

*Report Due Date:* November 30, 2007.

*Waiver Request Deadline:* November 30, 2007.

*Last Date to Receive Report Revisions:* May 1, 2008.

*Report Closeout:* May 15, 2008.

FTA does not change the deadlines for transit agencies with 2007 fiscal years ending after June 30, 2007. FTA further reminds transit agencies that pursuant to 49 CFR 630.6 NTD reporters may request a 30-day extension for submitting their reports.

(g) 2007 Reporting Deadlines

FTA received one comment proposing revised guidance for sampling passenger miles for vanpool service, which are currently covered by the Circular UMTA C 2710.21, issued in 1988.

*FTA Responds:* The original **Federal Register** Notice announcing proposed amendments to the 2007 Annual Manual did not mention vanpool sampling guidelines or Circular UMTA C 2710.21. As noted above, FTA is currently considering revising its sampling guidance, and will take this comment under advisement in developing any such guidance. FTA will invite public guidance on revised guidance, once it has been developed.

The final 2007 Reporting Manual, as amended, may be found on the Internet at <http://www.ntdprogram.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, this 6th day of November 2007.

**James S. Simpson,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. E7-22063 Filed 11-8-07; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Maritime Administration**

**Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces that the Information Collection abstracted below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The nature of the information collection is described as well as its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on July 20, 2007. No comments were received.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before December 10, 2007.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rodney McFadden, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-2647; or *e-mail:* [Rodney.mcfadden@dot.gov](mailto:Rodney.mcfadden@dot.gov). Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Maritime Administration (MARAD)

*Title of Collection:* Supplementary Training Course Application.

*Type of Request:* Extension of currently approved information collection.

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0030.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* Three years from date of approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

*Affected Public:* U.S. Merchant Marine Seamen, both officers and unlicensed personnel, and other U.S. citizens employed in other areas of waterborne commerce.

*Form Numbers:* MA-823.

*Abstract:* Section 1305(a) of the Maritime Education and Training Act of 1980 indicates that the Secretary of Transportation may provide maritime-related training to merchant mariners of the United States and to individuals preparing for a career in the merchant marine of the United States. Also, the

U.S. Coast Guard requires a fire-fighting certificate for U.S. merchant marine officers. This collection provides the information necessary for the maritime schools to plan their course offerings and for applicants to complete their certificate requirements.

**Expiration Date of Approval:** Three years from date of approval by the Office of Management and Budget.

**Annual Estimated Burden Hours:** 500 hours.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: MARAD Desk Officer.

**Comments are invited on:** Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect, if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Dated: November 1, 2007.

**Christine S. Gurland,**

*Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.*  
[FR Doc. E7-21965 Filed 11-8-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2007 0007]

#### Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel MERRIE ELLEN.

**SUMMARY:** As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383 and Pub. L. 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is

listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD-2007-0007 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S. vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before December 10, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2007-0007. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joann Spittle, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room W21-203, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-5979.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel MERRIE ELLEN is:

*Intended Use:* "Sail training charters lasting several days during the summer months departing and returning to Pleasant Harbor".

*Geographic Region:* "The Hood Canal in the inland waters of the state of Washington".

#### Privacy Act

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the

name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (FR 65 19477-19478).

Dated: November 2, 2007.

By order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Christine Gurland,**

*Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.*  
[FR Doc. E7-21974 Filed 11-8-07; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2007-0009]

#### Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel TRANQUILO.

**SUMMARY:** As authorized by Pub. L. 105-383 and Pub. L. 107-295, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, are listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD-2007-0009 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with Pub. L. 105-383 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR Part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S. vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR Part 388.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before December 10, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2007-0009.