

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

[Docket No. DHS-2011-0036]

Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee (HSSTAC)

AGENCY: Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T), Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Committee management; request for applicants for appointment to Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee (HSSTAC).

SUMMARY: The DHS Science and Technology Directorate is inviting applications from individuals who are interested in serving on the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee (HSSTAC). The HSSTAC gives advice and recommendations to the Under Secretary of DHS S&T.

DATES: Applications for membership should reach DHS S&T as described below on or before January 30, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Applicants should send a biography or resume and CV (if available) in one of three ways:

- *Email:* Mary.Hanson@dhs.gov.
- *Fax:* (202) 254-5823.
- *Mail:* Mary Hanson, HSSTAC

Executive Director, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane, Bldg. 410, Washington, DC 20528.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Hanson, HSSTAC Executive Director, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, 245 Murray Lane, Bldg. 410, Washington, DC 20528, (202) 254-5866(O), (202) 254-5823 (F), mary.hanson@dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HSSTAC is an advisory committee established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) 5 U.S.C. (Pub. L. 92-463). The committee addresses areas of interest and importance to the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, such as new developments in systems engineering, cyber-security, knowledge management and how best to leverage related technologies funded by other federal agencies and by the private sector. The committee also advises the Under Secretary on policies, management processes, and organizational constructs as needed. Upon request, the committee provides scientifically and technically based advice to the Homeland Security

Advisory Council. A limited number of positions is currently available. The strongest need is in the areas of explosives detection and biological defense research and development.

Committee members serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of Homeland Security. Members will be selected based on their expertise, knowledge, and contribution to a diverse range of science and technology topic areas (including chemical, biological, and cybersecurity threats, the human factors embedded in those threats and response to them, first responder technology capabilities and needs, and the latest thinking in systems engineering), and their depth of experience in applying these areas of science and technology to real-world problems and transitioning innovative products into use. Members shall serve terms of office of two years. Meetings will be held approximately quarterly. Travel expenses may be reimbursed.

Members of HSSTAC will be appointed and serve as Special Government Employees (SGE) as defined in section 202(a) of title 18 United States Code. As candidates for appointment as SGEs, applicants are required to complete Confidential Financial Disclosure Reports (OGE Form 450). DHS may not release the reports or the information in them to the public except under an order issued by a Federal court or as otherwise provided under the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Applicants can obtain the OGE Form 450 at the Web site of the Office of Government Ethics (www.oge.gov), or by contacting the individual listed above. Applications which are not accompanied by a completed OGE Form 450 will not be considered. Federally registered lobbyists may not serve on federal advisory committees.

In support of the policy of the Department of Homeland Security on gender and ethnic diversity, qualified women and minorities are encouraged to apply for membership.

Dated: December 21, 2011.

Tara O'Toole,

Under Secretary for Science and Technology.

[FR Doc. 2012-413 Filed 1-11-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-9F-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**Coast Guard**

[USCG-2011-1014]

Collection of Information Under Review by Office of Management and Budget

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Thirty-day notice requesting comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 the U.S. Coast Guard is forwarding Information Collection Requests (ICRs), abstracted below, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), requesting an extension of its approval for the following collections of information: 1625-0028, Course Approval and Records for Merchant Marine Training Schools and 1625-0069, Ballast Water Management for Vessels with Ballast Tanks Entering U.S. Waters. Our ICRs describe the information we seek to collect from the public. Review and comments by OIRA ensure we only impose paperwork burdens commensurate with our performance of duties.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard and OIRA on or before February 13, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Coast Guard docket number [USCG-2011-1014] to the Docket Management Facility (DMF) at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and/or to OIRA. To avoid duplicate submissions, please use only one of the following means:

(1) *Online:* (a) To Coast Guard docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>. (b) To OIRA by email via: OIRA-submission@omb.eop.gov.

(2) *Mail:* (a) DMF (M-30), DOT, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001. (b) To OIRA, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, attention Desk Officer for the Coast Guard.

(3) *Hand Delivery:* To DMF address above, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (202) 366-9329.

(4) *Fax:* (a) To DMF, (202) 493-2251. (b) To OIRA at (202) 395-6566. To ensure your comments are received in a timely manner, mark the fax, attention Desk Officer for the Coast Guard.

The DMF maintains the public docket for this Notice. Comments and material

received from the public, as well as documents mentioned in this Notice as being available in the docket, will become part of the docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room W12-140 on the West Building Ground Floor, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find the docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Copies of the ICRs are available through the docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Additionally, copies are available from: Commandant (CG-611), Attn.: Paperwork Reduction Act Manager, U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 2nd St. SW., Stop 7101, Washington, DC 20593-7101.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kenlinishia Tyler, Office of Information Management, telephone (202) 475-3652 or fax (202) 475-3929, for questions on these documents. Contact Ms. Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, (202) 366-9826, for questions on the docket.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Participation and Request for Comments

This Notice relies on the authority of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended. An ICR is an application to OIRA seeking the approval, extension, or renewal of a Coast Guard collection of information (Collection). The ICR contains information describing the Collection's purpose, the Collection's likely burden on the affected public, an explanation of the necessity of the Collection, and other important information describing the Collections. There is one ICR for each Collection.

The Coast Guard invites comments on whether these ICRs should be granted based on the Collections being necessary for the proper performance of Departmental functions. In particular, the Coast Guard would appreciate comments addressing: (1) The practical utility of the Collections; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden of the Collections; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of information subject to the Collections; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the Collections on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. These comments will help OIRA determine whether to approve the ICRs referred to in this Notice.

We encourage you to respond to this request by submitting comments and

related materials. Comments to Coast Guard or OIRA must contain the OMB Control Number of the ICR. They must also contain the docket number of this request, [USCG 2011-1014], and must be received by February 13, 2012. We will post all comments received, without change, to <http://www.regulations.gov>. They will include any personal information you provide. We have an agreement with DOT to use their DMF. Please see the "Privacy Act" paragraph below.

Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number [USCG-2011-1014], indicate the specific section of the document to which each comment applies, providing a reason for each comment. If you submit a comment online via www.regulations.gov, it will be considered received by the Coast Guard when you successfully transmit the comment. If you fax, hand deliver, or mail your comment, it will be considered as having been received by the Coast Guard when it is received at the DMF. We recommend you include your name, mailing address, an email address, or other contact information in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

You may submit comments and material by electronic means, mail, fax, or delivery to the DMF at the address under **ADDRESSES**, but please submit them by only one means. To submit your comment online, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, and type "USCG-2011-1014" in the "Keyword" box. If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit comments by mail and would like to know that they reached the Facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period and will address them accordingly.

Viewing Comments and Documents

To view comments, as well as documents mentioned in this Notice as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, click on the "read comments" box, which will then become highlighted in blue. In the "Keyword" box insert "USCG-2011-1014" and click "Search." Click the "Open Docket Folder" in the "Actions" column. You may also visit the DMF in Room W12-140 on the ground floor of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC

20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

OIRA posts its decisions on ICRs online at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain> after the comment period for each ICR. An OMB Notice of Action on each ICR will become available via a hyperlink in the OMB Control Numbers: 1625-0028 and 1625-0069.

Privacy Act

Anyone can search the electronic form of comments received in 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 a Privacy Act statement regarding Coast Guard public dockets in the January 17, 2008, issue of the **Federal Register** (73 FR 3316).

Previous Request for Comments

This request provides a 30-day comment period required by OIRA. The Coast Guard published the 60-day notice (76 FR 68772, November 7, 2011) required by 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2). That Notice elicited one comment. The commenter asked the Coast Guard to consider revising the submission format to reflect the content, a subject heading that does the same and condense the redundant verbiage.

Much of the language in these Information Collection Requests is mandated by statute and regulations of the Office of Management and Budget. That language must remain in the Notices. The Coast Guard acknowledges that it goes to great lengths to inform the public of the various means of submission of comments to the docket and how these comments can be viewed in the public docket. We also feel that it is desirable to inform potential submitters of the Privacy Act ramifications of these comments. The Coast Guard will consider the content of this comment in future revisions to our ICRs to OMB.

Information Collection Request

1. *Title:* Course Approval and Records for Merchant Marine Training Schools.

OMB Control Number: 1625-0028.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Merchant marine training schools.

Abstract: The information is needed to ensure that merchant marine training schools meet minimal statutory requirements. The information is used to approve the curriculum, facility and faculty for these schools.

Forms: None.

Burden Estimate: The estimated burden remains 97,260 hours a year.

2. *Title:* Ballast Water Management for Vessels with Ballast Tanks Entering U.S. Waters.

OMB Control Number: 1625-0069.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Owners and operators of certain vessels.

Abstract: This collection requires the master of a vessel to provide information that details the vessel operator's ballast water management efforts. *Forms:* CG-5662.

Burden Estimate: The estimated burden remains 60,727 hours a year.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: December 23, 2011.

R.E. Day,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Information Technology.

[FR Doc. 2012-400 Filed 1-11-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG-2012-0011]

Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee: Intercessional Meeting

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Working Group Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) will conduct an intercessional meeting to facilitate working group discussion of Task Statement 76, entitled "Review of Performance Measures (Assessment Criteria)," and Task Statement 77, entitled "Development of Performance Measures (Assessment Criteria)." This meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: A MERPAC working group will meet on January 31, 2012, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on February 1, 2012, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Please note that the meeting may adjourn early if all business is finished. Written comments to be distributed to working group members and placed on MERPAC's Web site are due by January 20, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The working group will meet at the STAR Center, 2 West Dixie Highway, Dania Beach, FL 33004-4312. For further information about the STAR Center hotel facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to

request special assistance, contact Mr. Graeme Holman at (954) 920-3222.

To facilitate public participation, we are inviting public comment on the issues to be considered by the work group, which are listed in the "Agenda" section below. Written comments must be identified by Docket No. USCG-2012-0011 and may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments (preferred method to avoid delays in processing).

- *Fax:* (202) 372-1918.

- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility (M-30), U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- *Hand delivery:* Same as mail address above, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (202) 366-9329.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the words "Department of Homeland Security" and the docket number for this action. Comments received will be posted without alteration at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. You may review a Privacy Act notice regarding our public dockets in the January 17, 2008, issue of the **Federal Register** (73 FR 3316).

Docket: For access to the docket to read documents or comments related to this notice, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

This notice may be viewed in our online docket, USCG-2012-0011, at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rogers Henderson, Alternate Designated Federal Officer of MERPAC, telephone (202) 372-1408. If you have any questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone (202) 366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. (Pub. L. 92-463).

MERPAC is an advisory committee authorized under section 871 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Title 6, United States Code, section 451, and chartered under the provisions of the FACA. The Committee will act solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards

on matters relating to personnel in the U.S. merchant marine, including but not limited to training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards. The Committee will advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary.

Agenda

Day 1

The agenda for the January 31, 2012, working group meeting is as follows:

- (1) Review existing performance measures and develop new performance measures which can be used to assess mariner competencies listed in the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978 as amended;

- (2) Public comment period;

- (3) Discuss and prepare proposed recommendations for the full committee to consider with regards to Task Statement 76, concerning the review of existing performance measures which can be used to assess mariner competencies listed in the STCW, and Task Statement 77, concerning the development of new performance measures which can be used to assess mariner competencies in the STCW (these task statements are included as supplemental material to the docket); and

- (4) Adjournment of meeting.

Day 2

The agenda for the February 1, 2012, working group meeting is as follows:

- (1) Continue discussion on proposed recommendations;

- (2) Public comment period;

- (3) Discuss and prepare final recommendations for the full committee to consider with regards to Task Statement 76, concerning the review of existing performance measures which can be used to assess mariner competencies listed in the STCW, and Task Statement 77, concerning the development of new performance measures which can be used to assess mariner competencies in the STCW (these task statements are included as supplemental material to the docket); and

- (4) Adjournment of meeting.

Procedural: A copy of all meeting documentation is available at the <https://www.fido.gov> Web site or by contacting Rogers Henderson. Once you have accessed the MERPAC Committee page, click on the meetings tab and then the "View" button for the meeting dated January 31-February 1, 2012 to access the information for this meeting.