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Dated: September 14, 2012, Washington, DC.

Tracie L. Stevens,
Chairwoman.

Steffani A. Cochran,
Vice-Chairwoman.

Daniel J. Little,
Associate Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 2012-23156 Filed 9-21-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2012-0853]

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Pequonnock River, Bridgeport, CT, Maintenance

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, First Coast Guard District, has issued a temporary deviation from the regulation governing the operation of the Metro North (Peck) Bridge across the Pequonnock River, mile 0.3, at Bridgeport, Connecticut. The deviation allows the bridge to remain in the closed position to facilitate electrical repairs.

DATES: This deviation is effective from October 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket are part of docket USCG-2012-0853 and are available online at www.regulations.gov, inserting USCG-2012-0853 in the "Keyword" and then clicking "Search". They are also available for inspection or copying at the 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, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this rule, call or email Ms. Judy Leung-Yee, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, telephone (212) 668-7165, email judy.k.leung-yee@uscg.mil. If you have questions on viewing the docket, call Renne V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202-366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Metro North (Peck) Bridge, across the Pequonnock River, mile 0.3, at Bridgeport, Connecticut, has a vertical clearance in the closed position of 26 feet at mean high water and 32 feet at mean low water. The drawbridge operation regulations are listed at 33 CFR 117.219(b).

The waterway users are recreational vessels and commercial lobster boats. The Metro North (Peck) Bridge rarely opens for vessel traffic. The bridge has received no requests to open during the past two years except for bridge testing and repairs.

The operator of the bridge, Metro North Railroad, requested a temporary deviation from the regulations to facilitate scheduled bridge maintenance, miter rail repair, at the bridge. The Coast Guard previously granted a temporary deviation (77 FR 40266) to Metro North in effect from July 9, 2012 through September 30, 2012 to facilitate bridge repairs; however, the bridge repair work will not be completed by the end of September as planned due to various scheduling issues.

As a result of the above information, a second temporary deviation was requested by Metro North to facilitate completion of the repairs at the bridge.

Under this temporary deviation the Metro North (Peck) Bridge may remain in the closed position from October 1, 2012 through October 31, 2012.

There are no alternate routes available to marine traffic. Vessels that can pass under the bridge in the closed position may do so at all times. The bridge can be opened in the event of an emergency.

The waterway users were advised of the requested bridge closure and offered no objection.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the bridge must return to its regular operating schedule immediately at the end of the designated time period. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: September 12, 2012.

Gary Kassof,

Bridge Program Manager, First Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2012-23435 Filed 9-21-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2012-0864]

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; James River, Newport News, VA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the US 17/258 Bridge across the James River, mile 5.0, at Newport News, VA. The deviation is necessary to facilitate the structural repairs of the bridge. This deviation allows the bridge to remain closed on weekends during the repairs and requires two-hour advanced notice for bridge openings.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 9 p.m. on September 14, 2012 until 5 a.m. on December 10, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket are part of docket USCG-2012-0864 and are available online by going to <http://www.regulations.gov>, inserting USCG-2012-0864 in the "Keyword" box, and then clicking "Search". They are also available for inspection or copying at the 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, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this rule, call or email Mr. Bill H. Brazier, Bridge Management Specialist, Fifth Coast Guard District, telephone (757) 398-6422, email Bill.H.Brazier@uscg.mil. If you have questions on reviewing the docket, call Renne V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone (202) 366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Curtis Contracting, Inc., on behalf of the Virginia Department of Transportation who owns and operates this vertical-lift type drawbridge, has requested a temporary deviation from the current operating regulations to facilitate grid deck replacement on the structure.

Under the regular operating schedule, the US 17/258 Bridge over the James River, mile 5.0, at Newport News, VA opens on signal as required by 33 CFR 117.5 and has vertical clearances in the

full open and closed positions of 145 feet and 60 feet above mean high water, respectively.

Under this temporary deviation, the drawbridge will be closed to navigation on weekends only beginning Fridays, at 9 p.m. through 5 a.m., on Mondays, from September 14, 2012 through December 10, 2012 and vessel openings will be provided with a two-hour advance notice to the bridge tender. During the temporary deviation period, the drawbridge will be unable to open in the event of an emergency. Vessels that can pass under the bridge without a bridge opening may do so at all times. There are no alternate routes for vessels transiting this section of the James River.

The James River caters to a variety of vessels from freighters to tug and barge traffic to recreational vessels. The Coast Guard has carefully coordinated the restrictions with commercial and recreational waterway users. Additionally, the Coast Guard will inform unexpected users of the waterway through our Local and Broadcast Notice to Mariners of the closure periods for the bridge so that vessels can arrange their transits to minimize any impacts caused by the temporary deviation.

In accordance with 33 CFR 117.35(e), the draw must return to its original operating schedule immediately at the end of the designated time period. This deviation from the operating regulations is authorized under 33 CFR 117.35.

Dated: September 11, 2012.

Waverly W. Gregory, Jr.,

Bridge Program Manager, Fifth Coast Guard District.

[FR Doc. 2012-23436 Filed 9-21-12; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

New Pallet Preparation Standards for Periodicals

AGENCY: Postal Service™.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service will revise *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) 705.8.10.2 to align pallet preparation standards for Periodicals with those currently required for Periodicals prepared in sacks and similar containers. The Postal Service will also align the preparation standards for merged pallets of Periodicals in DMM 705.10, 705.12 and 705.13 with other DMM sections by allowing mailers

using these programs to place Periodicals bundles directly on mixed area distribution center (ADC) pallets.

DATES: *Effective date:* January 27, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Vance at 202-268-7595, or Kevin Gunther at 202-268-7208.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The separation of mail destined within the origin mixed ADC (OMX) surface reach of the mailer's plant (or entry point) from the remaining mixed ADC mail is crucial for maintaining acceptable service performance, for the benefit of both Periodicals customers and USPS® processing operations. To assure that these separations are being made, effective January 27, 2013, the Postal Service will revise DMM 705.8.10.2 to provide the option for mailers to prepare both the OMX and mixed ADC pallets at no minimum volume threshold, and to require the preparation of both pallets at volumes of 100 pounds or more. Mailers will be required to sack the bundles if they choose not to prepare either pallet level below the 100-pound threshold. The Postal Service also will require that mailers prepare the mixed ADC pallet in accordance with labeling list L009 instead of the currently required L004.

In response to inquiries from the mailing industry, the Postal Service also will provide an option for mailers of merged pallets of Periodicals, prepared under DMM 705.10, 705.12 and 705.13, to place Periodicals bundles directly on OMX and mixed ADC pallets.

These changes will be effective January 27, 2013. However, to provide for the most expeditious processing of OMX and mixed ADC Periodicals mailpieces in USPS networks, the Postal Service strongly encourages mailers to begin using these new standards immediately.

Background

Prior to January 22, 2012, mailers were required to prepare bundles of flat-size Periodicals in mixed ADC sacks (or similar containers), labeled according to labeling list L009; and in OMX sacks (or similar containers), labeled according to labeling list L201. These standards assured that the OMX and the mixed ADC separations were always made, so the sacks that were prepared could then be presented directly for acceptance or placed on pallets in accordance with DMM 705.8.10.2.

On January 22, 2012, the Postal Service revised DMM 705.8.10.2 to allow mailers to place bundles of flat-size Periodicals directly onto mixed ADC and OMX pallets, but retained the existing language describing these pallet

levels as optional. The long-standing language that required the mixed ADC pallet to be labeled in accordance with labeling list L004 was also retained. As a result of this change, some mailers have discontinued the practice of making the mixed ADC and OMX separations when placing bundles of flat-size Periodicals directly on pallets. It was not the intent of the January 22, 2012 revision to eliminate the requirement to perform the OMX and mixed ADC separations. As a result, on June 29, 2012, the Postal Service published a proposed rule, **Federal Register** notice (77 FR 38759-38760), signaling its intent to change DMM standards to clarify that the mixed ADC and OMX separations must always be made.

Comments

The Postal Service received only one comment in response to the June 29, 2012 proposed rule, relating to the optional programs for mailers to merge bundles of flats from different price categories on pallets. This commenter requested that the Postal Service consider providing an option for mailers, creating merged pallets under DMM 705.10, 705.12 and 705.13, to place bundles directly on mixed ADC and OMX pallets, instead of requiring these bundles to be sacked. The Postal Service believes that the operational impact will be minimal if it extends the option for mailers using these optional programs. As a result, it will revise the DMM to extend this option to mailers using these advanced preparation programs.

The Postal Service hereby adopts the following changes to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), incorporated by reference in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. See 39 CFR 111.1.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

Accordingly, 39 CFR part 111 is amended as follows:

PART 111—[AMENDED]

■ 1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 111 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 13 U.S.C. 301-307; 18 U.S.C. 1692-1737; 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 414, 416, 3001-3011, 3201-3219, 3403-3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3632, 3633 and 5001.

■ 2. Revise the following sections of *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) as follows: