

- Code Electric received several bids for the fire alarm system from suppliers Honeywell, Tyco Simplex Grinnell, and Edwards (United Technologies). Although these suppliers source many fire alarm system components from U.S. manufacturers, none of the suppliers offered a one hundred percent Buy America-compliant system. All fire alarm system suppliers use a mix of foreign and US-made components; and

- The foreign components used by suppliers vary. However, due to programming, interoperability, and certification issues, the components are not interchangeable among systems. Therefore, suppliers cannot swap out components to meet Buy America.

FRA independently verified these assertions with its Monitoring and Technical Assistance Contractor (MTAC), TranSystems. An electrical engineer from FRA's MTAC explained that large international suppliers source or manufacture pieces of the fire alarm system in different countries. Further, many portions of the system are addressable (individually programmable), which means the software and hardware must be compatible and tested. In addition, fire alarm components and systems are UL® listed. UL® is a third-party, independent company that certifies safety compliance of many systems and their components, including fire alarm systems. Attempting to swap pieces of a fire alarm system would jeopardize its UL® listing and could cause product warranty and liability issues.

FRA concludes a waiver is appropriate under 49 U.S.C. 24405(a)(2)(B) for the Components because domestically-produced Components are not currently "produced in sufficient and reasonably available amounts." 49 U.S.C. 24405(a)(2)(B). FRA bases this determination on the following:

- For competitively bid, commercial products for buildings, such as fire alarm systems, FRA views receiving no Buy America-compliant bids as presumptive evidence the conditions exist to grant a non-availability waiver;

- On October 28, 2016, FRA provided public notice of this waiver request and a 15-day opportunity for comment on its Web site. FRA also emailed notice to over 6,000 recipients that requested Buy America notices through "GovDelivery." FRA received one comment. However, the commenter did not provide any information about a domestic source for a fully Buy America-compliant fire alarm system; and

- FRA's MTAC concurred with Code Electric that due to programming, interoperability, and certification issues, components are not interchangeable among systems. Therefore, fire alarm system suppliers cannot swap out components to meet Buy America.

This waiver applies only to this Project for these specific components.

Under 49 U.S.C. 24405(a)(4), FRA will publish this letter granting the Buy America waiver to the City in the **Federal Register** and provide notice of such finding and an opportunity for public comment after which this waiver will become effective.

Questions about this letter can be directed to, John Johnson, Attorney-Advisor, at John.Johnson@dot.gov or (202) 493-0078.

Sincerely,
Heath Hall
Acting Administrator
cc: Code Electric, Inc.

Brett A. Jortland,
Acting Deputy Chief Counsel.

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BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. PHMSA-2017-0130; Notice No. 2017-11]

Hazardous Materials: Emergency Waiver No. 5

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of emergency waiver order.

SUMMARY: The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is issuing an emergency waiver order to persons conducting operations under the direction of the Puerto Rico Public Service Commission within the Hurricane Maria emergency and disaster areas of Puerto Rico. This Waiver Order is effective September 28, 2017, and shall remain in effect for 7 days from the date of issuance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Adam Horsley, Deputy Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, telephone: (202) 366-4400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5103(c), the Acting Administrator for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), hereby declares that an emergency exists that warrants issuance of a Waiver of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR, 49 CFR parts 171-180) to persons conducting operations under the direction of the Puerto Rico Public Service Commission (Carr. 8838 Km. 8.3, Sector El Cinco, San Juan, PR 00926) within the Hurricane Maria emergency and disaster areas of Puerto Rico. The Waiver is granted to support the government of Puerto Rico in facilitating the transport of essential fuel.

On September 18, 2017, the President issued an Emergency Declaration for Hurricane Maria for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (EM-3391). On September 20, 2017, the President issued a Major Disaster Declaration for

the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (DR-4340).

This Waiver Order covers all areas identified in the Declarations. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 5103(c), PHMSA has authority delegated by the Secretary (49 CFR 1.97(b)(3)) to waive compliance with any part of the HMR provided that the grant of the waiver is: (1) In the public interest; (2) not inconsistent with the safety of transporting hazardous materials; and (3) necessary to facilitate the safe movement of hazardous materials into, from, and within an area of a major disaster or emergency that has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*).

Given the continuing impacts caused by Hurricane Maria, PHMSA's Acting Administrator has determined that regulatory relief is in the public interest and necessary to ensure the safe transportation in commerce of hazardous materials while the Puerto Rican government executes its recovery and cleanup efforts. Specifically, PHMSA's Acting Administrator finds that issuing this Waiver Order will allow for the safe transportation of fuel. By execution of this Waiver Order, the hazardous materials training, testing, and certification requirements in 49 CFR part 172 subpart H and part 177 are waived except as specified below for persons conducting operations under the direction of the Puerto Rico Public Service Commission within the Hurricane Maria emergency and disaster areas of Puerto Rico. Such persons are authorized to offer and transport fuel provided that the following conditions are met:

(1) The transport of the fuel must be accompanied by a law enforcement or military escort;

(2) The escort vehicle must have a copy of the Emergency Response Guidebook, Response Guide 128;

(3) Drivers must have three years of professional driving experience and otherwise be licensed to operate the vehicle based on its size and weight; and

(4) Unloading procedures must be overseen by a qualified person as defined in 49 CFR 177.834(i)(4) or a driver who has received training (testing and certification is not required) that includes, at a minimum, these items:

(a) Bonding the cargo tank;
(b) Preventing overfilling of tanks at point of delivery;

(c) Controlling the flow of product;

(d) Using emergency cut-off equipment; and

(e) Securing unloading equipment for transport.

Additionally, during driver unloading, the unloading area must be cleared of all non-essential personnel for a distance of 100 feet. Compliance with all other requirements of the HMR is required.

This Waiver Order is effective September 28, 2017, and shall remain in effect for 7 days from the date of issuance.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Drue Pearce,

Acting Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

[FR Doc. 2017-21417 Filed 10-4-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Tax Forms and Publications Project Committee

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Tax Forms and Publications Project Committee will be conducted. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Rosalia at 1-888-912-1227 or (718) 834-2203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Tax Forms and Publications Project Committee will be held Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time via teleconference. The public is invited to make oral comments or submit written statements for consideration. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate must be made with Robert Rosalia. For more information please contact Robert Rosalia at 1-888-912-1227 or (718) 834-2203, or write TAP Office, 2 Metrotech Center, 100 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11201 or contact us at the Web site: <http://www.improveirs.org>. The agenda will include various IRS issues.

Dated: October 1, 2017.

Susan Jimerson,

Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 2017-21478 Filed 10-4-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Joint Committee

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Joint Committee will be conducted. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday, November 29, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gretchen Swayzer at 1-888-912-1227 or 469-801-0769.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Joint Committee will be held Wednesday, November 29, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time via teleconference. The public is invited to make oral comments or submit written statements for consideration. For more information please contact: Gretchen Swayzer at 1-888-912-1227 or 469-801-0769, TAP Office, 4050 Alpha Rd, Farmers Branch, TX 75244, or contact us at the Web site: <http://www.improveirs.org>.

The agenda will include various committee issues for submission to the IRS and other TAP related topics. Public input is welcomed.

Dated: October 1, 2017.

Susan Jimerson,

Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 2017-21479 Filed 10-4-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Special Projects Committee

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Special Projects Committee will be conducted. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Matthew O'Sullivan at 1-888-912-1227 or (510) 907-5274.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that a meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Special Projects Committee will be held Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time via teleconference. The public is invited to make oral comments or submit written statements for consideration. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate must be made with Matthew O'Sullivan. For more information please contact Matthew O'Sullivan at 1-888-912-1227 or (510) 907-5274, or write TAP Office, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612-5217 or contact us at the Web site: <http://www.improveirs.org>. The agenda will include various IRS issues.

The agenda will include a discussion on various special topics with IRS processes.

Dated: October 1, 2017.

Susan Jimerson,

Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 2017-21483 Filed 10-4-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Toll-Free Phone Line Project Committee

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Toll-Free Phone Line Project Committee will be conducted. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday, November 15, 2017.