

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

Dated: April 5, 2018.

**Hal R. Pitts,**

*Bridge Program Manager, Fifth Coast Guard District.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

#### 33 CFR Part 117

[Docket No. USCG-2018-0272]

#### Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Grassy Sound Channel, Middle Township, NJ

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Notice of deviation from drawbridge regulation.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard has issued a temporary deviation from the operating schedule that governs the Grassy Sound Channel (Ocean Drive) Bridge across Grassy Sound Channel, mile 1.0, at Middle Township, NJ. The deviation is necessary to accommodate the free movement of pedestrians and vehicles during the 2018 “MudHen Half Marathon”. This deviation allows the drawbridge to remain in the closed-to-navigation position.

**DATES:** This deviation is effective from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on April 29, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** The docket for this deviation, [USCG-2018-0272], is available at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Type the docket number in the “SEARCH” box and click “SEARCH”. Click on Open Docket Folder on the line associated with this deviation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions on this temporary deviation, call or email Mr. Mickey Sanders, Bridge Administration Branch Fifth District, Coast Guard; telephone (757) 398-6587, email [Mickey.D.Sanders2@uscg.mil](mailto:Mickey.D.Sanders2@uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The event director, DelMoSports LLC, with approval from the Cape May County Bridge Commission, who owns and operates the Grassy Sound Channel (Ocean Drive) Bridge, across Grassy Sound Channel, mile 1.0, at Middle Township, NJ, requested a temporary deviation from the current operating

regulations to accommodate the free movement of pedestrians and vehicles during the 2018 “MudHen Half Marathon”.

The current operating schedule is set out in 33 CFR 117.721. Under this temporary deviation, the drawbridge will be maintained in the closed-to-navigation position from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on April 29, 2018. The Grassy Sound Channel is used by a variety of vessels including small commercial vessels and recreational vessels. The Coast Guard has carefully considered the nature and volume of vessel traffic on the waterway in publishing this temporary deviation.

Vessels able to pass through the bridge in the closed position may do so at anytime. The bridge will be able to open for emergencies and there is no immediate alternate route for vessels unable to pass through the bridge in the closed position. The Coast Guard will also inform the users of the waterways through our Local and Broadcast Notice to Mariners of the change in operating schedule for the bridge so that vessel operators can arrange their transits to minimize any impacts caused by this temporary deviation.

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

Dated: April 5, 2018.

**Hal R. Pitts,**

*Bridge Program Manager, Fifth Coast Guard District.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### 38 CFR Part 4

RIN 2900-AP14

#### Schedule for Rating Disabilities: The Organs of Special Sense and Schedule of Ratings—Eye

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is revising the portion of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD or rating schedule) that addresses the organs of special sense and schedule of ratings—eye. The final rule incorporates medical advances that have occurred since the last review, updates current medical terminology, and provides clearer evaluation criteria.

**DATES:** This rule is effective on May 13, 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary Reynolds, M.D., Medical Officer, Part 4 VASRD Staff (211C), Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9700. (This is not a toll-free telephone number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 9, 2015, VA published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** at 80 FR 32513, suggesting changes to 38 CFR 4.77 through 4.79, the portion of the VASRD pertaining to the organs of special sense and schedule of ratings—eye. VA invited interested parties to submit comments on or before August 10, 2015. VA received five comments.

#### A. General Rating Formula for Eye Diseases

VA proposed several revisions to the General Rating Formula for Diseases of the Eye, including a new definition of incapacitating episodes that used the number of clinic visits required to treat active eye disease as a means of quantifying the level of disability. VA also proposed to apply the formula to more diagnostic codes (DCs).

Two comments regarding the proposed updates to the General Rating Formula, specifically regarding missing definitions, were received. One commenter asked for clarification of “per year” in regard to measuring the number of visits for medical treatment. VA appreciates the comment concerning how “per year” is defined, and will further clarify the relevant time period by substituting the phrase “within the past twelve months” for the phrase “per year.” The change of phrasing to “within the past twelve months” is consistent with VA’s practice of assigning “staged ratings” where the evidence shows that different ratings are appropriate for distinct periods of time. *See Hart v. Mansfield*, 21 Vet. App. 505, 509 (2007) (citing *Fenderson v. West*, 12 Vet. App. 119, 126 (1999)). The same commenter asked why VA did not define “active eye disease” in the proposed rule. VA appreciates the comment, and for the reasons outlined below, will remove “active eye disease” as a term that requires definition.

The majority of the comments regarding the proposed updates, however, concerned the revision to “incapacitating episodes.” Two commenters did not agree with using the number of clinic visits to quantify the severity of incapacitating episodes, noting that many conditions are