

The complete application is available for review identified in the DOT docket as MARAD–2021–0002 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 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388, 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 vessel name, state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in section 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

### Public Participation

#### *How do I submit comments?*

Please submit your comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled **ADDRESSES**. Be advised that it may take a few hours or even days for your comment to be reflected on the docket. In addition, your comments must be written in English. We encourage you to provide concise comments and you may attach additional documents as necessary. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

#### *Where do I go to read public comments, and find supporting information?*

Go to the docket online at <http://www.regulations.gov>, keyword search MARAD–2021–0002 or visit the Docket Management Facility (see **ADDRESSES** for hours of operation). We recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

#### *Will my comments be made available to the public?*

Yes. Be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available.

#### *May I submit comments confidentially?*

If you wish to submit comments under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, Office of Legislation and Regulations, MAR–225, W24–220, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Include a cover letter setting forth with specificity the

basis for any such claim and, if possible, a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

### Privacy Act

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL–14 FDMS, accessible through [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy). To facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. Whether or not commenters identify themselves, all timely comments will be fully considered. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact the agency for alternate submission instructions.

(Authority: 49 CFR 1.93(a), 46 U.S.C. 55103, 46 U.S.C. 12121)

Dated: January 21, 2021.

By Order of the Associate Administrator for Strategic Sealift in lieu of the Administrator.

**T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2021–01652 Filed 1–25–21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–81–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2021–0003]

#### **Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws: Vessel PA860 (Motor Vessel); Invitation for Public Comments**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirements of the coastwise trade laws to allow the carriage of no more than twelve passengers for hire on vessels, which are three years old or more. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before February 25, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD–2021–0003 by any one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search MARAD–2021–0003 and follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility is in the West Building, Ground Floor of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Docket Management Facility location address is: U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD–2021–0003, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

*Note:* If you mail or hand-deliver your comments, we recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the agency name and specific docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, see the section entitled Public Participation.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Russell Haynes, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W23–461, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202–366–3157, Email [Russell.Haynes@dot.gov](mailto:Russell.Haynes@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel PA860 is:

—*Intended Commercial Use of Vessel:* “Whale watching tours”  
 —*Geographic Region Including Base of Operations:* “California” (Base of Operations: Long Beach, California)  
 —*Vessel Length and Type:* 28.3’ Motor Vessel

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\* \* \* \* \*

Dated: January 21, 2021.

By Order of the Associate Administrator for Strategic Sealift in lieu of the Administrator.

**T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2021-01653 Filed 1-25-21; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2017-0092]

#### Mazda North American Operations; Denial of Petition for Inconsequentiality

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Denial of petition.

**SUMMARY:** On July 10, 2017, Takata Corporation ("Takata") filed a defect information report ("DIR") in which it determined that a safety-related defect exists in phase-stabilized ammonium nitrate ("PSAN") driver-side air bag inflators that it manufactured with a calcium sulfate desiccant and supplied to Ford Motor Company ("Ford"), Mazda North American Operations ("Mazda"), and Nissan North America Inc. ("Nissan") for use in certain vehicles. Mazda's vehicles identified by Takata's DIR were designed by Ford and were built on the same platform and using the same air bag inflators as one of the affected Ford vehicles. Mazda petitioned the Agency for a decision that the equipment defect determined to exist by Takata is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety in the Mazda vehicles affected by Takata's DIR, and that Mazda should therefore be relieved of its notification and remedy obligations under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and its applicable regulations. After reviewing the petition, NHTSA has concluded that Mazda has not met its burden of establishing that the defect is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety, and denies the petition.

**ADDRESSES:** For further information about this decision, contact Stephen Hench, Office of Chief Counsel, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, W41-229, Washington, DC 20590 (Tel. 202.366.2262).

For general information about NHTSA's investigation into Takata air bag inflator ruptures and the related recalls, visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/takata>.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. Background

The Takata air bag inflator recalls ("Takata recalls") are the largest and most complex vehicle recalls in U.S. history. These recalls currently involve 19 vehicle manufacturers and approximately 67 million Takata air bag inflators in tens of millions of vehicles in the United States alone. The recalls are due to a design defect, whereby the propellant used in Takata's air bag inflators degrades after long-term exposure to high humidity and temperature cycling. During air bag deployment, this propellant degradation can cause the inflator to over-pressurize, causing sharp metal fragments (like shrapnel) to penetrate the air bag and enter the vehicle compartment. To date, these rupturing Takata inflators have resulted in the deaths of 18 people across the United States<sup>1</sup> and over 400 alleged injuries, including lacerations and other serious consequences to occupants' face, neck, and chest areas.

In May 2015, NHTSA issued, and Takata agreed to, a Consent Order,<sup>2</sup> and Takata filed four defect information reports ("DIRs")<sup>3</sup> for inflators installed in vehicles manufactured by twelve<sup>4</sup> vehicle manufacturers. Recognizing that these unprecedented recalls would involve many challenges for vehicle manufacturers and consumers, NHTSA began an administrative proceeding in June 2015 providing public notice and seeking comment (Docket Number NHTSA-2015-0055). This effort culminated in NHTSA's establishment

<sup>1</sup> Globally, including the United States, the deaths of at least 30 people are attributable to these rupturing Takata inflators.

<sup>2</sup> The May 2015 Consent Order is available at: [https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/consent-order-takata-05182015\\_0.pdf](https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/consent-order-takata-05182015_0.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Recall Nos. 15E-040, 15E-041, 15E-042, and 15E-043.

<sup>4</sup> The twelve vehicle manufacturers affected by the May 2015 recalls were: BMW of North America, LLC; FCA US, LLC (formerly Chrysler); Daimler Trucks North America, LLC; Daimler Vans USA, LLC; Ford Motor Company; General Motors, LLC; American Honda Motor Company; Mazda North American Operations; Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.; Nissan North America, Inc.; Subaru of America, Inc.; and Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing.