**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Maritime Administration**

[Docket No. MARAD–2021–0084]

**Coastwise Endorsement Eligibility Determination for a Foreign-Built Vessel: THE OFFICE (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 issue coastwise endorsement eligibility determinations for foreign-built vessels which will carry no more than twelve passengers for hire. A request for such a determination has been received by MARAD. By this notice, MARAD seeks comments from interested parties as to any effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. Information about the requestor’s vessel, including a brief description of the proposed service, is described in the application, the intended service of the vessel THE OFFICE is:

—**Intended Commercial Use of Vessel:** “Time Charters”
—**Geographic Region Including Base of Operations:** “Florida, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.” Base of Operations: Old Saybrook, CT.
—**Vessel Length and Type:** 68.3’ Motor Vessel

The complete application is available for review identified in the DOT docket as MARAD 2021–0084 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 employment of the vessel in the coastwise trade to carry no more than 12 passengers will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, MARAD will not issue an approval of the vessel’s coastwise endorsement eligibility. Comments should refer to the vessel name, state the commenter’s interest in the application, and address the eligibility 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–2021–0084 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, as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL–14 FDMS, accessible through 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.


By Order of the Acting Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,
Secretary, Maritime Administration.