

certified.” In 1992, EPA developed regulations under section 609 that were published in 57 FR 31240 and codified at 40 CFR Subpart B (Section 82.30 *et seq.*). The information required to be collected under the section 609 regulations is: approved refrigerant handling equipment; approved independent standards testing organizations; technician training and certification; and certification, reporting and recordkeeping.

Form numbers: None.

Respondents/affected entities: The following is a list of NAICS codes for organizations potentially affected by the information requirements covered under this ICR. It is meant to include any establishment that may service or maintain motor vehicle air conditioners.

- 4411 Automobile Dealers
- 4413 Automotive Parts, Accessories, and Tire Stores
- 44711 Gasoline Stations with Convenience Stores
- 8111 Automotive Repair and Maintenance
- 811198 All Other Automotive Repair and Maintenance

Other affected groups include independent standards testing

organizations and organizations with technician certification programs.

Respondent’s obligation to respond: Mandatory (40 CFR 82.36, 82.38, 82.40, 82.42).

Estimated number of respondents: 53,147.

Frequency of response: On occasion, biennially, only once.

Total estimated burden: 4,760 hours (per year). Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.03(b).

Total estimated cost: \$255,289 (per year), includes \$0 annualized capital or operation & maintenance costs.

Changes in estimates: There is an increase of about 502 hours in the total estimated respondent burden compared with the ICR currently approved by OMB (EPA–HQ–OAR–2021–0040). This increase is due to a revision in the estimate of the total annual number of technicians certified under 40 CFR 82 (40,000/year in 2021 to 47,000/year in 2024), and an increase in the number of motor vehicle repair establishments in the United States (165,800 in 2021 to about 170,000 in 2024).

Cynthia A. Newberg,
Director, Stratospheric Protection Division.
 [FR Doc. 2024–11206 Filed 5–21–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[FR ID 221262]

Open Commission Meeting Thursday, May 23, 2024

The Federal Communications Commission will hold an Open Meeting on the subjects listed below on Thursday, May 23, 2024, which is scheduled to commence at 10:30 a.m. in the Commission Meeting Room of the Federal Communications Commission, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC.

While attendance at the Open Meeting is available to the public, the FCC headquarters building is not open access and all guests must check in with and be screened by FCC security at the main entrance on L Street. Attendees at the Open Meeting will not be required to have an appointment but must otherwise comply with protocols outlined at: www.fcc.gov/visit. Open Meetings are streamed live at: www.fcc.gov/live and on the FCC’s YouTube channel.

| Item No. | Bureau | Subject |
|----------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | OFFICE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY. | <i>Title:</i> Promoting the Integrity and Security of Telecommunications Certification Bodies, Measurement Facilities, and the Equipment Authorization Program (ET Docket No. 24–136). <i>Summary:</i> The Commission will consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to strengthen requirements and oversight relating to telecommunications certification bodies and measurement facilities to help ensure the integrity of these entities for purposes of our equipment authorization program, to better protect national security, and to advance the Commission’s comprehensive strategy to build a more secure and resilient communications supply chain. |
| 2 | MEDIA | <i>Title:</i> Restricted Adjudicatory Matter. <i>Summary:</i> The Commission will consider a restricted adjudicatory matter from the Media Bureau. |
| 3 | ENFORCEMENT | <i>Title:</i> Enforcement Bureau Action. <i>Summary:</i> The Commission will consider an enforcement action. |
| 4 | ENFORCEMENT | <i>Title:</i> Enforcement Bureau Action. <i>Summary:</i> The Commission will consider an enforcement action. |
| 5 | ENFORCEMENT | <i>Title:</i> Enforcement Bureau Action. <i>Summary:</i> The Commission will consider an enforcement action. |
| 6 | ENFORCEMENT | <i>Title:</i> Enforcement Bureau Action. <i>Summary:</i> The Commission will consider an enforcement action. |

* * * * *

The meeting will be webcast at: www.fcc.gov/live. Open captioning will be provided as well as a text only version on the FCC website. Other reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. In your request, include a description of the accommodation you will need and a way we can contact you if we need more information. Last minute requests will be accepted but

may be impossible to fill. Send an email to: fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202–418–0530.

Press Access—Members of the news media are welcome to attend the meeting and will be provided reserved seating on a first-come, first-served basis. Following the meeting, the Chairwoman may hold a news conference in which she will take questions from credentialed members of

the press in attendance. Also, senior policy and legal staff will be made available to the press in attendance for questions related to the items on the meeting agenda. Commissioners may also choose to hold press conferences. Press may also direct questions to the Office of Media Relations (OMR): MediaRelations@fcc.gov. Questions about credentialing should be directed to OMR.

Additional information concerning this meeting may be obtained from the Office of Media Relations, (202) 418–0500. Audio/Video coverage of the meeting will be broadcast live with open captioning over the internet from the FCC Live web page at www.fcc.gov/live.

Federal Communications Commission.

Dated: May 16, 2024.

Marlene Dortch,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024–11230 Filed 5–21–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

[Docket No. FMC–2024–0008]

Investigation Into Conditions Affecting United States Carriers in Connection With Canadian Ballast Water Regulation in the United States/Canada Great Lakes Trade

AGENCY: Federal Maritime Commission.

ACTION: Notice of investigation and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Maritime Commission (Commission) has initiated an investigation into conditions created by the Government of Canada (Canada) in connection with regulation of ballast water management systems that may adversely affect the operation of United States carriers in the United States/Canada Great Lakes trade.

DATES: Submit comments on or before June 21, 2024.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. FMC–2024–0008, by the following method:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: Your comments must be written and in English. You may submit your comments electronically through the Federal Rulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. To submit comments on that site, search for Docket No. FMC–2024–0008 and follow the instructions provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions regarding submitting comments or the treatment of any confidential information, contact David Eng, Secretary; Phone: (202) 523–5725; Email: Secretary@fmc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

Based on available information, it appears that conditions created by the Government of Canada (Canada) in connection with regulation of ballast water management systems may adversely affect the operation of United

States carriers in the United States/Canada Great Lakes trade, in particular the carriers operating vessels that may become subject to regulation in September 2024, within the meaning of 46 U.S. Code, chapter 423 (Foreign Shipping Practices) (46 U.S.C. 42301–307). Title 46 U.S.C. 42302 authorizes the Federal Maritime Commission (Commission) to investigate these conditions, and chapter 423 authorizes the agency to take action in response.

II. Summary of Apparent Conditions

In 2020, the Lake Carriers Association (LCA) filed a petition with the Commission as to pending Canadian regulation of ballast water discharge on the Great Lakes. See FMC Docket No. 20–10, P1–20—Petition of the Lake Carriers' Association Pursuant to Section 19 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920. LCA's petition alleged that Canadian regulation scheduled to take effect in September 2024 would create conditions unfavorable to shipping by requiring U.S. vessels to install new ballast water management systems. LCA argued that this would impose a severe burden while offering negligible environmental benefits, since the relevant U.S. carriers (Lakers) take in but do not discharge ballast water in Canadian waters. The petition asked the Commission to investigate and adopt its own regulations in response. The Commission opened an investigation under 46 U.S. Code, chapter 421 (Regulations Affecting Shipping in Foreign Trade). See FMC Docket No. 20–10. In that Chapter 421 proceeding, the FMC sought and received comments, including from the Government of Canada. See FMC Notices, 85 FR 37453 (June 22, 2020), 87 FR 6173 (February 3, 2022); Comments of the Embassy of Canada, Government of Canada, Docket No. 20–10 (Doc. No. 3) (July 22, 2020).

Since at least 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been engaged in rulemaking to consider similar regulation. See Vessel Incidental Discharge National Standards of Performance, 85 FR 67818 (Oct. 26, 2020) (to be codified in 40 CFR part 139); Supplemental Notice, 88 FR 71788 (Oct. 18, 2023). The EPA's October 2023 Supplemental Notice in that rulemaking indicates that the agency is considering issuing a final rule that is less restrictive than the regulation due to take effect in Canada, as it would require the type of ballast water systems at issue only for covered vessels built in the future. See 88 FR 71803–04 (explaining differences between proposed regulatory option and relevant Canadian regulation); *id.* at 71,808 (“EPA proposes to define a New

Laker as a bulk carrier that operates exclusively on the Great Lakes and that is constructed after the effective date of [U.S. Coast Guard] regulations promulgated pursuant to [Clean Water Act] section 312(p)(5)(A)(i)’”).

In February 2024, the LCA filed a public letter in the Commission's Chapter 421 proceeding. See Docket No. 20–10 (Doc. 8) (Feb. 13, 2024). The letter urged the Commission to move forward promptly. The LCA emphasized that its members' Lakers would have to prepare to comply with the stricter Canadian rules before the compliance date of September 8, 2024, even though the EPA was unlikely to require them to meet the stricter standards. *Id.* At 2–3. In addition, the letter stated that these U.S.-flagged Lakers had been effectively prevented from applying for an exemption or extension from the Canadian regulation, because relevant procedures were not expected to be in place prior to July 2024, despite the impending compliance date. *Id.* At 2, 4. The letter confirmed that only five of the existing U.S. Lakers would be affected by the regulation in September 2024 (one post-2008 vessel already has the required equipment); the approximately 50 other U.S. Lakers were built prior to 2009. *Id.* Attachment C. However, the LCA argued that the five post-2008 Lakers would be compelled either to install the required equipment, a “multimillion dollar investment” that they might well need to remove later in light of changing U.S. requirements, or to “walk away from the business.” *Id.* At 4.

In light of the above, the Commission will, on its own motion, open an investigation under 46 U.S. Code, Chapter 423 (Foreign Shipping Practices). See 46 CFR part 555. In particular, the Commission will investigate whether the laws, rules, policies, or practices of Canada result in conditions that “adversely affect the operations of United States carriers in United States oceanborne trade” and that “do not exist for foreign carriers of [Canada] in the United States under the laws of the United States.” 46 U.S.C. 42302(a). Such conditions may exist here, in view of the LCA's allegations that U.S. carriers will suffer significant adverse effects from the impending Canadian regulation, but Canadian carriers operating in the United States are not subject to comparable requirements under U.S. law. Under 46 U.S.C. 42302(c), the Commission is to complete its investigation and render a decision within 120 days after it is initiated.

If the agency concludes that the standard of section 42302(a) is met, it is