

grade crossings equipped only with flashing lights or passive warning devices may not see or hear approaching movements that are shoved or pushed. A shoving or pushing movement should proceed only upon satisfactory visual confirmation by a crewmember or other qualified employee providing point protection that a grade crossing is devoid of any stopped or approaching motor vehicles, unless alternative protection is provided (such as a designated and qualified employee who is properly stationed at the crossing and can communicate with train crews).

Recommended Actions

1. Railroads should review their rules related to 49 CFR 218.99, *Shoving or pushing movements*, to ensure compliance with the comprehensive job safety briefing requirement of paragraph (b). This briefing must delineate the methods of communication to be employed between the locomotive engineer and the employee directing the movement, as well as the protocols for ensuring point protection—especially when a crossing must be protected. Additionally, the briefing must cover procedures for establishing and verifying that the track meets the “*track is clear*” criteria in 49 CFR 218.93. Each job briefing should include the identification and acknowledgment of passively protected grade crossings that will be encountered during the shove movement, any unique layout, weather or other environmental challenges to performing a visual assessment of approaching vehicular traffic, and the requirement not to enter those crossings until a complete visual assessment of each crossing is performed and it is determined that the “*track is clear*.”

2. Railroads should review (and update if necessary) all applicable operating rules to ensure they account for all necessary factors to be considered in determining whether the “*track is clear*” under 49 CFR 218.99. Recurrent training programs should encompass clear definitions and identification of grade crossings equipped with only flashing lights or passive warning devices, emphasize the necessity of a complete visual assessment (including the specific elements and procedures it entails), as well as provide examples of unique grade crossing configurations, weather or other environmental challenges that may impede a visual assessment of approaching vehicular traffic, and outline the correct process for determining that the “*track is clear*.”

3. Railroads should review and evaluate existing operational testing data as required by 49 CFR 217.9(e) relevant to the operation of shoving or

pushing movements over grade crossings. Railroads should identify crossings equipped with only flashing lights or passive warning devices in their territory, prioritize those crossings with unique crossing configurations or subject to weather or other environmental challenges that may impede a visual assessment of approaching vehicular traffic, and perform operational testing at selected locations. Railroads should consider varying crossing locations and operational testing times to help determine the actual level of proper point protection and “*track is clear*” rule compliance.

4. Railroads should implement a program to evaluate all crossings equipped only with flashing lights or passive warning devices to determine if it is feasible within the operating environment for an employee responsible for the safety of operations across the crossing to determine if the track is clear, taking account of obstructions, weather conditions and the ability of the employee to clearly see and timely communicate unsafe conditions, such as approaching traffic. Based on this evaluation, railroads should update operating rules and/or bulletins to require employees to be stationed at the grade crossing to provide protection (*i.e.* stop and flag) where the evaluation determines it is not feasible for a riding employee to safely ascertain if the track is clear.

FRA encourages railroads to take actions consistent with the preceding recommendations. FRA may modify this Safety Advisory 2025–02, issue additional safety advisories, or take other appropriate action necessary to ensure the highest level of safety on the Nation’s railroads, including pursuing other corrective measures under its rail safety authority.

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,
Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.

[FR Doc. 2025–22693 Filed 12–11–25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2025–0927]

Request Notice: Use of Foreign-Built Small Passenger Vessel in United States Coastwise Trade, S/V PUREScape

AGENCY: Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by MARAD, is authorized to make determinations regarding the coastwise use of foreign built; certain U.S. built; and U.S. and foreign rebuilt vessels that solely carry no more than twelve passengers for hire. MARAD has received such a determination request and is publishing this notice to solicit comments to assist with determining whether the proposed use of the vessel set forth in the request would have an adverse effect on U.S. vessel builders or U.S. coastwise trade businesses that use U.S.-built vessels in those businesses. Information about the requestor’s vessel, including a description of the proposed service, is in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

DATES: Submit comments on or before January 12, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD–2025–0927 by any one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search the above DOT Docket Number 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, 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 the DOT Docket Number, 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 DOT Docket Number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, or to submit comments that are confidential in nature, see the section entitled Public Participation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Hagerty, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Mail Stop 2, MAR–620,

Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366–5400. Email: smallvessels@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 12121(b), the U.S. Coast Guard may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise trade endorsement for eligible, small passenger vessels authorized to carry no more than 12 passengers for hire if MARAD, after notice and an opportunity for public comment, determines the use of the small passenger vessel in the coastwise trade will not adversely affect United States vessel builders or the coastwise trade business of any person that employs vessels built in the United States in that business.¹

MARAD has received an eligibility determination request. Further details about the requester's vessel and its proposed operations may be found in the determination request posted in the DOT Docket Number listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the undue adverse effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or coastwise trade businesses in the U.S. that employ U.S.-built vessels in those businesses. Comments should refer to the vessel name, state the commenter's interest in the request, and demonstrate, with supporting documentation, the undue adverse effect on U.S. vessel builders and coastwise trade businesses.

Public Participation

How do I submit comments?

Please submit comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled **ADDRESSES**. It may take a few hours or even days for comments to be reflected on the docket. Comments must be written in English. Provide concise comments and 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?

The docket online is located at <https://www.regulations.gov>, keyword search the DOT Docket Number list in the **ADDRESSES** section above or visit the Docket Management Facility (see **ADDRESSES** for hours of operation). Please periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

¹ The U.S. Coast Guard and MARAD have authority under 46 U.S.C. 12121(b) through the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, respectively.

Will my comments be made available to the public?

Yes. Your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available.

May I submit comments confidentially?

You may request that MARAD treat your comments as commercially confidential by submitting them to SmallVessels@dot.gov. Include in the email subject heading "Contains Confidential Commercial Information" or "Contains CCI" and state in your submission, with specificity, the basis for any such confidential treatment highlighting the CCI portions. If possible, please provide a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

If MARAD receives a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the information, procedures described in the Department's FOIA regulation at 49 CFR 7.29 will be followed. Only information that is ultimately determined to be confidential under those procedures will be exempt from disclosure under FOIA.

Privacy Act

Anyone can search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). For information on DOT's compliance with the Privacy Act, please visit <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>.

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

By Order of the Maritime Administration.

Gabriel Chavez,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2025–22679 Filed 12–11–25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2025–0928]

Request Notice: Use of Foreign-Built Small Passenger Vessel in United States Coastwise Trade, M/V COCONUT MONKEY

AGENCY: Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by MARAD, is authorized to make

determinations regarding the coastwise use of foreign built; certain U.S. built; and U.S. and foreign rebuilt vessels that solely carry no more than twelve passengers for hire. MARAD has received such a determination request and is publishing this notice to solicit comments to assist with determining whether the proposed use of the vessel set forth in the request would have an adverse effect on U.S. vessel builders or U.S. coastwise trade businesses that use U.S.-built vessels in those businesses. Information about the requestor's vessel, including a description of the proposed service, is in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

DATES: Submit comments on or before January 12, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD–2025–0928 by any one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search the above DOT Docket Number 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, 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 the DOT Docket Number, 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 DOT Docket Number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, or to submit comments that are confidential in nature, see the section entitled Public Participation. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patricia Hagerty, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Mail Stop 2, MAR–620, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366–5400. Email: smallvessels@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 12121(b), the U.S. Coast Guard may issue a certificate of