

of the aircraft, or the regulations under which the flight is conducted.

[FR Doc. 96-32688 Filed 12-23-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

[Summary Notice No. PE-96-61]

Petitions for Exemption; Summary of Petitions Received; Dispositions of Petitions Issued

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of petitions for exemption received and of dispositions of prior petitions.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to FAA's rulemaking provisions governing the application, processing, and disposition of petitions for exemption (14 CFR Part 11), this notice contains a summary of certain petitions seeking relief from specified requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Chapter I), dispositions of certain petitions previously received, and corrections. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public's awareness of, and participation in, this aspect of FAA's regulatory activities. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of any petition or its final disposition.

DATES: Comments on petitions received must identify the petition docket number involved and must be received on or before January 13, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on any petition in triplicate to: Federal Aviation Administration, Office of the Chief Counsel, Attn: Rule Docket (AGC-200), Petition Docket No. _____, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20591.

Comments may also be sent electronically to the following internet address: nprmcmts@faa.dot.gov.

The petition, any comments received, and a copy of any final disposition are filed in the assigned regulatory docket and are available for examination in the Rules Docket (AGC-200), Room 915G, FAA Headquarters Building (FOB 10A), 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20591; telephone (202) 267-3132.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fred Haynes (202) 267-3939 or Angela Anderson (202) 267-9681 Office of Rulemaking (ARM-1), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591.

This notice is published pursuant to paragraphs (c), (e), and (g) of § 11.27 of Part 11 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR Part 11).

Issued in Washington, D.C., on December 19, 1996.

Donald P. Byrne,
Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations.

Petitions for Exemption

Docket No.: 28687

Petitioner: Aerospace Industry Association

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 25.1397(a)

Description of Relief Sought: Petitioners request permanent exemption from the color (chromaticity) requirements of Section 25.1397(a) for red position lights and, by reference within Section 25.1401(d), the color requirements for red anticollision lights for inservice aircraft and those in production or being certificate. Petitioners propose the use of color chromaticity boundaries for red anticollision lights so that anticollision red—'y' is not greater than 0.350, and 'z' is not greater than 0.020, as opposed to the current requirement of 'y'=0.335 and 'z'=0.002.

Docket No.: 28695

Petitioner: Airbus Industrie

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 25.1397(a)

Description of Relief Sought: Petitioner requests permanent exemption from the color (chromaticity) requirements of Section 25.1397(a) for red position lights and, by reference within Section 25.1401(d), the color requirements for red anticollision lights for inservice aircraft and those in production or being certificate. Petitioner proposes the use of color chromaticity boundaries for red anticollision lights so that anticollision red—'y' is not greater than 0.350, and 'z' is not greater than 0.020, as opposed to the current requirement of 'y'=0.335 and 'z'=0.002.

Docket No.: 28720

Petitioner: Boeing Commercial Airplane Group

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 25.785(b) and 25.562

Description of Relief Sought: It is requested that a stowable hospital berth installation, for non-ambulatory persons, be exempt from compliance with all dynamic testing and personal injury requirements defined in §§ 25.785(b) and 25.562, for the Boeing Model 777-200 and -300 airplanes.

Docket No.: 28744

Petitioner: Boeing Commercial Airplane Group

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 25.562

Description of Relief Sought: The petitioner requests relief from the

flight deck floor warpage testing requirements of § 25.562 flight deck seats on the Boeing Model 757-300 airplane.

[FR Doc. 96-32696 Filed 12-23-96; 8:45 am]

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Federal Railroad Administration

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: On June 18, November 22, and November 29, 1996, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) published final rules amending the railroad accident reporting regulations at 49 CFR part 225. 61 FR 30940, 61 FR 59368, 61 FR 60632, respectively. In response to the final rule published June 18, 1996, several railroads and railroad associations filed petitions for reconsideration raising various concerns with its contents and its implementation date of January 1, 1997. Some of those concerns were addressed by FRA in the November 22, 1996 Federal Register document (61 FR 59368). The other issues were addressed in a document issued December 16, 1996 (FRA Docket No. RAR-4, Notice No. 16), which will be published in the Federal Register on December 23, 1996.

Four of the several rules to amend 49 CFR part 225 that were issued on December 16, 1996, contain amendments to the approved information collection activities, while one adds a new information collection requirement. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Pub. L. No. 104-13, Section 2, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified as revised at 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR Part 1320, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is announcing a 60-day comment period on these amendments. The information collection requirements contained in the June 18, 1996, final rule were approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the PRA under OMB control number 2130-0500. This approval expires on August 31, 1999.

Below are brief summaries of the five amendments to 49 CFR part 225 that constitute information collection activities that FRA will submit for clearance by OMB as required by the PRA:

1. FRA is excepting from the requirements regarding an Internal

Control Plan delineated in § 225.33(a)(3) through (a)(10) the following: (i) Railroads that operate or own track on the general railroad system of transportation (general system) that have 15 or fewer employees covered by the hours of service laws (49 U.S.C. 21101–21107) and (ii) railroads that operate or own track exclusively off the general system. However, these excepted railroads must adopt and comply with the intimidation and harassment policies outlined in § 225.33(a)(1) and (2). FRA has developed model statements of policy on intimidation and harassment to be posted by these excepted railroads. FRA estimates that this requirement will affect approximately 433 railroads. The only burden to be encountered by these excepted railroads will be filling in certain information on the FRA-prepared model policy statement and posting the completed statement. It is estimated that this will take each railroad approximately one-half hour to perform. This amendment will reduce the first year burden from 4,351 to 2,487 hours. In subsequent years the burden will be reduced from 350 to 14 burden hours annually.

2. FRA is also excepting from the recordkeeping requirements regarding accountable injuries and illnesses and accountable rail equipment accidents/incidents found in § 225.25(a) through (g) the following railroads: (i) railroads that operate or own track on the general system that have 15 or fewer employees covered by the hours of service laws (49 U.S.C. 21101–21107) and (ii) railroads that operate or own track exclusively off the general system. FRA estimates that this amendment will affect approximately 433 railroads. This amendment will reduce the annual burden for this information collection requirement from 15,554 to 15,054 hours.

3. Further, FRA is excepting railroads that operate or own track exclusively off the general system from all the requirements of Part 225 to record or report injuries and illnesses incurred by all classifications of persons that result from most non-train incidents. (A small subcategory of non-train incidents involving in-service on-track equipment must continue to be reported and recorded.) FRA estimates that this amendment will affect approximately 115 railroads. This amendment will reduce the annual burden for this information collection requirement from 2,592 to 2,575 hours annually.

4. In order to minimize the burden of requiring the preparer's signature on each and every monthly list of reportable injuries and illnesses to be

posted for each railroad's establishments, FRA is amending § 225.25(h)(12) so as to provide railroads with an alternative to signing each establishment's monthly list. Specifically, the preparer of the monthly list of reportable injuries and illnesses for the railroad may instead sign a cover sheet or memorandum attaching the monthly lists for each establishment for that railroad. The cover sheet memorandum must list all the establishments that post the monthly list of reportable injuries and illnesses and must be signed by the preparer. This change will have minimal affect on the annual burden associated with this information collection requirement and will not reduce the time per monthly report or annual burden.

5. Finally, FRA is amending § 225.25(h), by adding § 225.25(h)(15), to address any possible concerns with privacy rights of the employee by providing that the railroad is permitted not to post information on an injury or illness reported to FRA, if the employee who incurred the injury or illness makes a request in writing to the railroad's reporting officer that his or her particular injury or illness not be posted. It is estimated that approximately 25 employees will make this request annually. FRA estimates that it will take a combined total of 30 minutes for the employee to prepare and forward the letter to the reporting officer and an additional 30 minutes will be required for administrative purposes by the reporting officer to make sure the injury or illness in question does not get posted. The total burden for this requirement per case is one hour. The annual burden for this information collection requirement is 25 hours.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than February 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on any or all of the foregoing proposed activities by mail to either: Ms. Gloria Swanson, Office of Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS–21, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, or Ms. MaryAnn Johnson, Office of Information Technology and Productivity Improvement, RAD–20, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Commenters requesting FRA to acknowledge receipt of their respective comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard stating, "Comments on OMB control number 2150–0500." Alternatively, comments may be transmitted via facsimile to (202) 632–3843 or (202) 632–3876 or by E-mail to Ms. Swanson at

gloria.swanson@fra.dot.gov or to Ms. Johnson at maryann.johnson@fra.dot.gov. Please refer to the assigned OMB control number 2130–0500 in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in response to this notice in a subsequent notice and include them in its information collection submission to OMB for approval.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Gloria Swanson, Office of Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS–21, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 (telephone: (202) 632–3318) or Ms. MaryAnn Johnson, Office of Information Technology and Productivity Improvement, RAD–20, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 (telephone: (202) 632–3226). (These telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations require Federal agencies to provide 60 days' notice to the public for comment on information collection activities before seeking approval for reinstatement or renewal by OMB. 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.10(e)(1), 1320.12(a). Specifically, FRA invites interested respondents to comment on the foregoing summary of proposed information collection activities regarding the following issues: (i) Whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (ii) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (iii) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (iv) ways for FRA to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public by automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses). See 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A) (i)–(iv); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1) (i)–(iv). FRA believes that soliciting public comment will promote its efforts to reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information mandated by Federal regulations and that comments received will advance three objectives: (i) Reduce reporting burdens; (ii) ensure that the agency organizes information

collection requirements in a "user friendly" format to improve the use of such information; and (iii) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. See 44 U.S.C. 3501.

Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b), 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501–3520.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on December 18, 1996.

Al Duncan,

Director, Office of Information Technology and Productivity Improvement, Federal Railroad Administration.

[FR Doc. 96–32666 Filed 12–23–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Notice Number 96–1]

Announcement of Availability of the Surface Transportation Research and Development Plan, Third Edition; Request for Comments

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Report Availability; Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation (DOT) announces the publication of the third edition of the Surface Transportation Research and Development Plan (R&D Plan), copies of which are available from the contact listed below or on the World Wide Web at the INTERNET address listed below. In addition, the Department invites comments to assist it in the preparation of the fourth edition of this report.

Under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), DOT is required to prepare the R&D Plan for its near- and long-term surface transportation research and development (R&D) activities. The Department has begun preparation of the fourth edition, which will be the last required under ISTEA.

DATES: Comments on the report should be postmarked no later than January 23, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments on changes, suggestions for improvement, or specific issues to include in the fourth edition of the report should be sent to: Norm Paulhus, Senior Technical Advisor (DRT–1), Research and Special

Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, SW Room 8417, Washington, DC 20590. Comments must be signed, and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the point of contact. One additional copy of the comments should be sent to Kevin Green at the address listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kevin Green, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, Kendall Square, DTS–24, Cambridge, MA 02142. Telephone: (617)–494–2106. Internet: green@volpe1.dot.gov. Copies of the third edition may be obtained from Mr. Green. The complete text of the third edition of the R&D Plan is also available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.volpe.dot.gov/pblctns.htm>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This notice announces the publication of, and solicits comments on, the third edition of the R&D Plan. The report presents details of the Department's near-term surface transportation R&D programs, and presents a strategic long-term outlook for surface transportation R&D. The report is prepared under authority provided in Section 6009(b) of the ISTEA, which expires in 1997. In preparing the fourth edition of the R&D Plan, the Department will consider public comments and suggested changes raised during review of the third edition.

Purpose

DOT is committed to promoting a safe and efficient transportation system that enhances the U.S. economy and contributes to a secure and healthy environment. In January 1994, the Department issued its Strategic Plan, which established the Department's mission and core responsibilities, and identified several strategic goals for implementing that mission in an era of limited resources.

The R&D Plan is directed at the development of the technologies needed to produce convenient, safe, and affordable modes of transportation. Many of these technologies are also mentioned in the DOT Strategic Plan, and as such the document is a first step towards a science and technology strategy to support the transportation industry. The R&D Plan also establishes sixteen longer-term R&D emphasis areas to provide for the next generation of surface transportation systems.

The general requirement for the R&D Plan is set forth in ISTEA. It describes the time periods which must be addressed, the issues to be covered, and

the level of detail to be included, at a minimum, in the R&D Plan.

The Department has begun preparing the fourth edition of the R&D Plan, which will be the last called for by ISTEA. As such, the fourth edition could provide an important point of reference for decision making related to R&D provisions of any subsequent legislation. The Department, therefore, encourages public review and comment on the third edition of the R&D Plan, and will consider those comments in preparing the fourth edition.

The Department is particularly interested in receiving public comment on the following issues:

- The Department seeks comment on the strategic vision presented in the second section of the third edition of the R&D Plan. Does it ask the right questions about key trends and challenges for the future? Does it extend far enough into the future? Does it establish a reasonable set of expectations? Does it propose long-term R&D efforts that provide a strategic response to long-term challenges?

- The Department also seeks comment regarding potential measures of performance that could be used to assess the quality of surface transportation R&D programs, the extent to which they achieve their objectives, and the extent to which they ultimately shape the surface transportation system.

Issued this 18th day of December 1996, in Washington, D.C. by:

D.K. Sharma,

Administrator, Research and Special Programs Administration.

[FR Doc. 96–32701 Filed 12–23–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33314]

Nebraska, Kansas & Colorado Railnet, Inc.—Acquisition and Operation Exemption—Lines of the Burlington Northern Railroad Company

Nebraska, Kansas & Colorado Railnet, Inc. (NKCR), a noncarrier newly-created to become a Class III railroad, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire and operate five rail lines which are currently owned and operated by the Burlington Northern Railroad Company (BN) as follows: (1) between Flynn, NE (milepost 3.3), and Almena Junction, KS (milepost 29.6), a distance of approximately 26.3 miles; (2) between Oronoque Junction, KS (milepost 47.3), and Oberlin, KS (milepost 78.0), a distance of approximately 30.7 miles; (3) between west of Orleans Junction,