

and to protect the investing public. The NYSE believes that the proposed rule change also is consistent with the rules and regulations of the FRB because it is designed to prevent the excessive use of credit for the purchase or carrying of securities, pursuant to Section 7(a) of the Act.

B. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

The Exchange believes that the proposed rule change will not impose any burden on competition that is not necessary or appropriate in furtherance of the purposes of the Act.

C. Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received from Members, Participants, or Others

No written comments were solicited or received.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the self-regulatory organization consents, the Commission will by order approve such proposed rule change, or institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the NYSE. All submissions should refer to file number

SR-NYSE-99-03 and should be submitted by April 9, 1999.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹¹

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-6788 Filed 3-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**United States-Israel Free Trade Area
Implementation Act; Designation of
Qualifying Industrial Zones**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act (the "FTA Act"), products of qualifying industrial zones encompassing portions of Israel and Jordan or Israel and Egypt are eligible to receive duty-free treatment. Effective upon publication of this notice, the United States Trade Representative, pursuant to authority delegated by the President, is designating the Israeli-Jordanian Gateway Projects Industrial Zone and an expanded Israeli-Jordanian Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone as qualifying industrial zones under the FTA Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Madelyn Spirnak, Director for the Middle East and Mediterranean, (202) 395-3320, Office of USTR, 600 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20508.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to authority granted under Section 9 of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2112 note), the President proclaimed certain tariff treatment for the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and qualifying industrial zones (Proclamation 6955 of November 13, 1996 (61 FR 58761)). In particular, the President proclaimed modifications to general notes 3 and 8 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States: (a) to provide duty-free treatment to qualifying articles that are the product of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone and are entered in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of the FTA Act; (b) to provide that articles of Israel may be treated as though they were articles directly shipped from Israel for the purposes of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement (the "Agreement") even if shipped to the

United States from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone, if the articles otherwise meet the requirements of the Agreement; and (c) to provide that the cost or value of materials produced in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone may be included in the cost or value of materials produced in Israel under section 1(c)(i) of Annex 3 of the Agreement, and that the direct costs of processing operations performed in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone may be included in the direct costs of processing operations performed in Israel under section 1(c)(ii) of Annex 3 of the Agreement.

Section 9(e) of the FTA Act defines a "qualifying industrial zone" as an area that "(1) encompasses portions of the territory of Israel and Jordan or Israel and Egypt; (2) has been designated by local authorities as an enclave where merchandise may enter without payment of duty or excise taxes; and (3) has been specified by the President as a qualifying industrial zone." In Proclamation 6955, the President delegated to the United States Trade Representative the authority to designate qualifying industrial zones.

In an agreement dated November 23, 1998, the Government of Israel and the Government of Jordan agreed to the creation of the Gateway Projects Industrial Zone, encompassing areas under the customs control of the respective Governments. The Government of Israel and the Government of Jordan further agreed that merchandise may enter the Gateway Industrial Zone without payment of duty or excise taxes. The Gateway Projects Industrial Zone accordingly meets the criteria under paragraphs 9(e) (1) and (2) of the FTA Act.

In an agreement dated November 16, 1997, the Government of Israel and the Government of Jordan agreed to the creation of the Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone, encompassing areas under the customs control of the respective Governments. The Government of Israel and the Government of Jordan further agreed that merchandise may enter the Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone without payment of duty or excise taxes. In a notice published on March 13, 1998 (63 FR 12572), the United States Trade Representative designated the Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone as a qualifying industrial zone under section 9 of the FTA Act.

In an agreement dated November 23, 1998, the Government of Israel and the Government of Jordan agreed to an

¹¹ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

expansion of the Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone, as specified in maps accompanying that agreement. The expanded Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone, like the original Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone, encompasses areas under the customs control of the respective Governments. In addition, the Government of Israel and the Government of Jordan agreed that merchandise may enter the expanded Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone without payment of duty or excise taxes. The expanded Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone accordingly meets the criteria under paragraphs 9(e) (1) and (2) of the FTA Act.

Pursuant to the authority delegated by the President in Proclamation 6955, the United States Trade Representative hereby designates the Gateway Projects Industrial Zone and the expanded Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone as qualifying industrial zones under section 9 of the FTA Act, effective upon the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: March 15, 1999.

Charlene Barshefsky,

United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 99-6793 Filed 3-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on December 7, 1998, (63 FR 67504).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 19, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Judith Street, ABC-100; Federal Aviation Administration; 800 Independence Avenue, SW.; Washington, DC 20591; Telephone number (202) 267-9895.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Title: Simulator Rule/14 CFR part 142, Certificated Training Centers.

OMB Control Number: 2120-0570.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Approximately 50 Businesses.

Abstract: To determine compliance, there is a need for airmen to maintain records of certain training and regency of experience. There is a need for training centers to maintain records of students trained, employee qualification and training, and training program approvals. Information is used to determine compliance with airmen certification and testing to ensure safety.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 6,000.

Addressee: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention FAA Desk Officer.

Comments are Invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 15, 1999.

Vanester M. Williams,

Clearance Officer, Department of Transportation.

[FR Doc. 99-6760 Filed 3-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44

U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on January 4, 1999, [64 FR 203].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before April 19, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rebecca M. Boyd, Office of Financial Approvals, Maritime Administration, MAR-580, Room 8114, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590. Telephone 202-366-5870 or FAX 202-366-7901. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Title: Uniform Financial Reporting Requirements.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0005.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Vessel owners acquiring ships from MARAD on credit, companies chartering ships from MARAD, and companies having Title XI guarantee obligations.

Form(s): MA-172.

Abstract: The Uniform Financial Reporting Requirements are used as a basis for preparing and filing semiannual and annual financial statements with the Maritime Administration. Regulations requiring financial reports to the Maritime Administration are authorized by section 21, Shipping Act, 1916, as amended, and section 801, Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended. The collected information is necessary for MARAD to determine compliance with regulatory and contractual requirements.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 2,090

Addressee: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

Comments are Invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection;