

- The specific section of this notice to which each comment applies; and
- The reason for each comment.

You may electronically submit, deliver, mail, or fax your comments and attachments to the Docket Management Facility, using an address or fax number listed under **ADDRESSES**. Please do not submit the same comment or attachment by more than one means. If you mail or deliver your comments, they must be on 8½-by-11 inch paper, and the quality of the copy should be clear enough for copying and scanning. If you mail your comments, and you would like to know whether the Facility received them, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

#### How Can I Get More Information, Including Copies of This Notice or Related Documents?

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. The number of the docket is USCG-2001-11219. Comments, and other documents related to this notice will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying as follows:

- *In person:* You may see the docket in room PL-401, on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the same address, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The facility is closed on Federal holidays.

- *Electronically:* You may read the docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

#### Where Can I Get Information on Service for Individuals With Disabilities?

To obtain information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to ask that we provide special assistance at the public meeting, please notify Mr. Tom Lawler as soon as possible. You will find his address and phone number under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

#### Why Is the Coast Guard Holding This Public Meeting?

Annually the Coast Guard holds a meeting to respond to requests for a comprehensive review of pilotage on the Great Lakes aimed at improving safety, reliability, and efficiency. Requests for these annual meetings come from all parts of the marine industry operating on the Lakes.

#### What Issues Should I Discuss at the Meeting or Address in Comments to the Docket?

The public meeting on January 31, 2002, will provide a forum for members of the public to discuss ways to improve the safety, reliability and efficiency of pilotage on the Great Lakes. You may discuss or comment on means to these ends. Interested parties should submit issues for discussion at the public meeting to the docket by January 22, 2002.

#### What Is the Agenda for the Public Meeting?

##### Agenda

The agenda for the meeting on January 31, 2002, is as follows:

- 12 p.m.-12:15 p.m. Introduction and Overview.
- Review of Items from the 30 January 2001 Public Meeting, including: Standards for hours on bridges, Status of Great Lakes Pilotage Advisory Committee, Status of plan for training on Automatic Identification System, Report of water levels in ports on Great Lakes, Review of Applicant pilots' application, Reporting of status of problems on vessels, Source Forms, Policy on Recuperative Rest, Review of designated waters, and
- Discussion of issues submitted to the docket.

Dated: December 18, 2001.

**Howard L. Hime,**

*Acting Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.*

[FR Doc. 01-32043 Filed 12-28-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-15-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

[USCG-2001-11225]

#### Towing Safety Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The Towing Safety Advisory Committee's (TSAC) Working Group for Crew Alertness, and its Working Group for the Review of a Report from the Gulf Coast Mariner's Association (GCMA), will meet to discuss alertness risk factors on towing vessels and a variety of concerns expressed by the association in the GCMA report. The meetings are open to the public.

**DATES:** The Working Groups will meet on Wednesday, January 16, 2002, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and on Thursday, January 17, 2002, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. These meetings may close early if

all business is finished. Requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before January 15, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** The Working Groups will meet in room 6103 of U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001. Send written materials and requests to make oral presentations to Mr. Gerald P. Miente, Commandant (G-MSO-1), Room 1210, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001. This notice and the Gulf Coast Mariners Association Report #R-276 are available in docket USCG-2001-11225, which is on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**Security notice:** All non-military/government participants MUST first go to the security office at Headquarters' Second Street entrance with a photo ID (driver's license) and sign in. You will then receive a pass for the day and be provided an escort. This exercise must be repeated on the second day of the meetings.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Gerald P. Miente, Assistant Executive Director, TSAC, telephone 202-267-0229, fax 202-267-4570, or e-mail at: [gmiente@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:gmiente@comdt.uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of these meetings is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

#### Agenda of Meetings

The agenda for the Crew Alertness Working Group includes evaluating the criticality of those risk factors identified in distinct towing vessel operating environments, drafting recommendations for measures consistent with the non-regulatory philosophy of the Prevention through People (PTP) program and the Crew Alertness campaign, and making recommendations on the best way to communicate these recommendations to the appropriate audiences. The agenda for the Review Working Group is limited to a review of the issues contained in GCMA report #R-276 and the drafting of recommendations. See the **ADDRESSES** paragraph above for information on viewing the report, #R-276. Products from both working groups will be presented to the full Committee for approval and transmittal to the Coast Guard at a later date.

#### Procedural

These meetings are open to the public. Please note that the meetings may close early if all business is finished. Members of the public may make presentations, oral or written, at

either meeting. If you would like to make an oral presentation at either meeting, please notify the Assistant Executive Director on or before January 15, 2002.

#### Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact the Assistant Executive Director as soon as possible.

Dated: December 21, 2001.

**Howard L. Hime,**

*Acting Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.*

[FR Doc. 01-32030 Filed 12-28-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-U

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

[Docket No. FAA-2001-111229]

#### Firearms, Less-Than-Lethal Weapons, and Emergency Services on Commercial Air Flights

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The FAA is requesting comments on issues related to pilots carrying firearms into the cockpit and flight deck crewmembers carrying less-than-lethal weapons on aircraft providing air transportation or intrastate air transportation. We are also requesting comments on issues related to provision of emergency services on commercial air flights during emergencies by law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians. This action is part of an effort to develop recommendations for possible future action by the Department of Transportation.

**DATES:** Send your comments to reach us on or before February 14, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail your comments to—Public Docket Office, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

Or send your comments through the Internet to—<http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kent Stephens, Manager, Air Carrier Operations Branch, AFS-220, Air Transportation Division, Flight Standards Service, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20591; telephone (202) 267-9518.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Your Comments Are Welcome

We invite your comments on the issues described in this notice. The most useful comments are those that are specific and related to issues raised by the notice. Factual information that supports your ideas and suggestions is extremely helpful in evaluating the issues and determining what future actions we should undertake.

To ensure consideration, you must identify the Rules Docket number in your comments, and you must submit comments to one of the addresses specified under the **ADDRESSES** section of this preamble. We will consider all communications received on or before the closing date for comments. All comments submitted will be available, both before and after the closing date for comments, in the Rules Docket for examination by interested persons. We will file in the Rules Docket a report that summarizes each public contact related to the substance of this notice.

You may review the public docket containing comments on this notice in person in the Dockets Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The Dockets Office is on the plaza level of the Nassif Building at the Department of Transportation at the address specified in the **ADDRESSES** section. Also, you may review the docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

If you want us to acknowledge receipt of your comments submitted in response to this notice, you must include with your comments a self-addressed, stamped postcard on which you identify the Rules Docket number of this notice. We will date stamp the postcard and return it to you.

#### Availability of Documents

You can get an electronic copy of this notice using the Internet through FAA's web page at <http://www.faa.gov/avr/arm/nprm/nprm.htm> or through the Federal Register's web page at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces/aces140.htm](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.htm)

You can get a paper copy by submitting a request to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking, ARM-1, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591, or by calling (202) 267-9680. Make sure to identify the docket number of this rulemaking.

#### Background

As a result of the events of September 11, 2001, Congress passed and the President signed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (ATSA), a comprehensive measure designed to

protect the security of the Nation's air transportation system. See Pub. L. 107-71, 115 Stat. 597, November 19, 2001. The Department of Transportation is this notice is seeking public comment to assist it in developing recommendations for possible future actions to implement the following three sections of ATSA.

Sec. 126 of ATSA amends section 44903 of Title 49 of the United States Code to provide in part that the Secretary of Transportation, after receiving recommendations from the National Institute of Justice, may authorize members of flight deck crews on aircraft providing air transportation or intrastate air transportation to carry a less-than-lethal weapon. If the Secretary grants authority to carry a less-than-lethal weapon, the Secretary must—

- Prescribe rules requiring that any such crew member be trained in the proper use of the weapon, and
- Prescribe guidelines setting forth the circumstances under which such weapons may be used.

Sec. 128 of ATSA provides that the pilot of a passenger aircraft operated by an air carrier in air transportation or intrastate air transportation is authorized to carry a firearm into the cockpit if—

- The Under Secretary for Transportation Security approves;
- The air carrier approves;
- The firearm is approved by the Under Secretary; and
- The pilot has received proper training for the use of the firearm, as determined by the Under Secretary.

Sec. 131 of ATSA, in part, provides that the Under Secretary for Transportation Security must carry out a program to permit law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians to provide emergency services on commercial air flights during emergencies. To carry out the program, the Under Secretary for Transportation Security must establish requirements for qualifications and training of providers of emergency services. If one of these individuals meets such qualifications and training requirements, ATSA provides that he or she may not be held liable for damages.

As noted above, the FAA plans to develop a set of recommendations to the Department of Transportation for carrying out these portions of ATSA. As a preliminary step, we are asking for public comment on a number of issues that we have identified as potentially being addressed in the

recommendations. We plan to consider any comments we receive in response to this request for comments in developing specific recommendations. If the Department of Transportation conducts