

Administration, PASS Testimony, P. O. Box 17746, Baltimore, MD 21235.

SSA will allow unscheduled testimony from members of the public. However, depending on the number of individuals/organizations wishing to present statements, the time allotted for unscheduled testimony may be limited.

For further information about the forum and to register for presentations, contact: Pamela Reim, Telephone: (415) 744-4664, FAX: (415) 744-2839, E-Mail: pam.reim@ssa.gov.

For further information about PASS, including information about any future forums, you may also contact Steve Fear at (410) 965-9824, or Ray Marzoli at (410) 965-9826.

Dated: May 28, 1997.

Marilyn O'Connell,

Acting Associate Commissioner for Program Benefits Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2550]

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Certifications Pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162

SUMMARY: On May 1, 1997, the Department of State certified, pursuant to Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 ("Section 609"), that 14 nations have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in their shrimp fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. The certification earlier in 1997 of Nigeria and Brazil on these same grounds remains valid, so a total of 16 nations are currently certified on this basis. The Department also certified that the fishing environments in 24 other countries do not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles protected under Section 609. Shrimp imports from any nation not certified were prohibited effective May 1, 1997 pursuant to Section 609.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 2, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Hollis Summers, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-7818; telephone: (202) 647-3940.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 609 of Public Law 101-162 prohibits imports of certain categories of shrimp unless the President certifies to the Congress not later than May 1 of each

year either: (1) That the harvesting nation has adopted a program governing the incidental capture of sea turtles in its commercial shrimp fishery comparable to the program in effect in the United States and has an incidental take rate comparable to that of the United States; or (2) that the fishing environment in the harvesting nation does not pose a threat of the incidental taking of sea turtles. The President has delegated the authority to make this certification to the Department of State. Revised State Department guidelines for making the required certifications were published in the **Federal Register** on April 19, 1996 (61 FR 17342).

The certifications of Nigeria, made on January 14, 1997, and of Brazil, made on April 2, 1997, remain valid. Both nations were certified on the grounds that they have adopted programs to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in such fisheries comparable to the program in effect in the United States. On May 1, 1997, the Department certified 14 additional nations on this basis: Belize, China, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. Ecuador and Colombia, certified on these grounds in 1996, did not retain their certifications because they failed to show that their regulations requiring the use of sea turtle excluder devices (TEDs) were being adequately enforced.

The Department also certified 24 shrimp harvesting nations as having fishing environments that do not pose a danger to sea turtles. Sixteen nations have shrimping grounds only in cold waters where the risk of taking sea turtles is negligible. They are: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

Eight nations only harvest shrimp using small boats with crews of less than five that use manual rather than mechanical means to retrieve nets. Use of such small-scale technology does not adversely affect sea turtles. The eight nations are: the Bahamas, Brunei, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Oman, Peru, and Sri Lanka.

Any shipment of shrimp harvested in Ecuador or Colombia with a recorded date of export prior to May 1, 1997 will be allowed entry into the United States even if it arrives on or after May 1, 1997. That is, shipments of shrimp harvested in these countries in transit prior to the effective date of the ban are not barred from entry.

The Department of State communicated the certifications under section 609 to the Office of Trade Operations of the United States Customs Service in a letter transmitted on May 2, 1996. The letter noted that the Department has informed U.S. importers and foreign nations that after May 1, 1997, the Exporter's/Importer's Declaration required to be submitted with all shrimp imports must be the latest version (OMB Approval No. 140-0095, expiration date 9-31-99). We have also notified Customs and foreign and domestic users of the DSP-121 form that, in accordance with a U.S. Court of International Trade order of October 8, 1996, shrimp harvested with TEDs in uncertified nations may not be imported into the United States and that exemption 7.2 on the DSP 121 is not valid until further notice.

Dated: May 15, 1997.

Mary Beth West,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans.

[FR Doc. 97-14293 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

[Summary Notice No. PE-97-29]

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 June 23, 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: 9-NPRM-CMNTS@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: Heather Thorson (202) 267-7470 or Angela Anderson (202) 267-9681 Office of Rulemaking (ARM-1), Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue, SE., 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, DC, on May 27, 1997.

Donald P. Byrne,

Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations.

Dispositions of Petitions

Docket No.: 26412.

Petitioner: The Soaring Society of America, Inc.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 61.118.

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To permit private pilots who are members of the certain SSA chapters to log the flight time accumulated while towing gliders for SSA chapter members. *Grant, May 6, 1997, Exemption No. 5303C.*

Docket No.: 28533.

Petitioner: Tradewind Turbines Corp.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 21.19.

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: to permit the petitioner to apply for a supplemental type certificate rather than a new type certificate for a design change to the Beechcraft 58P Baron by removing the existing two piston-powered engines and replacing them with a single turbopropeller engine. *Grant, May 7, 1997, Exemption No. 6614.*

Docket No.: 28830.

Petitioner: Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER).

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 145.47(b).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To permit the petitioner to

use the calibration standards of the Instituto Nacional de Metrologia, Normalizacao e Qualidade Industrial (INMETRO), Brazil's national standards organization, in lieu of the calibration standards of the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), formerly the National Bureau of Standards, to test its inspection and test equipment. *Grant, May 6, 1997, Exemption No. 6616.*

Docket No.: 25862.

Petitioner: Cessna Aircraft Company.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 47.69(b).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To allow petitioner to conduct flights outside the United States by using a Dealer's Aircraft Registration Certificate. *Grant, April 18, 1997, Exemption No. 5043 D.*

Docket No.: 28826.

Petitioner: Greenwich Caledonian Limited.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 145.45(f).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To allow the petitioner to distribute only 24 copies of its manual containing inspection procedures throughout its repair station, in lieu of the requirement that one copy of the manual be distributed to each of its supervisory and inspection personnel and be made available to its other personnel. *Grant, May 6, 1997, Exemption No. 6617.*

Docket No.: 27354.

Petitioner: A.J. Blake, Inc.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 137.53(c)(2).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To permit the petitioner to conduct aerial applications of insecticide materials from a Piper PA-23-250 aircraft that is not equipped with a device capable of jettisoning within 45 seconds at least one-half of the aircraft's maximum authorized load of agricultural materials when operating over a congested area. *Grant, May 12, 1997, Exemption No. 5676B.*

Docket No.: 25652.

Petitioner: Cochise Community College.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 141, Appendix H, para 3(c)(1) & (3).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To permit the petitioner to enroll students in the ground school portion of its Flight Instructor-Airplane Certification Course who have not yet completed the flight portion of the Commercial Pilot-Airplane Certification/Instrument-Airplane Rating Course. *Grant, May 12, 1997, Exemption No. 5330C.*

Docket No.: 28368.

Petitioner: Dornier Aviation (North America), Inc.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 61.55(b)(3); 61.56(h)(1), (2), and (3); 61.57(c)(3); and (d)(2); 62.58(e); 61.64(e)(3); 61.65(e)(2), and (g)(1) and (3); 61.67(c)(4) and (d)(2); 61.158(d)(1); 61.191(d); and 61.197(e).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To allow the petitioner to use Federal Aviation Administration approved simulators to meet certain flight experience requirements of part 61. *Grant, May 6, 1997, Exemption No. 6401A.*

Docket No.: 26600.

Petitioner: Keflavik Navy Flying Club.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 141, 91.411(b) and 91.413(c).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To allow the petitioner to use the Maintenance Department of Icelandair to conduct and record inspections and tests required by those regulations. *Grant, April 22, 1997, Exemption No. 6608.*

Docket No.: 28102.

Petitioner: FlightSafety International.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 61.187(b).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To permit the petitioner to use certificated flight instructors in its flight instructor certification course who have held a flight instructor certificate for less than 24 months preceding the date that instruction is given. *Grant, May 12, 1997, Exemption No. 6118A.*

Docket No.: 28901.

Petitioner: Era Aviation, Inc.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 121.574(a)(1)(i).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition:

To allow the petitioner to carry and operate for medical use by passengers oxygen storing and dispensing equipment that is furnished by local hospitals and conforms with the maintenance requirements of 49 CFR parts 171, 172, and 173, except 173.24(a)(1). *Grant, May 12, 1997, Exemption No. 6620.*

Docket No.: 26236.

Petitioner: Machen, Inc.

Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 21.19(b)(2).

Description of Relief Sought/

Disposition: To allow the petitioner to apply for a supplemental type certificate instead of a new type certificate for a design change that installs turbofan jet engines in place of existing reciprocating engines and propellers on Piper Aerostar aircraft Model nos. 601P, 602P, and 700P. *Denial, May 7, 1997, Exemption No. 6615.*

Docket No.: 28524.

Petitioner: Omni Engineering, Inc.
Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 91.313(e).

Description of Relief Sought/Disposition: To allow Omni crewmembers to operate a Grumman HU-16D Albatross aircraft (Registration No. N695S, Serial No. 146426), which is currently certificated as a restricted category aircraft, over densely populated areas, in congested airways, and near busy airports where passenger transport operations are conducted.
Denial, May 12, 1997, Exemption No. 6619.

Docket No.: 28686.
Petitioner: Jerry L. Clifton.
Sections of the FAR Affected: 14 CFR 91.209.

Description of Relief Sought/Disposition: To allow Mr. Jerry L. Clifton, Mr. David L. Clifton, or Mr. Scott C. Clifton to operate a hot air balloon in tethered flight at altitudes at or below 250 feet above ground level during the period from sunset to sunrise without meeting certain aircraft lighting requirements. *Denial, May 6, 1997, Exemption No. 6618.*

[FR Doc. 97-14317 Filed 5-30-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Airport Improvement Program Grant Assurances; Proposed Modifications and Opportunity To Comment

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed modification of airport improvement program grant assurances and of opportunity to comment.

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to modify the standard grant assurances required of a sponsor before receiving a grant under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). Pursuant to applicable law, the Secretary of Transportation is required to provide notice in the **Federal Register** and an opportunity for the public to comment upon proposals to modify the assurances or to require any additional AIP assurances.

These modifications are necessary for two reasons. First, much of Federal transportation law was repealed and reenacted without substantive change by enactment of the Codification of Certain U.S. Transportation Laws as Title 49, United States Code, Public Law 103-272, 108 Stat. 745 (July 5, 1994). Aviation programs, including the AIP, are now found in Subtitle VII of Title

49, rather than the original statutes under which those programs were originally established. Consequently, statutory citations in the existing grant assurances are now obsolete and the modifications published here cite current law. Second, Public Law 103-272 was amended by enactment of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 1996, Public Law 104-264 (October 9, 1996) (The 1996 Act), which made substantive changes to the statutory grant assurances. The modifications to the grant assurances also incorporate those changes. For ease of reading, Title 49, Subtitle VII, as amended by the 1996 Act will be cited throughout the remainder of this notice as Title 49, U.S.C., as amended. In the actual assurance, however, the reference further specifies Subtitle VII.

DATES: These proposed modifications to the Grant Assurances will be effective on an interim basis on the date of publication in the **Federal Register**. Comments must be submitted on or before July 2, 1997. Any revision to the interim assurances which are necessary or appropriate in response to comments received will be adopted on or before 60 days after the close of the comment period.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be delivered or mailed to the FAA, Airports Financial Assistance Division, APP-500, Room 619, 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. James Borsari (Management and Program Analyst) Telephone (202) 267-8822.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Secretary must receive certain assurances from a sponsor (applicant) seeking financial assistance for airport planning, airport development, noise compatibility planning or noise mitigation under Title 49, U.S.C., as amended. These assurances are submitted as part of a sponsor's application for Federal assistance and are incorporated into all grant agreements. As need dictates, these assurances are modified from time to time to reflect new Federal requirements. Notice of such proposed modifications is published in the **Federal Register** and an opportunity provided for comment by the public.

The current assurances were published on February 3, 1988, at 53 FR 3104 and amended on September 6, 1988, at 53 FR 34361, on August 29, 1989, at 54 FR 35748 on June 10, 1994 at 59 FR 30076, and on January 5, 1995, at 60 FR 521.

FAA uses three separate sets of standard assurances: Airport Sponsors

(owners/operators) (Appendix 1); Planning Agency Sponsors (Appendix 2); and Nonairport Sponsors Undertaking Noise Compatibility Program Projects (hereinafter referred to as Nonairport Sponsor Assurances) (Appendix 3). FAA is planning to modify the assurances currently in effect to reflect the necessary changes. The changes contained in this paragraph affect all three sets of assurances. Section C, subsection 1, "General Federal Requirements, Federal Regulations" is amended in each set of assurances to add references to 14 CFR part 13—Investigative and Enforcement Procedure, and 14 CFR Part 16—Rules of Practice for Federally Assisted Airport Enforcement Proceedings.

The following changes affect only Appendix 1, Airport Sponsors assurances:

(a) Under Section C. Sponsor Certification, Item 1, General Federal Requirements, the citations to the following Federal Legislation are included:

1. Native American Grave Repatriation Act—25 U.S.C. Section 3001, *et seq.*
2. Clean Air Act, Public Law 90-148, as amended.
3. Coastal Zone Management Act, Public Law 93-205.
4. Title 49 U.S.C., Section 303, (formerly known as Section 4(f)).
5. American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Public Law 95-341, as amended.
6. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542, as amended.

(b) Under the section Federal Legislation, reference to the Endangered Species Act—16 U.S.C. 668(a), *et seq.* is deleted. The airport sponsor must comply with the law irrespective of a receipt of federal funds.

(c) The following Executive Orders are added to the General Federal Requirements:

1. Executive Order 11990—Protection of Wetlands
2. Executive Order 11998—Floodplain Management
3. Executive Order 12898—Environmental Justice

(d) The Federal Regulations are reclassified according to title.

(e) In Assurance 12, the reference to section 612 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 has been changed to section 44706 of Title 49, United States Code, to reflect the recodification of certain transportation laws. The words "public airport" has been deleted. The words "public use airport as defined in Title 49" has been added.

(f) In Assurance 19, the first sentence of subparagraph a. has been moved to