

firework is exploded for each event listed in the table below. The events are listed in the table below. The events are listed chronologically by month with their corresponding number listed in the special local regulation, 33 CFR 100.114.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be mailed to Commander (osr), First Coast Guard District, Captain John Foster Williams Federal Building, 408 Atlantic Ave., Boston, MA 02110-3350, or may be hand delivered to Room 734 at the same address, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lieutenant Commander William H. Rypka, Office of Search and Rescue branch, First Coast Guard District at (617) 223-8460.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This document implements the special local regulations in 33 CFR 100.114 (62 FR 30988; June 6, 1997). All vessels are prohibited from entering a 500 yard radius of navigable water surrounding the launch platform used in each fireworks displayed listed below.

#### Table 1—Fireworks Displays

August

2. Summer Music Fireworks  
Date: August 23, 1997  
Time: 9:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
Location: Niantic River, Harkness Park, Waterford, CT  
Lat: 41 18.2N, Long: 072 06.5W (NAD 1983)
4. Fall River Celebrates America Fireworks  
Date: August 9, 1997  
Time: 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Location: Taunton River, Vicinity of buoy #17, Fall River, MA  
Lat: 41-33N Long: 071-10W (NAD 1983)
6. Oaks Bluff Fireworks  
Date: August 22, 1997  
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Location: Oaks Bluff Beach, Oaks Bluff, MA  
Lat: 41-27N Long: 070-33W (NAD 1983)
8. Gloucester Fireworks  
Date: August 30, 1997  
Rain Date: August 30, 1997  
Time: 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
Location: Gloucester Harbor, Gloucester, MA  
Lat: 42 36"18"N Long: 070 40"34"W (NAD 1983)  
Including the Northwest Shoreline of Ten Pound Island.
9. Salute to Summer  
Date: August 29, 1997  
Time: 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Location: Narragansett Bay, East Passage, off Coasters Harbor Island, Newport, RI

Lat: 41-30N Long: 071-20W (NAD 1983)

#### 10. Norwich Harbor Day Fireworks

Date: August 31, 1997

Time: 8:45 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Location: Norwich Harbor, off American Wharf Marina, Norwich, CT

Lat: 41-31.22N Long: 72-04.50W (NAD 1983)

Dated: August 8, 1997.

**R.M. Larrabee,**

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander, First Coast Guard District.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Coast Guard

#### 33 CFR Part 117

[CGD05-97-002]

RIN 2115-AE47

#### Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Ship Channel, Great Egg Harbor Bay, New Jersey

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DOT.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** At the request of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), the Coast Guard is changing the regulations governing operation of the Route 52 (Ship Channel) Bridge across Great Egg Harbor Bay, mile 0.5, between Somers Point and Ocean City, New Jersey.

This rule will require the Route 52 (Ship Channel) Bridge to open on signal except that, between Memorial Day and Labor Day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., the draw need only open on the hour and half hour. During the summer tourist season, this rule will curtail delays to vehicular traffic while still providing for the reasonable needs of navigation.

**DATES:** This final rule is effective on September 25, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents as indicated in this preamble are available for inspection or copying at the office of the Commander (Aowb), USCG Atlantic Area, Federal Building, 4th Floor, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-5004, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (757) 398-6222.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ann Deaton, Bridge Administrator, USCG Atlantic Area, (757) 398-6222.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Regulatory History

On April 21, 1997, the Coast Guard published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Ship Channel, Great Egg Harbor Bay, New Jersey" in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 19243). The Coast Guard received one letter commenting on the proposed rulemaking. No public hearing was requested and none was held.

##### Background and Purpose

The current regulations found at 33 CFR 117.753 require the Route 52 (Ship Channel) bridge to open on signal except that from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., year-round a 24 hour advance notice is required; and from Memorial Day through Labor Day from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays, the bridge opens only on the hour and half hour for recreational vessels.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) requested that 33 CFR 117.753 be amended to extend the periods during the summer months in which the bridge must open only on the hour and half hour. In support of its request NJDOT contended that its records show that requests for openings from Memorial Day through Labor Day are minimal in number, such that the requested amendment would not significantly affect vessel traffic.

The Coast Guard reviewed NJDOT's bridge logs for 1993 through 1995, copies of which are included in the docket of this rulemaking. According to the logs, for the years 1993 through 1995, from May through September between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, the Route 52 (Ship Channel) bridge opened 250, 248, and 287 times, respectively, for recreational and commercial vessels, an average of 12 openings per week. The Coast Guard believes that this rule will balance the needs of vehicular and vessel traffic without unduly restricting vessel navigation.

NJDOT also requested a change to the operating regulations for the Route 52 (Beach Thorofare) Bridge. Due to the close proximity of the Route 52 bridges over Beach Thorofare and Ship Channel, which are located approximately two miles apart, synchronized openings will augment the effectiveness of the recommended change to the regulations for the Route 52 (Ship Channel) Bridge.

Therefore, the Coast Guard is amending Section 117.753 by revising

paragraph (b) to require the Route 52 (Ship Channel) Bridge, mile 0.5, Great Egg Harbor Bay, to open on signal except that openings will be limited to on the hour and half hour from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Coast Guard is also amending Section 117.753 by deleting subparagraphs (a)(1) and (b)(1) to remove the requirement to open for public vessels of the United States, state and local vessels used for public safety, a vessel in distress, or a vessel with a tow. The regulatory requirements for opening in these and emergency situations are provided in 33 CFR 117.31.

#### **Discussion of Comments and Changes**

The Coast Guard received one comment on the NRPM. The comment stated that the proposed rule is unfair since the majority of vessels requiring bridge openings for the Route 52 (Ship Channel) Bridge do not use the Route 52 (Beach Thorofare) Bridge, and the tidal currents are extremely fast at the Route 52 (Ship Channel) Bridge which could cause problems for vessels awaiting a bridge opening. The Coast Guard considered the comment received, but has not changed the final rule. The Coast Guard believes that synchronizing the opening schedules of the Beach Thorofare and Ship Channel bridges will enhance the flow of vehicular traffic along Route 52 without unnecessarily impeding vessel traffic, particularly if, as the comment suggests, vessels transiting under one bridge do not usually transit under the other. Further, the Coast Guard believes that limiting openings to twice per hour during summer months will not cause an unsafe accumulation of vessels waiting for openings, as demonstrated by the limited number of openings required from 1993 to 1995. A predictable schedule of openings on the hour and half hour will only require vessel operators to plan their transits in order to minimize delays while waiting for a bridge opening.

#### **Regulatory Evaluation**

This final rule is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that order. It has been exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under that order. It is not significant under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (44 FR 11040; February 26, 1979). The Coast Guard expects the economic impact of this

final rule to be so minimal that a full Regulatory Evaluation, under paragraph 10e of the regulatory policies and procedures of DOT is unnecessary.

#### **Small Entities**

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Coast Guard considered whether this rule will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. "Small entities" include small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

This final rule does not restrict vessel navigation, but merely limits the bridge openings to on the hour and half hour, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Therefore, the Coast Guard certifies under section 605(b) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

#### **Collection of Information**

This final rule does not provide for a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

#### **Federalism**

The Coast Guard has analyzed this rule under the principles and criteria contained in Executive Order 12612 and has determined that this rule will not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

#### **Environment**

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this rule and concluded that under section 2.B.2.e.(32)(e) of Commandant Instruction M16475.1B (as amended, 59 FR 38654, 29 July 1994), this final rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation. A Categorical Exclusion Determination statement has been prepared and placed in the rulemaking docket.

#### **List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117**

Bridges.

#### **Regulations**

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR Part 117 as follows:

#### **PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE REGULATIONS**

1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 33 U.S.C. 499; 49 CFR 1.46; 33 CFR 1.05–1(g); Section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102–587, 106 Stat. 5039.

2. Section 117.753 is revised to read as follows:

#### **§ 117.753 Ship Channel, Great Egg Harbor Bay.**

The draw of the S52 (Ship Channel) bridge, mile 0.5 between Somers Point and Ocean City, shall open:

(a) From 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., on signal, if at least 24 hours advance notice is given.

(b) From Memorial Day through Labor Day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., on the hour and half hour.

(c) At all other times, on signal, for any vessel.

Dated: August 8, 1997.

**Roger T. Rufe, Jr.,**  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander,  
Fifth Coast Guard District.

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#### **POSTAL SERVICE**

#### **39 CFR Part 20**

#### **Implementation of Global Package Link Service**

**AGENCY:** Postal Service.

**ACTION:** Interim rule with request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** Global Package Link Service is an international mail service designed for companies sending merchandise to other countries. To implement agreements previously entered into with the postal administrations of Mexico and Singapore, those two countries are now being added as destination countries. This action is consistent with the Postal Service's original plan to add destination countries as customer needs dictate (59 FR 65961; December 22, 1994). Global Package Link Service has previously been made available to Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom (U.K.). To use Global Package Link (GPL) Service, a customer must mail at least 10,000 GPL packages a year and agree to link its information systems with the Postal Service's so that the Postal Service can extract certain information about the contents of the customer's packages for customs clearance and other purposes. Initially two levels of service to Mexico and Singapore will be offered to customers. Interim regulations have been developed and are set forth below for comment and suggested revision prior to adoption in final form.