

to the public and press from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. when trade policy issues will be discussed. Attendance during this part of the meeting is for observation only. Individuals who are not members of the committee will not be invited to comment.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for December 4, 1997, unless otherwise notified.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Madison Hotel in the Executive Chambers, located at 15th and M Streets, Washington, D.C., unless otherwise notified.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Daley, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-6120.

Charlene Barshefsky,

United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 97-30559 Filed 11-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Invitation for Comment on APEC Multilateral Negotiations Regarding a Mutual Recognition Agreement for Telecommunications Equipment

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is inviting interested persons to submit written comments with respect to the negotiation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) of a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on telecommunications equipment, and, in particular, with respect to the potential for such an agreement to remove important non-tariff barriers affecting trade in telecommunications and information technology products. Comments received will be considered by the Executive Branch in formulating U.S. positions and objectives for negotiation of such an MRA, in particular as part of the effort by the APEC Telecom Working Group's MRA Task Force to conclude the text of such an agreement by the June 1998 meeting of APEC Telecommunications Ministers.

DATES: Comments are due by noon, December 15, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, ATTN: APEC Telecom MRA Comments, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room 503, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Corbett, Office of Industry Affairs, USTR, (202-395-9586); or William Busis, Office of General Counsel, USTR (202-395-3150).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: APEC consists of eighteen member economies: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the United States. The APEC Telecommunications Working Group is a biannual forum in which telecommunications officials of APEC economies undertake cooperative endeavors to liberalize trade in telecommunications goods and services; to facilitate private sector interaction with telecommunications authorities on policy and business issues; to coordinate efforts to promote human resources development in the regional telecommunications industry; and to improve regional telecommunications infrastructure.

An MRA potentially would facilitate trade in a significant portion of telecommunications and information equipment goods among members of APEC, thereby enhancing the gains we can expect from the Information Technology Agreement. It would allow exporters to test ("phase one") and certify ("phase two") equipment to an importing economy's mandatory technical requirements. It is potentially a useful means to cope with ever-shortening product life cycles and to reduce the redundancy of steps necessary to satisfy importing countries' approval processes. The WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade encourages members to enter into Mutual Recognition Agreements that "give mutual satisfaction regarding their potential for facilitating trade in the products concerned." An MRA does not require harmonization of mandatory technical requirements, albeit a possible future result of MRA processes is harmonization of conformity assessment and technical requirements, along with greater voluntary reliance on manufacturer's self-declarations, where this is not already the case.

Background

At the 1995 Osaka APEC Leader's Meeting, Leaders agreed to develop and begin to implement, on a voluntary basis and by the end of 1997, a model mutual recognition arrangement for certification of telecommunications equipment to the mandatory technical regulations of importing economies. The APEC Telecommunications Working

Group (the "TEL WG") in September 1997 reached agreement on a voluntary framework for such MRAs. The TEL WG also reached agreement on improvements to the existing APEC guidelines for regional harmonization of equipment certification, which are referenced by the framework document.

Based on this work, a Telecom MRA Task Force subsequently met to initiate work on a Mutual Recognition Agreement and annexed Phase Agreements, producing a bracketed text for further consideration. The Task Force agreed that its goal would be to complete work on the texts of an APEC Telecommunications Mutual Recognition Agreement and annexed Phase Agreements by the third meeting of the APEC Telecommunications Ministers, scheduled for June 1-5, 1998 in Singapore.

The Telecom MRA Task Force has agreed that an MRA should cover any equipment that is subject to member economies' regulatory requirements for terminal attachment (wired and wireless) or other telecommunications regulation. For such equipment, an MRA should cover member economies' regulatory requirements for electromagnetic compatibility and product safety. The framework, improved guidelines and bracketed MRA text are available for inspection at the USTR reading room.

Invitation for Comments

The interagency TPSC led by USTR is in the process of preparing negotiating positions for upcoming APEC Telecom MRA Task Force meetings. Interested U.S. persons are invited to submit comments, by noon, December 15, 1997, on what should be the U.S. goals and objectives for an APEC MRA on telecommunications equipment. We are requesting this advice pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2155.

Persons submitting written comments should provide a statement, in twenty copies, by noon, December 15, 1997, to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, ATTN: APEC Telecom MRA Comments, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room 503, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20508. Non-confidential information received will be available for public inspection by appointment in the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For an appointment call Brenda Webb on 202-395-6186. Business confidential information will be subject to the requirements of 15 CFR 2003.6. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover letter or cover page and

each succeeding page, and must be accompanied by a non-confidential summary thereof.

Frederick L. Montgomery,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.
[FR Doc. 97-30420 Filed 11-19-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (DOT/FAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3401 *et seq.*) this notice announces that the information collection request described below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. The FAA is requesting an immediate emergency clearance in accordance with 5 CFR § 1320.13. The following information describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden.

DATES: Submit any comments to OMB and FAA by January 20, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Pilot Medical Certification Customer Service Survey.

Need: This information is being conducted to comply with the Executive Order 12862, Setting Customer Service Standards. The information will be used to evaluate agency performance in the area of pilot medical certification. The completion of this form is voluntary and the information collection will be conducted anonymously.

Respondents: 48,000 pilots.

Frequency: Annually.

Burden: 2400 hours based on a 30 per cent return rate of the 48,000 respondents at 10 minutes each.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: or to obtain a copy of the request for clearance submitted to OMB, you may contact Ms. Judith Street at the: Federal Aviation Administration, Corporate Information Division, ABC-100, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591.

Comments may be submitted to the agency at the address above and to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10202, Attention FAA Desk Officer, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503.

Issued in Washington, DC on November 14, 1997.

Patricia W. Carter,
Acting Manager, Corporate Information Division, ABC-100.
[FR Doc. 97-30497 Filed 11-19-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

RTCA, Inc. Special Committee 159; Minimum Operational Performance Standards for Airborne Navigation Equipment Using Global Positioning System (GPS)

Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for a Special Committee 159 meeting to be held December 8-12, 1997, starting at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at RTCA, Inc., 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC, 20036.

The agenda will be as follows:
Specific Working Group (WG)
Sessions: December 8-9: WG-4A, Precision Landing Guidance (LAAS CAT I/II/III); December 10: WG-4A, Precision Landing Guidance (LAAS CAT I/II/III); WG-3A, GPS/Inertial (Meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the reformulation of WG-3A); December 11: WG-2, WAAS, and WG-2A, GPS/GLONASS; WG-4B, Airport Surface Surveillance.

Plenary Session, December 12: (1) Chairman's Introductory Remarks; (2) Review and Approval of Summary of the Previous Meeting; (3) Review WG Progress and Identify Issues for Resolution: a. GPS/WAAS (WG-2); b. GPS/GLONASS (WG-2A); c. GPS/Precision Landing Guidance and Airport Surface Surveillance (WG-4); (4) Review of EUROCAE Activities; (5) Review Proposed Draft MASPS and LAAS CAT I/II/III and Interface Control Document for LAAS; (6) Assignment/Review of Future Work; (7) Other Business; (8) Date and Place of Next Meeting.

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the RTCA Secretariat, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW., Suite 1020, Washington, DC, 20036; (202) 833-9339 (phone); (202) 833-9434 (fax); or <http://www.rtca.org> (web site). Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 13, 1997.

Terry R. Hannah,
Designated Official.
[FR Doc. 97-30493 Filed 11-19-97; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Intent To Rule on Application to Impose a Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) at Arcata/Eureka Airport (ACV), Eureka, CA and Use the Revenue at ACV, Rohnerville (FOT), Murray Field (EKA) and Kneeland Airports (019)

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to rule on application.

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to impose a PFC at ACV and use at ACV, FOT, EKA and 019 under the provisions of the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 (Title IX of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990) (Pub. L. 101-508) and Part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 158).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 22, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this application may be mailed or delivered in triplicate to the FAA at the following address: Federal Aviation Administration, Airports Division, 15000 Aviation Blvd., Lawndale, CA 90621, or San Francisco Airports District Office, 831 Mitten Road, Room 210, Burlingame, CA 94010-1303. In addition, one copy of any comments submitted to the FAA must be mailed or delivered to Mr. Don Raffaelli, Acting Public Works Director, County of Humboldt, at the following address: 1106 Second Street, Arcata, CA 95521. Air carriers and foreign air carriers may submit copies of written comments previously provided to the County of Humboldt under section 158.23 of FAR part 158.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maryls Vandervelde, Airports Program Specialist, Airports District Office, 831 Mitten Road, Room 210, Burlingame, CA 94010-1303, Telephone: (650) 876-2806. The application may be reviewed in person at this same location.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to impose a PFC at ACV and use the revenue at ACV, FOT, EKA and 019 under the provisions of the Aviation Safety and