

E. Inclusive Dates of the Match

The matching program shall become effective no sooner than 40 days after notice for the program is sent to Congress and OMB, or 30 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, whichever date is later. The matching program will continue for 18 months from the effective date and may be extended for an additional 12 months thereafter, if certain conditions are met.

[FR Doc. 98-22963 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2873]

**Bureau of Political Military Affairs;
Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request**

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: 60-day notice of proposed information collection; maintenance of records by registrants.

SUMMARY: The Department of State is seeking Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for the information collection described below. The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comment in the **Federal Register** preceding submission to OMB. This process is conducted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

The following summarizes the information collection proposal submitted to OMB:

Originating Office: Bureau of Political Military Affairs.

Title of Information Collection:

Maintenance of Records by Registrants.

Frequency: On occasion.

Form Number: None.

Respondents: Persons or business applying for defense trade export licenses or services.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000.

Average Hours Per Response: 20 hours per person or business.

Total Estimated Burden: 100,000.

Public comments are being solicited to permit the agency to—

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of the agency functions.
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including

through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Comments regarding the collection listed in this notice or requests for copies of the proposed collection and supporting documents should be directed to Charles S. Cunningham, Directives Management, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, (202) 647-0596.

Dated: August 4, 1998.

Fernando Burbano,

Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-22955 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2872]

**Bureau of Intelligence and Research;
Advisory Committee for the Study of
Eastern Europe and the Independent
States of the Former Soviet Union;
Notice of Committee Renewal**

I. Renewal of Advisory Committee.

The Department of State has renewed the Charter of the Advisory Committee for the Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union. This advisory committee makes recommendations to the Secretary of State on funding for applications submitted for the Research and Training Program on Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (Title VIII). These applications are submitted in response to an annual, open competition among U.S. national organizations with interest and expertise administering research and training programs in the Russian, Eurasian, and East European fields. The program seeks to build and sustain U.S. expertise on these regions through support for advanced graduate training, language training, and postdoctoral research.

The committee includes representatives of the Secretaries of Defense and Education, the Librarian of Congress, and the Presidents of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and the Association of American Universities. The Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research chairs the advisory committee for the Secretary of State. The committee meets at least annually to recommend grant policies and recipients.

For further information, please call: Michelle Staton, INR/RES, U.S. Department of State, (202) 736-4155.

Dated: August 4, 1998.

Kenneth E. Roberts,

Executive Director, Advisory Committee for Study of Eastern Europe and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Office of the Secretary****Federal Aviation Administration**

[Docket No. OST 98-4025]

**Request for Public Comment on
Competitive Issues Affecting the
Domestic Airline Industry**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Federal Aviation Administration, United States Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice extending comment period.

SUMMARY: On July 13, 1998, the Department of Transportation opened a public docket to receive information from interested parties on airport practices and their implications for competition among air carriers. Parties wishing to file comments with the Department were given until September 1, 1998. By this notice, the Department is extending the time period for public comment from September 1, 1998, until December 30, 1998.

DATES: Comments should be received by December 30, 1998. Comments that are received after that date will be considered only to the extent possible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information on the scope of the Department's study or the name of the individual in DOT who is in the best position to answer your questions, please contact either James New (202-366-4868) or Larry Phillips (202-366-4382). A copy of this Notice can be obtained via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.dot.gov/ost/aviation/>. Comments placed in the docket will be available for viewing on the Internet.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department recently published a request for public comment on competitive issues affecting the domestic airline industry (63 FR 37612, July 13, 1998). In that request, we asked parties to provide us with detailed information on 14 specific issues that focus on airport practices and their impact on airline competition. Based on an August 6 petition of the Air Transport Association of America (ATA) to extend the comment period, as well as correspondence from the Airports

Council International, N.A. (ACI), we are now convinced that our original schedule for submission of this material was unrealistic.

The ATA petitioned pursuant to the Department's Rulemaking Procedures (49 CFR 5.25(a)) to extend the comment period by at least 120 days, to December 30, 1998 on the grounds that it needs time to prepare and conduct an extensive survey of airlines and airports, organize and analyze the data collected, and draft comments for approval by its members in response to the complex issues we raised. Stating that it does not wish to unduly delay this proceeding, ATA nevertheless argued that we have no regulatory deadline to meet and that it could be more helpful if it had more time to collect and analyze information. In further support of its petition, the ATA claimed it will need time to review our expected responses to its August 6 Freedom of Information Act requests for records pertinent to our **Federal Register** notice in this docket. Finally, the ATA requests a supplemental notice and comment period for our intended methodology for analyzing the information and data relevant to the competitive issues affecting the airline industry. ATA requested that we act within ten business days of its filing. The ATA stated that, since its member airlines serve, either directly or through code-share relationships, about 95 percent of the more than 400 domestic commercial service airports, it has a substantive interest in this proceeding.

In a July 16 letter to us, the ACI said that our September 1 deadline would not allow it adequate time to compile, verify and analyze pertinent information from airport operators and then prepare well-reasoned responses to the complex legal, economic, and policy questions identified.

Under our rules (49 CFR 5.25(b)), we may grant a petition for extension of time when a petitioner shows that it is in the public interest and the petitioner has good cause for the extension and a substantive interest in the proposed action. We have determined that it would be reasonable and in the public interest to give parties more time to prepare their submissions. While we are interested in a prompt study of the competitive issues affecting the domestic airline industry, we realize that the industry needs additional time to formulate its comments, to issue surveys, and to process the survey results.

Accordingly:

1. We grant the request of the Air Transport Association to extend the date by which comments to Docket No. OST-

98-4025 are due to December 30, 1998; and

2. We deny all other requests.

Rosalind A. Knapp,

Deputy General Counsel, Department of Transportation.

Susan L. Kurland,

Associate Administrator for Airports, Federal Aviation Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-23080 Filed 8-26-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee; Transport Airplane and Engine Issues—New Tasks

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of new task assignments for the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC).

SUMMARY: Notice is given of new tasks assigned to and accepted by the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC). This notice informs the public of the activities of ARAC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stewart R. Miller, Transport Standards Staff (ANM-110), Federal Aviation Administration, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, WA 98055-4056; phone (425) 227-1255; fax (425) 227-1320.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The FAA has established an Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the FAA Administrator, through the Associate Administrator for Regulation and Certification, on the full range of the FAA's rulemaking activities with response to aviation-related issues. This includes obtaining advice and recommendations on the FAA's commitment to harmonize its Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) and practices with its trading partners in Europe and Canada.

One area ARAC deals with is Transport Airplane and Engine Issues. These issues involve the airworthiness standards for transport category airplanes and engines in 14 CFR parts 25, 33, and 35 and parallel provisions in 14 CFR parts 121 and 135.

The Tasks

This notice is to inform the public that the FAA has asked ARAC to provide advice and recommendation on the following harmonization tasks:

Task 15: Structural Integrity of Fuel Tanks for Emergency Landing Conditions and Landing Gear

Review the current standards of §§ 25.721, 25.963 and 25.994 as they pertain to the strength of fuel tanks and protection from rupture during emergency landing conditions including landing gear break-away. Review also any related FAA and JAA advisory material. In the light of this review, recommend changes to harmonize these sections and the corresponding JAR paragraphs, recommend new harmonized standards, and develop related advisory material as necessary.

The FAA expects ARAC to submit its recommendation(s) resulting from this task by July 31, 1999.

Task 16: Fire Protection of Structure

Review the current standards of § 25.865 and those for corresponding JAR 25.865 as they pertain to the protection of Loads and Dynamics and structures from fires in designated fire zones. Review also FAA issue papers issued for engine support structures made of materials other than steel, and any related JAA advisory material. In the light of this review, recommend changes to harmonize this section and the corresponding JAR paragraph, recommend new harmonized standards, and develop related advisory material as necessary.

The FAA expects ARAC to submit its recommendation(s) resulting from this task by March 31, 2001.

The FAA requests that ARAC draft appropriate regulatory documents with supporting economic and other required analyses, and any other related guidance material or collateral documents to support its recommendations. If the resulting recommendation(s) are one or more notices of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) published by the FAA, the FAA may ask ARAC to recommend disposition of any substantive comments the FAA receives.

Working Group Activity

The Loads and Dynamics Harmonization Working Group is expected to comply with the procedures adopted by ARAC. As part of the procedures, the working group is expected to:

1. Recommend a work plan for completion of the tasks, including the rationale supporting such a plan, for consideration at the meeting of ARAC to consider transport airplane and engine issues held following publication of this notice.

2. Give a detailed conceptual presentation of the proposed