

Frequency: Annually.
Form Number: FS-573A.
Respondents: American sponsored schools overseas.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 199.
Average Hours Per Response: 15 minutes.
Total Estimated Burden: 50 hours.
Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.
Originating Office: The Office of Overseas Schools of the Department of State (A/OPR/OS).
Title of Information Collection: Overseas School Summary Budget Information.
Frequency: Annually.
Form Number: FS-573B.
Respondents: American sponsored schools overseas.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 199.
Average Hours Per Response: 15 minutes.
Total Estimated Burden: 50 hours.
Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.
Originating Office: The Office of Overseas Schools of the Department of State (A/OPR/OS).
Title of Information Collection: Request for Assistance.
Frequency: Annually.
Form Number: FS-574.
Respondents: American sponsored schools overseas.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 199.
Average Hours Per Response: 15 minutes.
Total Estimated Burden: 50 hours.
 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: Copies of the proposed information collection and supporting documents may be obtained from Charles S. Cunningham, Directives Management Branch, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, (202) 647-0596. Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposed

survey by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: OMB, Ms. Victoria Wassmer, (202) 395-5871.

Dated: June 29, 1998.

Fernando Burbano,

Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-24531 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. OST-98-3713]

Enforcement Policy Regarding Unfair Exclusionary Conduct in the Air Transportation Industry

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice extending comment period.

SUMMARY: The Department (or DOT) published a proposed Statement of the Department of Transportation's Enforcement Policy Regarding Unfair Exclusionary Conduct in the Air Transportation Industry on April 10, 1998, and requested public comment (63 FR 17919). Subsequently, on May 21, 1998, the Department extended the due date for comments to July 24, 1998, from June 9, 1998, and the due date for reply comments to September 8, 1998, from July 9, 1998. By this notice, the Department is now further extending the due date for reply comments from September 8, 1998, to September 25, 1998.

DATES: Reply comments must be submitted on or before September 25, 1998.

ADDRESSES: To facilitate the consideration of comments, each commenter should file eight copies of each set of comments. Comments must be filed in Room PL-401, Docket OST-98-3713, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Late-filed comments will be considered to the extent possible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Craun, Director (202-366-1032) or Randy Bennett, Deputy Director (202-366-1053), Office of Aviation and International Economics, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, or Betsy Wolf (202-366-9349), Senior Trial Attorney, Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh St. SW, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOT published a proposed Statement of the

Department of Transportation's Enforcement Policy Regarding Unfair Exclusionary Conduct in the Air Transportation Industry and requested comments on the proposed statement (63 FR 7919, April 10, 1998). The proposed policy statement was developed by the Department of Transportation in consultation with the Department of Justice and sets forth tentative findings and guidelines for use by DOT in evaluating whether major air carriers' competitive responses to new entry warrant enforcement action under 49 U.S.C. 41712. The due dates for comments and reply comments were June 9, 1998 and July 9, 1998, respectively.

Subsequently, in answer to an emergency petition from the Air Transport Association of America (ATA) to extend the comment period, the Department determined that it would be reasonable and in the public interest to give commenters more time for preparing their responses to the proposed statement. On May 21, 1998, we published a notice in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 28021) extending the due date for comments to July 24, 1998, from June 9, 1998, and the due date for reply comments to September 8, 1998, from July 9, 1998.

The Department has now decided, on its own initiative, to extend the period for reply comments from September 8, 1998 to September 25, 1998. In an effort to encourage a meaningful dialogue on the issues involved in the policy statement, the Department has conducted meetings with various air carrier parties and several additional meetings are scheduled for the near future. Since our regulations require that a written summary of the meetings be placed in the docket, we have decided to extend the due date for reply comments to more easily accommodate the submission of the written summaries and to give commenters an opportunity to file comments after reviewing the documents.

At the same time, the Department is co-sponsoring with the publishers of Aviation Week and Space Technology the "Deregulation 20 Summit" on September 23 and 24. Because the agenda for this meeting provides for the discussion of issues relevant to our proposed policy, and the panelists for that meeting have expertise on those issues, we anticipate that the summit will produce additional insights that should be included in the docket.

Issued in Washington, DC on September 8, 1998, under authority delegated by 49 CFR 1.56(a).

Charles A. Hunnicutt,

Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98-24592 Filed 9-11-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Organizations, Functions, And Authority Delegations: The Chief Counsel and Associate Chief Counsel/Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of delegation of authority.

SUMMARY: The FAA is giving notice of specific delegations of authority from the Administrator to the Chief Counsel and Associate Chief Counsel/Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition regarding decision making authority in all dispute resolution actions involving solicitations issued and contracts entered into after April 1, 1996. The specific delegations are set forth in a memorandum signed by the Administrator on July 29, 1998, and supplement the general delegation of authority to the Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition contained in the FAA's Acquisition Management System. The FAA is publishing the text of the specific delegations so that it is available to interested parties.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marie A. Collins, Staff Attorney and Dispute Resolution Officer for the Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition (AGC-70), Federal Aviation Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8332, Washington, DC 20590; telephone (202) 366-6400; facsimile (202) 366-7400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-50, 109 Stat. 436 (1995) ("Appropriations Act"), Congress directed the FAA to develop an acquisition system that addresses the mission and unique needs of the Agency and at a minimum, provides for more timely and cost-effective acquisition of equipment and materials. In the Appropriations Act, Congress expressly directed the FAA to create the new acquisition system without reference to existing procurement statutes and regulations. The result was the

development of the FAA's Acquisition Management System ("AMS") and the establishment of the Office of Dispute Resolution for Acquisition ("ODRA"), which is independent of the FAA's procurement offices and counsel. The ODRA's mandate is to resolve bid protests and contract disputes in a timely and efficient manner, while emphasizing the use of alternative dispute resolution techniques to the maximum extent practicable.

On August 25, 1998, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") was published in the **Federal Register** proposing regulations for the conduct of protests and contract disputes under the AMS. The proposed regulation sets forth a general delegation of authority from the Administrator to the Director of the ODRA to conduct dispute resolution proceedings concerning acquisition matters. The specific delegations issued by the Administrator on July 29, 1998, are consistent with the general delegation of authority proposed in the NPRM. They enhance the ODRA's ability to operate efficiently and effectively in resolving bid protests or contract disputes by using Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") techniques or a default adjudicative process. The specific delegations also confirm the ODRA's authority to issue interlocutory orders and decisions. For example, they eliminate the need for the Administrator to review and consider minor, procedural or uncontested matters such as dismissals arising from settlements or voluntary withdrawals.

The text of the specific delegations of authority signed by the Administrator, in pertinent part, states as follows: Under 49 U.S.C. § 106(f)(2), 49 U.S.C. §§ 46101, et seq., and Pub. L. No. 104-50, I delegate to the Chief Counsel and to the Associate Chief Counsel/Director of the ODRA the authority of the FAA decisionmaker in all dispute resolution actions involving solicitations issued and contracts entered into after April 1, 1996, as follows:

- a. To administer individual protests and contract disputes and to appoint ODRA Dispute Resolution Officers and Special Masters to administer all or portions of individual protests and contract disputes;
- b. To deny motions for dismissal or summary relief which have been submitted to the ODRA by parties to protests or contract disputes;
- c. To grant or deny motions for partial dismissal or partial summary relief submitted to the ODRA by parties to protests or contract disputes, or to order such partial dismissals on its own initiative;

- d. To stay an award or the performance of a contract temporarily, for no more than ten (10) business days, pending an Administrator's decision on a more permanent stay. (This delegation will only be used in cases where the ODRA takes into account the views of both a protester and Agency counsel regarding the possible impact of a stay, finds compelling reasons which would justify a stay, and recommends a stay to the Administrator.);

- e. To dismiss protests or contract disputes, based on voluntary withdrawals by the parties which have instituted such proceedings;

- f. To dismiss protest or contract disputes, where the parties to such proceedings have achieved a settlement;

- g. To issue procedural and other interlocutory orders aimed a proper and efficient case management, including, without limitation, scheduling orders, subpoenas, sanctions orders for failure of discovery, and the like.

- h. To issue protective orders aimed at prohibiting the public dissemination of certain information and materials provided to the ODRA and opposing parties during the course of protest or contract dispute proceedings, including, but not limited to, documents or other materials reflecting trade secrets, confidential financial information and other proprietary or competition-sensitive data, as well as confidential Agency source selection information the disclosure of which might jeopardize future Agency procurement activities;

- i. To utilize ADR methods as the primary means of dispute resolution, in accordance with established Department of Transportation and FAA policies for using ADR to the maximum extent practicable;

- j. To designate ODRA Dispute Resolution Officers to engage with Agency program offices and contractors in voluntary mutual agreeable ADR efforts aimed at resolving acquisition related disputes at the earliest possible stage, even before any formal protest or contract dispute is formally filed with the ODRA;

- k. To take all other reasonable steps deemed necessary and proper for the management of the FAA Dispute Resolution System and for the resolution of protests or contract disputes, in accordance with the Acquisition Management System and applicable law. The Chief Counsel and Associate Chief Counsel/Director of the ODRA may redelegate the authority set forth above, in whole or in part, to an ODRA Dispute Resolution Officer or to a Special Master. The Federal Aviation Regulations shall be amended to incorporate this delegation of authority.