

while a checked toolbox was being loaded into an aircraft, it exploded and injured two airline employees. One of the items in the toolbox was a butane torch equipped with a refillable gas canister. The passenger who checked the toolbox as baggage claimed that he completely emptied the canister by setting the lever to the open position for approximately four hours.

On August 23, 1998, at Houston International Airport, a toolbox checked as baggage gave off a flame as it was being loaded aboard an aircraft. A micro-torch with a refillable gas canister was found inside the toolbox. The micro-torch lacked safety devices to prevent accidental ignition.

On March 3, 1997, at Dulles International Airport, a small metal suitcase exploded while it was being loaded onto a conveyor belt. A ramp agent was struck in the head by fragments from the exploding suitcase and sustained minor injuries. The explosion appeared to have been caused by a charged butane micro-torch used for heating wax that is applied to skis.

Based on these incidents, RSPA and the FAA are concerned that many people may not be fully aware of the provisions of the HMR pertaining to the transportation of torches and similar devices. Ignition of a torch and the subsequent risk of fire aboard an aircraft constitute a grave threat to transportation safety.

## II. Requirements for the Transportation of Flammable Gas Torches

Flammable gas torches may be designed in various configurations and differ in their intended use. However, all are forbidden to be carried aboard passenger-carrying aircraft as either checked or carry-on baggage. Butane, propane, and other flammable gases must be offered for transportation and transported in full compliance with the HMR.

### Micro-Torches

Cigarette lighters or similar devices (such as mini-or micro-torches) equipped with an ignition element and containing gaseous fuel are regulated under the HMR as Lighters or Lighter refills and subject to the provisions of §§ 173.21 and 173.308. Section 173.21 forbids the transportation of packages containing a cigarette lighter or similar device equipped with an ignition element and containing fuel, except that a cigarette lighter or a similar device may be shipped if the design of the device and its inner packaging has been examined by an approved laboratory, and specifically approved by the Associate Administrator for Hazardous

Materials Safety. Transportation regulations which apply to these devices include fuel capacity and filling limits, pressure capability of the device, and packaging restrictions. Devices containing a flammable gas must conform to the quantity limits and packaging requirements specified in § 173.308.

### Larger Torches

A flammable gas torch that includes as one of its components a cylinder charged with liquified butane or propane gas is regulated under the HMR as Liquified petroleum gas, UN 1075, and subject to the packaging requirements of § 173.304. Flammable gases are forbidden on passenger-carrying aircraft. Flammable gases may be transported on cargo aircraft only if they are packaged, marked, and labeled, and otherwise conform to the requirements of the HMR. A torch head, many of which are self-igniting, may not be attached to the cylinder. In the above-described incidents, the owners of the torches did not remove the torch heads before packing them, which greatly increases the probability that the torch will activate and start a fire.

### III. Reminder to Passengers, Cargo Offerors and Transporters

Anyone who offers for transportation or transports torches is encouraged to carefully review the requirements in the HMR, to examine all shipping procedures, and, where necessary, take measures to prevent potential incidents in transportation. Passengers, shippers, and carriers are reminded that the offering for transportation or carriage aboard aircraft of any forbidden material in violation of the HMR may subject them to enforcement action, including the assessment of criminal or civil penalties.

Additional information on the requirements for shipping torches may also be obtained by calling the RSPA Hazardous Materials Information Center at (800) HMR49-22 (467-4922) between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays, or the FAA Dangerous Goods and Cargo Security Program at (202) 267-7530. Information is also available at the following Internet sites: <http://hazmat.dot.gov/> and <http://cas.faa.gov/cas/dgp.htm>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 24, 1999.

**Alan I. Roberts,**

*Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33780]

### The Kansas City Southern Railway Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—Gateway Western Railway Company and Gateway Eastern Railway Company

Gateway Western Railway Company and Gateway Eastern Railway Company (collectively, Gateway) have agreed to grant local and overhead trackage rights to The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCS)<sup>1</sup> over track structures, including sidings, related yard facilities and industry tracks, extending: (1) between Kansas City, MO, and East St. Louis, IL; and (2) between Roodhouse, IL, and Springfield, IL, for a total distance of approximately 478 miles.<sup>2</sup> The purpose of the trackage rights is to allow KCS to market "seamless" rail service over the KCS system and Gateway's, avoiding interchange costs and delays and allowing enhanced train scheduling and equipment utilization. The transaction was initially scheduled to be consummated on or after July 21, 1999, the effective date of the exemption (7 days after the exemption was filed).<sup>3</sup>

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk & Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in

<sup>1</sup> KCS and Gateway are commonly controlled and affiliated railroad companies. See *Kansas City Southern Industries, Inc., KCS Transportation Company, and The Kansas City Southern Railway Company—Control—Gateway Western Railway Company and Gateway Eastern Railway Company*, STB Finance Docket No. 33311 (STB served May 1, 1997).

<sup>2</sup> A redacted version of the trackage rights agreement between Gateway and KCS was filed with the notice of exemption. The full version of the agreement, as required by 49 CFR 1180.6(a)(7)(ii), was concurrently filed under seal along with a motion for a protective order, which was granted in a decision served July 23, 1999.

<sup>3</sup> On July 19, 1999, Joseph C. Szabo, on behalf of the United Transportation Union-Illinois Legislative Board filed a petition requesting the Board to stay operation of the exemption pending the filing and disposition of a petition to reject or to revoke it. By decision served July 20, 1999, the Board granted a 60-day stay of the effective date of the exemption, until September 19, 1999, to permit the Board to examine the issues in this proceeding in greater detail, thus delaying publication of the notice and the effectiveness of the exemption. On August 9, 1999, Mr. Szabo and W. Larry Foster, on behalf of the United Transportation Union-Missouri Legislative Board, filed a petition, to reject and/or to revoke the notice of exemption or to impose added labor protection. By decision served September 16, 1999, the Board denied the petition, subject to the Board's reservation of jurisdiction to consider other issues in future proceedings, as discussed in that decision. As a result, this exemption became effective on September 19, 1999.

*Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease & Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33780, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Robert K. Dreiling, Esq., The Kansas City Southern Railway Company, 114 West Eleventh St., Kansas City, MO 64105.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at "WWW.STB.DOT.GOV."

Decided: September 22, 1999.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

**Vernon A. Williams,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 99-25315 Filed 9-28-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Departmental Offices; International Financial Institution Advisory Commission

**AGENCY:** Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** Under section 603 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999, the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission (the "Commission") shall advise and report to the Congress on the future role and responsibilities of the international financial institutions (defined as the International Monetary Fund, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Development Association, International Finance Corporation, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, African Development Bank, African Development Fund, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and Inter-American Investment Corporation), the World Trade Organization, and the Bank for International Settlements.

**DATES:** The third meeting of the Advisory Commission will be held on October 19, 1999, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

and tentatively ending at 3:00 p.m. in Room HC7 in the U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Designated Federal Official: William McFadden, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of International Monetary and Financial Policy, Room 4444, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220. Telephone Number 202-622-0343, fax number (202) 622-7664.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

### Agenda of Meeting

The agenda will focus on the World Bank and tentatively includes discussion of the following:

- Role of the Bank and the Tasks of its agencies
- The Bank—History and Facts
- Reforming the Bank

### Procedural

This meeting is open to the public. Please note that the meeting may close early if all business is finished. Members of the public may submit written comments. If you wish to furnish comments, please provide 16 copies of your written material to the Designated Federal Official. If you wish to have your comments distributed to members of the Commission in advance of the first meeting, 16 copies of any written material should be provided to the Designated Federal Official no later than October 12, 1999.

Dated: September 22, 1999.

**William McFadden,**

*Designated Federal Official.*

[FR Doc. 99-25258 Filed 9-28-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information

collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms within the Department of the Treasury is soliciting comments concerning the Monthly Report—Tobacco Products Importer.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before November 29, 1999 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Barnes, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-8930.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Cliff Mullen, Regulations Division, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-8181.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Monthly Report—Tobacco Products Importer.

*Form Number:* ATF F 5220.6.

*Abstract:* Reports of the lawful importation and disposition of tobacco products dealers are necessary to determine whether those issued the permits required by 26 U.S.C. Section 5713 should be allowed to renew their operations or renew their permits.

*Current Actions:* This is a newly proposed collection of information. The monthly summary report provides the least burdensome method to determine whether any activity authorized by the permit is taking place.

*Type of Review:* New.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,500.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 48 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 14,000.

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS:** Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including