

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Parts 154 and 155

[USCG-2001-8661]

RIN 2115-AG05

Vessel and Facility Response Plans for Oil: 2003 Removal Equipment Requirements and Alternative Technology Revisions

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Proposed rule; meeting and extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard will hold a public meeting to let members of the public present oral comments on proposed rules for planholders transporting or transferring petroleum oil. A proposed rule published on October 11, 2002, would require changes to the requirements for oil-spill removal equipment under vessel response plans and marine transportation-related facility response plans. These changes would increase the minimum available spill removal equipment required for tank vessels and facilities, add requirements for new response technologies, and clarify methods and procedures for responding to oil spills in coastal waters.

DATES: The Coast Guard will hold this public meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2002, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except that the meeting may close early if all business is finished. Other comments must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before April 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The Coast Guard will hold this public meeting in room 4618, Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001.

You may submit your comments directly to the Docket Management Facility. To make sure that your comments and related material are not entered more than once in the docket [USCG-2001-8661], please submit them by only one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

(2) By delivery to room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

(3) By fax to the Facility at 202-493-2251.

(4) Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Facility maintains the public docket for this notice. Comments, and related material as indicated in this notice, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401, on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building at the same address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also access this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on this notice, call or e-mail Mr. Robert Pond, G-MOR, Coast Guard, at telephone 202-267-6603, or rpond@comdt.uscg.mil. For questions on viewing, or submitting material to the docket, call Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Requests for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages you to submit comments and related material concerning the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on Vessel and Facility Response Plans for Oil published October 11, 2002 [67 FR 63331]. If you do so, please include your name and address, identify the docket number [USCG-2001-8661] and give the reasons for each comment. You may submit your comments and material by mail, delivery, fax, or electronic means to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**; but please submit your comments and material by only one means. If you submit them by mail or delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit them by mail and would like to know they reached the Facility, please

enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

Information on Service for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to seek special assistance at the meeting, contact Mr. Pond at the address or phone number under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** as soon as possible.

Background Information

In 1996, the Coast Guard published final tank vessel response plan regulations [61 FR 1052, January 12, 1996] and final MTR facilities response plan regulations [61 FR 7890, February 29, 1996]. These regulations contain minimum on-water oil removal equipment requirements that planholders transporting or transferring petroleum oil are required to meet in planning for an oil discharge. These regulations also state that the Coast Guard will periodically review the existing oil removal equipment requirements to determine if increases in mechanical recovery systems and additional requirements for new response technologies are practicable.

On October 11, 2002, we published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the **Federal Register** [67 FR 63331] entitled "Vessel and Facility Response Plans for Oil: 2003 Removal Equipment Requirements and Alternative Technology Revisions". It proposes an increase in the minimum available spill removal equipment required for tank vessels and facilities, added requirements for new response technologies, and it clarifies methods and procedures for responding to oil spills in coastal waters. A letter sent to the docket gave a number of reasons supporting the need for a public meeting and extension of time to file comments on the NPRM. The Coast Guard agrees with some of those reasons, so we are planning to hold the meeting announced by this notice, and we are extending the comment period until April 8, 2003.

Public Meeting

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to attend the meeting and present oral comments during the meeting. The meeting is open to

members of the public. Please note that the meeting may close early if all business is finished. We request that members of the public who plan to attend this meeting contact Mr. Pond at the telephone number or e-mail address listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** so that building security officials may be notified. If you would like to present an oral comment during the meeting, please notify Mr. Pond no later than, December 11, 2002. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may submit comments as indicated under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

Dated: November 12, 2002.

Howard L. Hime,

Acting Director of Standards, Marine Safety, Security & Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 02-29168 Filed 11-18-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-U

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Bound Printed Matter: Flat-Size Mail Co-Packaging, Co-Sacking, and Higher DDU Rate Minimum Weight

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is proposing revisions to the *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM) that would provide new mail preparation standards for co-packaging and co-sacking flat-size Bound Printed Matter. The standards for co-packaging would be optional, while the standards for co-sacking would be mandatory beginning on June 1, 2003. Prior to that date, the use of the co-sacking standards would be optional.

Also proposed is a change in the minimum weight for Presorted Bound Printed Matter flats claimed at the destination delivery unit (DDU) rate. The minimum weight for such pieces is proposed to change from "more than 1 pound" to "more than 20 ounces."

DATES: Submit comments on or before December 19, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver written comments to the Manager, Mail Preparation and Standards, U.S. Postal Service, 1735 N. Lynn Street, Room 3025, Arlington, VA 22209-6038. Written comments may also be submitted via fax to 703-292-4058. Copies of all written comments will be available for inspection and photocopying between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Postal Service Headquarters Library, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, 11th Floor North, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane Stefaniak at (703) 292-3548, Mail Preparation and Standards, United States Postal Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Through several past rulemakings (65 FR 52480, 66 FR 28659, and 66 FR 58944) the Postal Service has established mail preparation standards in *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM) M900 for co-packaging and co-traying flat-size First-Class Mail, and for co-packaging and co-sacking flat-size Periodicals and Standard Mail. At this time, the Postal Service is proposing to further extend these standards to allow the co-packaging and co-sacking of flat-size Bound Printed Matter pieces that are compatible with processing on the automated flat sorting machine (AFSM) 100.

Bound Printed Matter Presorted rate flats (no barcode required) and Presorted rate flats that bear a ZIP+4 or delivery point barcode and claim the barcoded discount are usually processed by the Postal Service within the same operation. For this reason, allowing packages of flat-size barcoded and nonbarcoded pieces to be combined within the same container (*i.e.*, co-sacking) can provide operational efficiencies that could reduce costs. Additionally, the need for the Postal Service to segregate flat-size barcoded and nonbarcoded pieces within a package no longer exists due to advances, such as the optical character reader (OCR) and image lift capabilities of the AFSM 100. Therefore, it would not be operationally beneficial to continue to require the separate preparation of Bound Printed Matter Presorted rate flats that qualify for the barcoded discount and Presorted rate flats that do not qualify for the barcoded discount. Continuing to segregate barcoded and nonbarcoded flats would result in more packages and sacks, reduce the average depth of sort, and cause additional workhours for the Postal Service associated with sorting, opening, and prepping flats for processing.

Under the proposed co-sacking standards for flat-size Bound Printed Matter, mailers would be required, beginning June 1, 2003, to co-sack (*i.e.*, sort into the same sack) packages of Presorted rate pieces qualifying for the barcoded discount with packages of Presorted rate pieces not claiming the barcoded discount. Additionally, mailers would have the option to co-package (*i.e.*, sort into the same package) flat-size Bound Printed Matter Presorted rate pieces qualifying for the barcoded discount and Presorted rate pieces not qualifying for the barcoded discount

within the same package. Co-packaged pieces would be required to be co-sacked under DMM M910. The containerization methods permitted for First-Class Mail, Periodicals, and Standard Mail in existing DMM M920, M930, and M940 would not be available for Bound Printed Matter.

The proposed standards for the optional co-packaging of Bound Printed Matter flats would include the following:

- All pieces would be required to weigh 20 ounces or less and meet the AFSM 100 criteria for automation-compatible flat-size mail in DMM M820.

- Presorted rate pieces qualifying for the barcoded discount would be required to be part of a Presorted rate mailing of at least 300 flat-size pieces and be prepared under DMM M820. Presorted rate pieces not claiming the barcoded discount would be required to be part of a mailing of at least 300 pieces prepared under DMM M722.

- Each piece in the Presorted rate mailing qualifying for the barcoded discount would be required to bear a correct and readable ZIP+4 or delivery point barcode (DPBC) under DMM C840. Each piece in the Presorted rate mailing would be required to bear a correct and readable 5-digit barcode under DMM C840.

- Presorted rate pieces qualifying for the barcoded discount would be required to be sorted together with the Presorted rate pieces, but only one physical package for each logical presort destination would be permitted to include pieces for both rate categories, unless presented using an approved manifest mailing system under DMM P910.

- Mailing that are co-packaged pieces would be required to be co-sacked under DMM M910.

The proposed standards for the co-sacking of Bound Printed Matter flats would include the following:

- Packages prepared as part of the Presorted rate mailing qualifying for the barcoded discount and packages prepared as part of the Presorted rate mailing not qualifying for the barcoded discount would be required to be co-sacked, effective June 1, 2003.

- Packages of flats qualifying for the barcoded discount that are co-sacked with packages of Presorted rate flats would be required to be part of the same mailing job.

- Both the Presorted rate mailing qualifying for the barcoded discount and the Presorted rate mailing not qualifying for the barcoded discount would be required to separately meet the applicable rate eligibility and volume requirements.