

(b) An application, other than a renewal, party to, or emergency exemption application, that is determined to be complete is docketed. Notice of the application is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, and an opportunity for public comment is provided. All comments received during the comment period are considered before final action is taken on the application.

(c) No public hearing or other formal proceeding is required under this subpart before the disposition of an application. Unless emergency processing under § 107.117 is requested and granted, applications are usually processed in the order in which they are filed.

(d) During the processing and evaluation of an application, the Associate Administrator may request additional information from the applicant. If the applicant does not respond to a written request for additional information within 30 days of the date the request was received, the application may be deemed incomplete and denied. However, if the applicant responds in writing within the 30-day period requesting an additional 30 days within which it will gather the requested information, the Associate Administrator may grant the 30-day extension.

(e) The Associate Administrator may grant or deny an application, in whole or in part. In the Associate Administrator's discretion, an application may be granted subject to provisions that are appropriate to protect health, safety or property. The Associate Administrator may impose additional provisions not specified in the application or remove conditions in the application that are unnecessary.

(f) The Associate Administrator may grant an application on finding that—

(1) The application complies with this subpart;

(2) The application demonstrates that the proposed alternative will achieve a level of safety that:

(i) Is at least equal to that required by the regulation from which the exemption is sought, or

(ii) If the regulations do not establish a level of safety, is consistent with the public interest and adequately will protect against the risks to life and property inherent in the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce;

(3) The application states all material facts, and contains no materially false or materially misleading statement;

(4) The applicant meets the qualifications required by applicable regulations; and

(5) The applicant is fit to conduct the activity authorized by the exemption. This assessment may be based on information in the application, prior compliance history of the applicant, and other information available to the Associate Administrator.

(g) An applicant is notified in writing whether the application is granted or denied. A denial contains a brief statement of reasons.

(h) An exemption and any renewal thereof terminates according to its terms or, if not otherwise specified, two years after the date of issuance. A grant of party status to an exemption, unless otherwise stated, terminates on the date that the exemption expires.

(i) The Associate Administrator, on determining that an application concerns a matter of general applicability and future effect and should be the subject of rulemaking, may initiate rulemaking under part 106 of this chapter in addition to or instead of acting on the application.

(j) The Associate Administrator publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a list of all exemption grants, denials, and modifications and all exemption applications withdrawn under this section.

#### § 107.117 Emergency processing.

(a) An application is granted emergency processing if the Associate Administrator, on the basis of the application and any inquiry undertaken, finds that—

(1) Emergency processing is necessary to prevent significant injury to persons or property (other than the hazardous material to be transported) that could not be prevented if the application were processed on a routine basis; or

(2) Emergency processing is necessary for immediate national security purposes or to prevent significant economic loss that could not be prevented if the application were processed on a routine basis.

(b) Where the significant economic loss is to the applicant, or to a party in a contractual relationship to the applicant with respect to the activity to be undertaken, the Associate Administrator may deny emergency processing if timely application could have been made.

(c) A request for emergency processing on the basis of potential economic loss must reasonably describe and estimate the potential loss.

(d) An application submitted under this section must conform to §107.105 to the extent that the receiving Department official deems necessary to process the application. An application on an emergency basis must be submitted to the Department modal contact official for the initial mode of transportation to be utilized, as follows:

(1) *Certificate-Holding Aircraft*: The Federal Aviation Administration Civil Aviation Security Office that serves the place where the flight will originate or that is responsible for the aircraft operator's overall aviation security program. The nearest Civil Aviation Security Office may be located by calling the FAA Duty Officer, 202-267-3333 (any hour).

(2) *Noncertificate-Holding Aircraft (Those Which Operate Under 14 CFR Part 91)*: The Federal Aviation Administration Civil Aviation Security Office that serves the place where the flight will originate. The nearest Civil Aviation Security Office may be located by calling the FAA Duty Officer, 202-267-3333 (any hour).

(3) *Motor Vehicle Transportation*: Chief, Hazardous Materials Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590-0001, 202-366-6121 (day); 1-800-424-8802 (night).

(4) *Rail Transportation*: Staff Director, Hazardous Materials Division, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance, Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590-0001, 202-493-6248 or 202-493-6244 (day); 1-800-424-8802 (night).

(5) *Water Transportation*: Chief, Hazardous Materials Standards Division, Office of Operating and Environmental Standards, United States Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Transportation,

Washington, DC 20593-0001, 202-267-1577 (day); 1-800-424-8802 (night).

(e) On receipt of all information necessary to process the application, the receiving Department official transmits to the Associate Administrator, by the most rapid available means of communication, an evaluation as to whether an emergency exists under §107.117(a) and, if appropriate, recommendations as to the conditions to be included in the exemption. If the Associate Administrator determines that an emergency exists under §107.117(a) and that, with reference to the criteria of §107.113(f), granting of the application is in the public interest, the Associate Administrator grants the application subject to such terms as necessary and immediately notifies the applicant. If the Associate Administrator determines that an emergency does not exist or that granting of the application is not in the public interest, the applicant immediately is so notified.

(f) A determination that an emergency does not exist is not subject to reconsideration under §107.123 of this part.

(g) Within 90 days following issuance of an emergency exemption, the Associate Administrator will publish, in the FEDERAL REGISTER, a notice of issuance with a statement of the basis for the finding of emergency and the scope and duration of the exemption.

[Amdt. 107-38, 61 FR 21095, May 9, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 51556, Oct. 1, 1997; 64 FR 51914, Sept. 27, 1999; 65 FR 58618, Sept. 29, 2000; 66 FR 45377, Aug. 28, 2001; 67 FR 61011, Sept. 27, 2002]

**§ 107.121 Modification, suspension or termination of exemption or grant of party status.**

(a) The Associate Administrator may modify an exemption or grant of party status on finding that—

(1) Modification is necessary so that an exemption reflects current statutes and regulations; or

(2) Modification is required by changed circumstances to meet the standards of §107.113(f).

(b) The Associate Administrator may modify, suspend or terminate an exemption or grant of party status, as appropriate, on finding that—