

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION**29 CFR Part 2200****Rules of Procedure; Extension of Comment Period**

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking; extension of time for comments.

SUMMARY: This document extends the time for filing comments to the Commission's proposed revision of its settlement rules to April 30, 1998. The proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** on March 2, 1998.

DATES: Comments to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published at 63 FR 10166 should be received by April 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking should be sent to Earl R. Ohman, Jr., General Counsel, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, 1120 20th Street, NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20036-3419.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Earl R. Ohman, Jr., General Counsel, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, 1120 20th Street, NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20036-3419, telephone: 202-606-5410. This is not a toll-free number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 2, 1998, the Commission published in the **Federal Register**, 63 FR 10166, a notice of proposed rulemaking to amend the Commission's rule on settlements, 29 CFR 2200.109. In that notice, the Commission announced that all comments must be received by April 16, 1998. On April 9, the Commission received from the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of Labor, a request to extend the comment period an additional 14 days.

In his request, the Solicitor pointed out that the deadline for comments came during the Passover/Easter holiday season. It is the Commission's view that the public interest is best served by allowing all interested parties adequate time to prepare their comments to the proposal, particularly inasmuch as the Commission is unable to act on the proposal until it regains a quorum. Accordingly, the Commission extends the comment period for all interested parties until April 30, 1998.

Dated: April 13, 1998.

Earl R. Ohman, Jr.,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98-10253 Filed 4-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7600-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Coast Guard****33 CFR Part 117**

[CGD01-97-131]

RIN 2115-AE47

Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Acushnet River, MA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is proposing to change the operating rules for the New Bedford Fairhaven (Rt-6) Bridge, mile 0.0, over the Acushnet River between New Bedford and Fairhaven, Massachusetts.

The bridge owner, Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD), has requested that the Coast Guard change the operating regulations as a result of comments received from the cities of New Bedford and Fairhaven regarding vehicular traffic delays from frequent bridge openings. Additionally, redundant language will be removed, and the times the draw opens will be combined for clarity and simplicity. An on call requirement for Christmas day is also being proposed as part of this action. It is expected that this proposed change to the regulations will help relieve the traffic during the peak traffic periods Monday through Friday, make the regulations clear and understandable as well as continue to provide for the needs of navigation.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard on or before June 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to Commander (obr), First Coast Guard District, 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA. 02110-3350, or deliver them to the same address between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is (617) 223-8364.

The District Commander maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and documents as indicated in this preamble will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at the above address, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John W. McDonald, Project Officer, First Coast Guard District, (617) 223-8364.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this matter by submitting written data,

views, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this rulemaking (CGD01-97-131) and specific section of this proposal to which their comments apply, and give reasons for each comment. Please submit two copies of all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. Persons wanting acknowledgment of receipt of comments should enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period. It may change this proposal in response to comments received. The Coast Guard does not plan to hold a public hearing; however, persons may request a public hearing by writing to the Coast Guard at the address listed under **ADDRESSES**. The request should include the reasons why a hearing would be beneficial. If it is determined that the opportunity for oral presentations will aid this rulemaking, the Coast Guard will hold a public hearing at a time and place announced by a subsequent notice published in the **Federal Register**.

Background

The vertical clearance at the Route 6 Bridge at mean high water (MHW) is 6 feet and at mean low water (MLW) is 10 feet. The horizontal clearance is 95 feet in each channel of this swing bridge.

The Route 6 Bridge presently opens on the hour from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., a quarter past the hour from 11:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., and at all other times on call. The draw also opens at any time for vessels with a draft exceeding 15 feet and for vessels owned or operated by the U.S. Government, state or local authorities. Each opening of the draw does not exceed 15 minutes except for vessels with drafts exceeding 15 feet or in extraordinary circumstances.

Discussion of Proposal

The bridge owner, MHD, has received comments from the cities of New Bedford and Fairhaven that the bridge is causing traffic delays and thus, effecting businesses along Route 6 on both sides of the waterway. The traffic counts submitted to the Coast Guard for review indicate that the heavy vehicular traffic periods are Monday through Friday during the morning and afternoon commuting hours. The comments received did however, indicate that the inbound commercial fishing vessels should be exempted from changes to the regulations that may restrict the openings of the bridge for marine traffic.