

certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

DATES: Submit comments on or before December 28, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD-2015-0131. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Williams, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W23-453, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202-366-0903, Email Linda.Williams@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel CAROBELLE is:

INTENDED COMMERCIAL USE OF VESSEL: "Passenger Charter."
GEOGRAPHIC REGION: "FLORIDA, GEORGIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, NORTH CAROLINA, VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, DELAWARE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, MASSACHUSETTS, MAINE, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA, TEXAS."

The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD-2015-0131 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388, that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state

the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

Privacy Act

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78).

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: November 19, 2015.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2015-30200 Filed 11-25-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Acceptance of Applications for the Potential Award of Maritime Security Program Operating Agreements

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of Application Period for the Maritime Security Program.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) is issuing this request for applications for eligible vessels to potentially enroll in one or more MSP Operating Agreements in accordance with the provisions of the Maritime Security Act of 2003, Public Law 108-136, div. C, title XXXV, as amended by Section 3508 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013, Public Law 112-239, (NDAA 2013). The Maritime Security Program (MSP) maintains a fleet of active, commercially-viable, privately-owned vessels to meet national defense and other security requirements and to maintain a United States presence in international commercial shipping. This request for applications provides, among other things, application criteria and a deadline for submitting applications for potential vessel enrollment in the MSP.

DATES: Applications for the potential enrollment of one or more vessels must be received no later than December 28, 2015. Applications should be submitted to the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section below.

ADDRESSES: Application forms and instructions are available by electronic

mail request addressed to William.G.Mcdonald@dot.gov.

Submit applications for the enrollment of vessels in the MSP to William G. McDonald, Director, Office of Sealift Support, W25-310, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William G. McDonald, Director, Office of Sealift Support, Maritime Administration, (202) 366-0688. For legal questions, call Ryan Kabacinski, Chief, Division of Maritime Programs, Maritime Administration, (202) 366-5176. For military-utility questions, call Mr. Tim Boemecke, United States Transportation Command, (618) 220-1452.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NDAA 2013 extended the MSP from FY 2016 through FY 2025 and revised the associated annual MSP payment schedule. This program provides financial assistance to operators of U.S.-flag vessels that meet certain qualifications. Section 53102(a) of Title 46, United States Code, directs the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary), in consultation with the Secretary of Defense (SecDef), to establish a fleet of active, commercially-viable, militarily-useful, privately-owned vessels to meet national defense and other security requirements. Section 53111 of Title 46, United States Code, authorizes \$186 million annually for FYs 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018; \$210 million annually for FYs 2019, 2020 and 2021; and \$222 million annually for each FY thereafter through FY 2025 to support the operation of up to 60 U.S.-flag vessels in the foreign commerce of the United States. Payment to participating operators are limited under 46 U.S.C. § 53106(a)(1) to \$3.1 million per ship, per year, through FY 2018; \$3.5 million per ship per year for FY 2019 through 2021; and \$3.7 million per ship per year for FY 2022 through 2025. Payments are subject to the availability of appropriations. Participating operators are required to make their commercial transportation resources available upon request by SecDef during times of war or national emergency.

Application Criteria

The NDAA 2013 amended the procedures in 46 U.S.C. § 53103(c) for awarding new MSP Operating Agreements. The amended statute provides that the Secretary may enter into a new Operating Agreement with an applicant that meets the citizenship requirements of 46 U.S.C. § 53102(c), for

a vessel that meets the eligibility requirements of 46 U.S.C. § 53102(b). Priority for the award of Operating Agreements under the amended 46 U.S.C. § 53103(c) shall be on the basis of vessel type established by military requirements of SecDef. The military requirements established by SecDef, through the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), are provided below. As provided by the amended statute, after consideration of military requirements, priority for the award of Operating Agreements shall be given to applicants that are United States citizens under 46 U.S.C. § 50501.

Vessel Requirements

Acceptable vessels for this MSP Operating Agreement must meet the requirements of 46 U.S.C. § 53102(b) and 46 CFR § 296.11. In addition, the Commander, USTRANSCOM, has established Department of Defense general evaluation criteria on the military requirements for eligible MSP vessels. Priority consideration, consistent with the requirements of 46 U.S.C. § 53103(c), will be given to applications providing for enrollment of the following vessel types in order of priority:

1. Roll-on/Roll-off (RO/RO)
2. Tanker
3. Heavy Lift
4. Geared Containerships
5. All other vessel types will be considered after all applications for the above listed vessel types have been reviewed.

National Security Requirements

If an applicant is chosen to receive a MSP Operating Agreement the applicant will be required to enter into an Emergency Preparedness Agreement (EPA) pursuant 46 U.S.C. § 53107. The EPA shall be a document incorporating the terms of the Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA), as approved by the Secretary and SecDef, or such other agreement as may be approved by the Secretaries.

Documentation

If a vessel is chosen to be the subject of an MSP Operating Agreement, and if such vessel is currently documented under a foreign register, such vessel must be documented in the United States under 46 U.S.C. Ch. 121 prior to being eligible for MSP payments. Further, proof of U.S. Coast Guard vessel documentation and all relevant charter and management agreements for

the chosen vessels, if any, must be approved by MARAD before the vessel will be eligible to receive MSP payments.

Payments

If an applicant is awarded an MSP Operating Agreement, the applicant will be eligible for payments in accordance with 46 U.S.C. § 53106 and 46 CFR § 296.41.

Vessel Operation

The vessels under an MSP Operating Agreement shall be operated exclusively in foreign commerce as defined in 46 U.S.C. § 53101(4) or in permissible mixed foreign commerce and domestic trade as provided by 46 U.S.C. § 53105(a)(1)(A).

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Cadets (Midshipmen)

In the course of operation of the vessel, the MSP Operator shall agree to carry contemporaneously up to two U.S. Merchant Marine Academy midshipmen upon request.

Award

No guarantee is provided that MARAD will award any MSP Operating Agreements in response to applications submitted under this Notice. In the event that no awards are made or an application is not selected for an award, the applicant will be provided a written reason why the application was denied, consistent with the requirements of 46 U.S.C. § 53103(c).

(Authority: 49 CFR Sections 1.92 and 1.93)

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: November 23, 2015.

Jay R. Gordon,

Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2015-30199 Filed 11-25-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Hazardous Materials: Notice of Application for Modification of Special Permit

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

ACTION: List of Application for Modification of Special Permits

SUMMARY: In accordance with the procedures governing the application

for, and the processing of, special permits from the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Material Regulations (49 CFR part 107, subpart B), notice is hereby given that the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has received the applications described herein. This notice is abbreviated to expedite docketing and public notice. Because the sections affected, modes of transportation, and the nature of application have been shown in earlier **Federal Register** publications, they are not repeated here. Requests for modification of special permits (*e.g.* to provide for additional hazardous materials, packaging design changes, additional mode of transportation, etc.) are described in footnotes to the application number. Application numbers with the suffix "M" denote a modification request. These applications have been separated from the new application for special permits to facilitate processing.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 14, 2015.

Address Comments To: Record Center, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590.

Comments should refer to the application number and be submitted in triplicate. If confirmation of receipt of comments is desired, include a self-addressed stamped postcard showing the special permit number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ryan Paquet, Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Approvals and Permits Division, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, East Building, PHH-30, 1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast, Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4535.

Copies of the applications are available for inspection in the Records Center, East Building, PHH-30, 1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast, Washington, DC or at <http://regulations.gov>.

This notice of receipt of applications for modification of special permit is published in accordance with Part 107 of the Federal hazardous materials transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5117(6); 49 CFR I. 53(b)).

Issued in Washington, DC, November 4, 2015.

Don Burger,

Chief, General Approvals and Permits.