DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Aviation Administration
Fiftieth RTCA SC–206 Aeronautical Information and Meteorological Data Link Services (AIS) Plenary

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Fiftieth RTCA SC–206 Aeronautical Information and Meteorological Data Link Services (AIS) Plenary.

SUMMARY: The FAA is issuing this notice to advise the public of a meeting of Fiftieth RTCA SC–206 Aeronautical Information and Meteorological Data Link Services (AIS) Plenary.

DATES: The meeting will be held March 15, 2018 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at: Harris Corporation—Technology Center, 1395 Troutman Blvd NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905. Pre-registration is required by March 2nd.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, 5 U.S.C., App.), notice is hereby given for a meeting of the Fiftieth RTCA SC–206 Aeronautical Information and Meteorological Data Link Services (AIS) Plenary. The agenda will include the following:

1. Opening Remarks: DFO, RTCA, and Chairman
2. Attendees’ Introductions
3. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda
4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Herndon, VA)
5. Sub-Groups Reports
   A. SG1: CSC JC and Other SC Coordination (ISRA)
   B. SG5: FIS-B MOPS
6. Decision on TOR Changes/Rejoining WG–76
7. Future Meetings Plans and Dates
8. Industry Coordination
   A. Horizon 2020—Honeywell
9. Action Item Review
10. Other Business
11. Adjourn

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the chairman, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section. Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 7, 2018.

Mohannad Dawoud, Management & Program Analyst, Partnership Contracts Branch, ANG–A17, NextGen, Procurement Services Division, Federal Aviation Administration.

[Billing Code 4910–13–P]
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2015–0238]

Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Application for an Exemption From TowMate, LLC

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of renewal of exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its decision to renew for a period of 5 years TowMate, LLC's (TowMate's) current exemption allowing motor carriers to operate rechargeable wireless temporary stop, turn, and tail lighting systems during temporary towing operations. Under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs), all required lamps, with the exception of battery-powered lamps used on projecting loads, must be powered by the electrical system of the motor vehicle. The Agency has concluded that granting this exemption renewal would not have an adverse impact on safety, and that use of rechargeable wireless temporary stop, turn, and tail lighting systems during temporary towing operations would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved by the current regulation (49 CFR 381.305(a)). The decision of the Agency must be published in the Federal Register (49 CFR 381.315(b)). If the Agency denies the request, it must state the reason for doing so. If the Agency is granting the exemption, the notice must specify the person or class of persons receiving the exemption and the regulatory provision or provisions from which an exemption is granted. The notice must specify the effective period of the exemption (up to 5 years) and explain the terms and conditions of the exemption.

The Agency reviews the safety analyses and the public comments and determines whether granting the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved by the current regulation (49 CFR 381.305(a)). The Agency may also provide an opportunity for public comment on the request.

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TowMate applied for an exemption from 49 CFR 393.23 to allow motor carriers to operate rechargeable wireless temporary stop, turn, and tail lighting systems during temporary towing operations. A copy of the application is included in the docket referenced at the beginning of this notice. Section 393.23, “Power Supply for Lamps,” provides that “All required lamps must be powered by the electrical system of the motor vehicle with the exception of battery powered lamps used on projecting loads.” The application stated: TowMate is making this request because the use of conventional hard wired temporary stop, turn, and tail lights has many drawbacks that wireless tow lights solve. These include broken connections, frayed wires, burnt out incandescent bulbs, and the potential to be snagged or pulled from the tow light receptacle due to improper running of wires, and road hazards, along with the safety hazard of increasing the amount of time spent on the roadside or the scene of an accident by stringing wired lighting systems between vehicles and securing the wires. With the advent of LED technology coupled with advancements in battery technologies, wireless tow lights are more reliable and better equipped for the rigors of daily temporary use.

Temporary wireless stop, turn, tail lighting systems can operate for 10+ hours of temporary use. TowMate’s current exemption, which includes rechargeable wireless temporary stop, turn, and tail lighting systems, has made it more reliable and reliable for motor carriers.

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