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Issued in Washington, DC on December 23, 2002.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator, for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 02–32942 Filed 12–27–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[Docket No. FRA–2002–11809]

Notice of Public Hearing; the North County Transit District

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration.

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: In notice document FRA–2002–11809, **Federal Register** Vol. 67, No. 235 on page 72718 in the issue of Friday, December 6, 2002, make the following correction:

The date previously published in the **Federal Register** for the North County Transit District (NCTD), public hearing in Oceanside, California is January 23, 2002. On page 72718, second column in the fourth paragraph, the date of the public hearing should read January 23, 2003.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 23, 2002.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Safety Advisory

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of safety advisory.

SUMMARY: FRA is issuing Safety Advisory 2002–03 addressing potential catastrophic failure of 100-ton truck bolsters manufactured by National Castings of Sahagun, Mexico, with Association of American Railroads' (AAR) Identification #B–2410 and National Pattern #52122 used in 286,000 pound gross rail load freight cars.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronald Newman, Motive Power and

Equipment Division Staff Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance RRS–14, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue NW., Mail Stop 25, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone 202–493–6241) or Thomas Herrmann, Office of Chief Counsel, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20590, (telephone (202) 493–6036).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Six recent derailments have been reported by the AAR which are attributed to the failure of truck bolsters manufactured by National Castings of Mexico with AAR ID #B–2410 and National Pattern #52122 used in 286,000 pound gross rail load freight cars. All of the failed bolsters were in Barber S–2–HD trucks on 286,000 pound gross rail load freight cars. Most of the bolsters had evidence of welded repair during their manufacture. Full details are not yet available on all of the failures; however, preliminary investigation indicates that one failure was caused by an inclusion and the others were surface initiated. The incident that is best documented indicates that the failure occurred inboard of the truck side frame between the side bearing cage mounting pad and the inside gibs, initiating from the underside of the bolster. This was a catastrophic failure resulting in a clean break between the pieces. The other known failures appear to be similar in nature.

Information gathered by AAR indicates that there were 29,673 suspect bolsters produced between January 1995 and May 1999. Most of these were shipped to car builders and have since been placed into revenue service. AAR has been actively engaged in producing a list showing where each of the bolsters were installed. Approximately 13,000–15,000 cars may ultimately be affected including double stack, hopper, and tank cars as well as other types of cars. AAR has issued a maintenance advisory (MA–81) and two early warning letters (EW–5191 and EW–5191–S1) which identify some of the series of cars which may be equipped with the involved bolsters. Currently, AAR has identified approximately 348 tank cars in its early warning letters which may be affected. AAR is continuing its efforts to identify any car potentially equipped with these bolsters.

AAR also issued a second supplement to the initial early warning letter (EW–5191–S2) that reports progress toward the identification of a cost-effective x-ray technique to allow safe bolsters to remain in service while insuring that any defective bolsters are removed from the freight car fleet. The supplement endorses segregation of those removed

bolsters which have no obvious defects pending possible issuance of instructions for requalification. The supplement further requests notification to eec@aar.com if a cracked or broken National Pattern #52122 bolster is found.

Action Recommended by FRA

- FRA recommends that all railroads and car repair shops diligently adhere to the instructions provided in AAR's maintenance advisory MA–81 and early warning letters EW–5191, EW–5191–S1, and EW–5191–S2. AAR has specifically identified the following cars in the above noted advisory and letters as being potentially equipped with the involved bolster:

Car numbers from MA–81	Tank car numbers from EW–5191 and EW– 5191–S1
AGPX 98000–98099	NATX 33500–33531
CSXT 487700– 487999.	NATX 33533–33535
MHFX 5600–5799 ..	NATX 33538
TFM 60000–60299	NATX 33544
TR 527800–528099	NATX 33549–33552
UP 28000–28639	NATX 33554–33557
WEPX 2375–2624 ..	NATX 33559–33560
WEPX 2875–3024 ..	NATX 33562
	ECUX 259000–259129
	ECUX 281000–381082
	ECUX 281084–281086
	ECUX 281088–281093
	ECUX 281095–281097
	ECUX 281100–281108
	UTLX 662506–662565
	UTLX 662795–662800

- FRA also recommends that the bolsters on the above identified cars be inspected as thoroughly as possible by visual or other means and/or removed from service as prescribed in AAR's maintenance advisory and early warning letters. Proper precautions must be taken to protect the safety of the employees making the inspections, including proper blue signal protection in accordance with existing Federal regulations contained at 49 CFR part 218.

- FRA further recommends that all railroads and car shops remain alert for the issuance of future AAR early warning letters and/or FRA Safety Advisories which may contain a listing of additional cars potentially equipped with the involved bolster and instructions for the handling of such cars.

FRA may modify Safety Advisory 2002–03, issue additional safety advisories, or take other appropriate action necessary to ensure the highest level of safety on the Nation's railroads.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 24, 2002.

George A. Gavalla,

Associate Administrator for Safety.

[FR Doc. 02-32940 Filed 12-26-02; 9:15 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)/Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG)

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Synopsis of December 9-11, 2002 meeting with VISA participants.

The VISA program requires that a notice of the time, place, and nature of each JPAG meeting be published in the **Federal Register**. The program also requires that a list of VISA participants be periodically published in the **Federal Register**. The full text of the VISA program, including these requirements, is published in 66 FR 10938-10947, dated February 20, 2001.

On December 9-11, 2002, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) co-hosted a meeting of the VISA JPAG at USTRANSCOM, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

In order to exercise procedures for an operational JPAG meeting, attendance was by invitation only, and attendees were requested to provide government-issued security clearances prior to attending the meeting.

Of the 52 U.S.-flag carrier corporate participants enrolled in the VISA program at the time of the meeting, 22 companies participated in the meeting. In addition, representatives from the Maritime Administration (MARAD), the Department of Defense, and maritime labor attended the meeting.

LtGen Gary Hughey, the USTRANSCOM Deputy Commander, opened the meeting with a welcome to all attendees. He was followed by James E. Caponiti, Associate Administrator for National Security, Maritime Administration, and Mr. Daniel F. McMillin, Deputy Director, Plans and Policy Directorate (TCJ5), USTRANSCOM, who provided participants with an overview of expected outcomes. The JPAG meeting included briefings on: (1) VISA activation and deactivation processes; (2) the DOD contingency contracting process; (3) force protection issues; (4) merchant mariner issues; and (5) ammunition shipments.

In addition to the briefings, there were two JPAG exercises. The first exercise

focused on the sealift contracting process. The second was a mariner exercise to address how to maximize mariner availability in the event of a contingency.

As of September 30, 2002, the following commercial U.S.-flag vessel operators were enrolled in the VISA program with MARAD: America Cargo Transport, Inc.; American Automar, Inc.; American International Car Carrier, Inc.; American President Lines, Ltd.; American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC; American Ship Management, L.L.C.; Bay Towing Corporation; Beyel Brothers Inc.; Central Gulf Lines, Inc.; Coastal Transportation, Inc.; Columbia Coastal Transport, LLC; Crowley Liner Services, Inc.; Crowley Marine Services, Inc.; CSX Lines, LLC; Delta Towing; E-Ships, Inc.; Farrell Lines Incorporated; First American Bulk Carrier Corp.; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-I, LLC; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-II, LLC; First Ocean Bulk Carrier-III, LLC; Foss Maritime Company; Liberty Shipping Group Limited Partnership; Lockwood Brothers, Inc.; Lykes Lines Limited, LLC; Lynden Incorporated; Maersk Line, Limited; Matson Navigation Company, Inc.; Maybank Navigation Company, LLC; McAllister Towing and Transportation Co., Inc.; Moby Marine Corporation; Odyssey Shipping Line LLC; OSG Car Carriers, Inc.; Patriot Shipping, L.L.C.; RR & VO L.L.C.; Resolve Towing & Salvage, Inc.; Samson Tug & Barge Company, Inc.; Sea Star Line, LLC; SeaTac Marine Services, LLC; Sealift Inc.; Signet Maritime Corporation; STEA Corporation; Superior Marine Services, Inc.; TECO Ocean Shipping; Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc.; Trailer Bridge, Inc.; TransAtlantic Lines LLC; Troika International, Ltd.; U.S. Ship Management, Inc.; Van Ommeren Shipping (USA) LLC; Waterman Steamship Corporation; and Weeks Marine, Inc.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Taylor E. Jones II, Director, Office of Sealift Support, (202) 366-2323.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-32828 Filed 12-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Petition for Exemption From the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; DaimlerChrysler

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Grant of petition for exemption.

SUMMARY: This document grants in full the petition of DaimlerChrysler Corporation, (DaimlerChrysler) for an exemption of a high-theft line, the Jeep Grand Cherokee, from the parts-marking requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard. This petition is granted because the agency has determined that the antitheft device to be placed on the line as standard equipment is likely to be as effective and reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft as compliance with the parts-marking requirements of the Theft Prevention Standard.

DATES: The exemption granted by this notice is effective beginning with model year (MY) 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rosalind Proctor, Office of Planning and Consumer Standards, NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington DC 20590. Ms. Proctor's phone number is (202) 366-0846. Her fax number is (202) 493-2290.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a petition dated September 27, 2002, DaimlerChrysler Corporation, (DaimlerChrysler), requested an exemption from the parts-marking requirements of the theft prevention standard (49 CFR Part 541) for the Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicle line, beginning with MY 2004. The petition requested an exemption from parts-marking requirements pursuant to 49 CFR 543, Exemption from Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard, based on the installation of an antitheft device as standard equipment for the entire vehicle line.

Section 33106(b)(2)(D) of Title 49, United States Code, authorized the Secretary of Transportation to grant an exemption from the parts-marking requirements for not more than on additional line of a manufacturer for MYs 1997-2000. However, it does not address the contingency of what to do after model year 2000 in the absence of a decision under Section 33103(d). 49 U.S.C. § 33103(d)(3) states that the number of lines for which the agency can grant an exemption is to be decided after the Attorney General completes a