

concluded that it was unable to identify a domestic source for track turnout components—*i.e.*, Schwihag roller assemblies, Schwihag plates, ZU1–60 steel switch point rail sections, and MPFs—that LIRR needs for VHL03 LIRR Stage 3 and VHL04 LIRR Stage 4 of the ESA Project.

In February 2014, LIRR issued a competitive solicitation seeking vendors to provide five (5) turnouts for VHL03 LIRR Stage 3 of the ESA Project. LIRR received only one response, and it was from VAE Nortrak North America Inc. (Nortrak), which certified that it was not compliant with the Buy America requirements. Based on LIRR's prior experience in procuring the same or similar turnouts, LIRR has found that Nortrak and Progress Rail Services Corporation (Progress) are the only two vendors that are technically capable of manufacturing turnouts with the roller assemblies, plates, ZU1–60 steel switch point rail sections, and MPFs that LIRR requires for the ESA Project. According to LIRR, Nortrak and Progress manufacture the turnouts domestically, but the turnout components that are the subject of this waiver are presently manufactured only non-domestically.<sup>1</sup> Progress did not submit a bid in response to the February 2014 solicitation related to VHL03 LIRR Stage 3 of the ESA Project.

Furthermore, in support of its requests, LIRR also conducted market research and manufacturer outreach. In conducting this research, LIRR utilized the National Railroad Passenger Corporation's (Amtrak) previous market research regarding potential domestic manufacturers of the four component types that are the subject of this notice. Amtrak conducted its market research at the request of FRA, and the research included outreach to manufacturers that were previously identified by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in a December 2012 Supplier Scouting Report.

Additionally, LIRR conducted its own independent outreach and contacted seven potential manufacturers: Unistrac Railroad Materials, Inc., Arcelor Mittal, J. Manufacturing Inc., Steel Dynamics, Inc., Metal Tech, Compucision, LLC, and IAT International Inc.<sup>2</sup> Three of the seven potential manufacturers failed to respond to repeated requests for

information. Four manufacturers responded, but LIRR concluded that the four manufacturers were not potential domestic sources for the components because the manufacturers each stated that either it did not currently manufacture the components or it did not appear economically feasible for the manufacturer to manufacture the components in the quantities needed by LIRR. One of the four responsive manufacturers, Compucision, LLC, expressed interest, but it had never manufactured the components previously and had little knowledge of the technical requirements. Based on these efforts, LIRR determined that there are no U.S. manufacturers that are willing and capable of producing the turnout components that are presently required for VHL03 LIRR Stage 3 and VHL04 LIRR Stage 4 of the ESA Project.

On December 19, 2014, FTA published a **Federal Register** notice requesting comment on LIRR's waiver request, pursuant to 49 CFR 661.7. 79 FR 75857 (Dec. 19, 2014). No comments were received to the docket.

Based upon LIRR's good faith efforts to identify potential domestic manufacturers for these track turnout components, LIRR's informed conclusion that there are presently no U.S. manufacturers that are willing and capable of producing the turnout components needed for VHL03 LIRR Stage 3 and VHL04 LIRR Stage 4 of the ESA Project, and the lack of responses to FTA's **Federal Register** Notice, FTA is issuing a non-availability waiver, pursuant to 49 CFR 661.7(c), for LIRR's procurement of the track turnout components—*i.e.*, Schwihag roller assemblies, Schwihag plates, ZU1–60 steel switch point rail sections, and MPFs—but in connection with only the nine (9) turnouts needed for VHL03 LIRR Stage 3 and the one (1) turnout needed for VHL04 LIRR Stage 4 of the East Side Access Project, as set forth above. Subsequent waiver requests for track turnout components will be subject to notice-and-comment publication requirements. This waiver does not apply to the turnouts themselves, and, accordingly, the turnouts must be manufactured in the United States pursuant to FTA's Buy America requirements. See 49 CFR part 661.

Furthermore, this Buy America waiver does not apply to the track turnout components for Phase I of LIRR's Jamaica Capacity Improvements Project, which will be addressed in a separate waiver decision by FTA. With respect to LIRR's Buy America waiver request from March 26, 2013 (and supplemented on September 19, 2014)

for track turnout components of one (1) #20 tangential geometry turnout for LIRR's State of Good Repair (SGR) Program, LIRR withdrew that waiver request on February 9, 2015 due to a potential domestically produced alternative turnout for its SGR program.

Furthermore, this Buy America waiver does not apply to the track turnout components for the Northeast Corridor Congestion Relief Project at Harold Interlocking, which is being addressed in a separate waiver decision published by FRA, as FRA funds are being used for that project.

**Dana Nifosi,**

*Acting Chief Counsel.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910–57–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. DOT–MARAD 2015 0020]

#### Request for Comments of a Previously Approved Information Collection

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below is being forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comments. A **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following information collection was published on November 26, 2014 (**Federal Register** 70610, Vol. 79, No. 228).

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before March 20, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Gearhart, 202–366–1867, Office of Shipyards and Marine Engineering, Maritime Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Shipbuilding Orderbook and Shipyard Employment.

*OMB Control Number:* 2133–0029.

*Type of Request:* Renewal of a Previously Approved Information Collection.

*Abstract:* MARAD collects this information from the shipbuilding and ship repair industry primarily to determine if an adequate mobilization base exists for national defense and for use in a national emergency.

<sup>1</sup> The roller assemblies and plates are manufactured in Switzerland; the ZU1–60 steel switch point rail sections are manufactured in Austria; and the MPFs are manufactured in Germany.

<sup>2</sup> FTA defers to LIRR's spelling and punctuation of the manufacturers' names as presented in LIRR's July 31, 2014, letter.

*Affected Public:* Owners of U.S. shipyards who agree to complete the requested information.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 200.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 800.

*Annual Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 400.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments regarding the burden estimate, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503. Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.93.

Dated: February 10, 2015.

**Christine Gurland,**

*Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2015-03372 Filed 2-17-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. DOT-MARAD-2015-0012]

#### Agency Requests for Renewal of a Previously Approved Information Collection(s): Requirements for Eligibility of U.S.-Flag Vessels of 100 Feet or Greater in Registered Length to Obtain a Fishery Endorsement

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Maritime Administration (MARAD) invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by April 20, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments [identified by Docket No. DOT-MARAD-2015-0012] through one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251
- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michael C. Pucci, (202) 366-5167, Division of Maritime Programs, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0530

*Title: Form Numbers:* Requirements for Eligibility of U.S.-Flag Vessels of 100 Feet or Greater in Registered Length to Obtain a Fishery Endorsement.

*Type of Review:* Renewal of an information collection.

*Background:* In accordance with the American Fisheries Act of 1998, owners of vessels of 100 feet or greater who wish to obtain a fishery endorsement to the vessels' documentation are required to file with the Maritime Administration (MARAD) an Affidavit of United States Citizenship. The information collection is necessary for MARAD to determine that a particular vessel is owned and controlled by United States citizens and is eligible to receive a fishery endorsement to its documentation.

*Respondents:* Vessel owners, charterers, mortgagees, mortgage trustees and managers of vessels of 100 feet or greater who seek a fishery endorsement for the vessel.

Number of Respondents: 500.

Frequency: Annually.

Number of Responses: 500.

Total Annual Burden: 2950.

*Public Comments Invited:* You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the Department's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for the Department to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.93.

Dated: February 3, 2015.

**Christine Gurland,**

*Acting Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2015-03380 Filed 2-17-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-81-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. DOT-MARAD-2015-0011]

#### Agency Requests for Renewal of a Previously Approved Information Collection(s): U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Candidate Application for Admission.

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments

**SUMMARY:** The Maritime Administration (MARAD) invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted by April 20, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments [identified by Docket No. DOT-MARAD-2015-0011] through one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251
- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Office of Admission, 516-726-5646, Maritime Administration, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Office of Admissions, 300 Steamboat Road, New York, NY 11024. Copies of this collection also can be obtained from that office.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Office of Admission, 516-726-5646, Maritime Administration, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Office of Admissions, 300 Steamboat Road, New York, NY 11024. Copies of this collection also can be obtained from that office.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0010.

*Title:* U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Candidate Application for Admission.

*Form Numbers:* KP 2-65.

*Type of Review:* Renewal of an information collection.

*Background:* The collection consists of Parts I, II, and III of Form KP 2-65