DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

49 CFR Parts 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, and 179

[Docket No. 181, Notice No. 87-4]

Performance-Oriented Packaging Standards; Miscellaneous Proposals; Postponement of Hearing Date and Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing and extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: RSPA is postponing the public hearing which was scheduled to be held on September 15 and 16, 1987 in Washington, DC and is extending the comment period for Docket HM-181, Notice No. 87-4, which was published in the **Federal Register** (52 FR 16482) on May 5, 1987. The hearing is rescheduled for November 17 and 18, 1987. The comment period is extended from November 2, 1987 until February 26, 1988. In order to have meaningful discourse at the hearing, it is necessary for RSPA to publish corrections and supplements to Notice No. 87-4 and to provide adequate time for interested persons to review the supplemental notice. RSPA is not able to publish the supplemental notice in sufficient time for review before the originally scheduled hearing dates. The hearing is being postponed and the comment period is being extended so that RSPA can publish a supplemental NPRM and to provide adequate time for review of the proposals contained therein.

DATES: *Comments:* Comments must be received on or before February 26, 1988.

Public hearing: A public hearing is scheduled to be held on November 17 and 18, 1987 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

ADDRESSES: *Comments:* Address comments to Dockets Branch, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590. Comments should identify the docket and be submitted, if possible, in 5 copies. Persons wishing to receive confirmation of receipt of their comments should include a self-addressed stamped postcard. The Dockets Branch is located in Room 8426 of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, 20590. Public dockets may be reviewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Public hearing: The public hearing will be held at the FAA Auditorium, Third floor, Federal Office Building 10A, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward T. Mazzullo or Helen L. Engrum, Standards Division, Office of Hazardous Materials Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh St. SW., Washington DC, 20590, telephone (202) 366-4545.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As indicated in the preamble to Notice No. 87-4, the proposals presented in that notice entail changes, both editorial and substantive, to substantial portions of the existing Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR, Subchapter C). Due to the size (255 pages in the **Federal Register**) and scope of the NPRM, it was inevitable that there would be a large number of errors and omissions and RSPA indicated its intent to issue a supplemental NPRM to address these errors and omissions if brought to RSPA's attention in a timely manner. RSPA had anticipated publishing the supplemental notice before the public hearing originally scheduled for September 15 and 16, 1987. Due to the volume of corrections brought to RSPA's attention by commenters and because of administrative delays, RSPA is unable to publish the supplemental NPRM prior to September 15, 1987. Therefore, the public hearing is being postponed until November 17 and 18, 1987. Efforts are being made, through this notice and through other means, to inform persons planning to attend the public hearing of the postponement. However, because of the late publication of this notice, RSPA is aware that some persons may not be informed of the postponement and may show up at the hearing room on the originally scheduled dates. RSPA intends to have personnel at the hearing room to answer questions concerning the docket.

Due to postponement of the public hearing until after the scheduled closing date for comments (November 2, 1987) and having received two petitions from commenters for extension of the comment period, RSPA is extending the comment period until February 26, 1987 to provide adequate time for public review of the proposals contained in the docket.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 4, 1987, under authority delegated in 49 CFR Part 106, Appendix A.

Alan I. Roberts,

Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Transportation.

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