

effective period of security zones that were set to expire May 31, 2003, for 4 months—from May 31, 2003, to September 30, 2003. This will allow the Coast Guard time to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the **Federal Register**, which will include a public comment period, and for a final rule to be put into effect without there being an interruption in the protection provided by HIV security zones.

#### Discussion of Rule

On December 31, 2002, we published the final rule [COTP San Francisco Bay 02–019] adding § 165.1183, “Security Zones; Cruise Ships and Tank Vessels, San Francisco Bay and Delta ports, California” in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 79854). That section set forth security zones for cruise ships and tank vessels. A forthcoming NPRM, under docket COTP San Francisco Bay 03–003 will propose to amend section 165.1183 to include HIVs as protected vessels in that section, along with cruise ships and tank vessels. The Coast Guard will utilize the extended effective period of the HIV security zones to engage in notice and comment rulemaking to develop permanent regulations tailored to the present and foreseeable security environment with the Captain of the Port (COTP) San Francisco Bay.

In this regulation, the Coast Guard is extending the effective period of the current security zones around all HIVs that are anchored, moored or underway within the San Francisco Bay and Delta ports. A security zone is automatically activated when any HIV passes shoreward of the line drawn between San Francisco Main Ship Channel buoys 7 and 8; LLNR 4190 & 4195, positions 37°46.9' N, 122°35.4' W & 37°46.5' N, 122°35.2' W, respectively and remains in effect while the vessel is underway, anchored or moored within the San Francisco Bay and Delta ports. When activated, this security zone will encompass all waters, extending from the surface to the sea floor, within 100 yards ahead, astern and extending 100 yards along either side of any HIV in the San Francisco Bay and Delta ports. This security zone is automatically deactivated when the HIV passes seaward of the line drawn between San Francisco Main Ship Channel buoys 7 and 8; LLNR 4190 & 4195, positions 37°46.9' N, 122°35.4' W & 37°46.5' N, 122°35.2' W, respectively on its departure from port. Vessels and people may be allowed to enter an established security zone on a case-by-case basis with authorization from the Captain of the Port.

Vessels or persons violating this section will be subject to the penalties

set forth in 33 U.S.C. 1232 and 50 U.S.C. 192. Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1232, any violation of the security zone described herein, is punishable by civil penalties (not to exceed \$27,500 per violation, where each day of a continuing violation is a separate violation), criminal penalties (imprisonment up to 6 years and a maximum fine of \$250,000), and in rem liability against the offending vessel. Any person who violates this section, using a dangerous weapon, or who engages in conduct that causes bodily injury or fear of imminent bodily injury to any officer authorized to enforce this regulation, also faces imprisonment up to 12 years. Vessels or persons violating this section are also subject to the penalties set forth in 50 U.S.C. 192: seizure and forfeiture of the vessel to the United States, a maximum criminal fine of \$10,000, and imprisonment up to 10 years, and a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for each day of a continuing violation.

The Captain of the Port will enforce these zones and may enlist the aid and cooperation of any Federal, State, county, municipal, and private agency to assist in the enforcement of the regulation. This regulation is proposed under the authority of 33 U.S.C. 1226 in addition to the authority contained in 50 U.S.C. 191 and 33 U.S.C. 1231.

#### Regulatory Evaluation

This rule is not a “significant regulatory action” under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, and does not require an assessment of potential costs and benefits under section 6(a)(3) of that Order. The Office of Management and Budget has not reviewed it under that Order. It is not “significant” under the regulatory policies and procedures of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Although this regulation restricts access to the zones, the effect of this regulation will not be significant because: (i) The zones will encompass only a small portion of the waterway; (ii) vessels will be able to pass safely around the zones; (iii) vessels may be allowed to enter these zones on a case-by-case basis with permission of the Captain of the Port, or his designated representative; and (iv) vessels are able to safely transit around the zones while a vessel is moored or at anchor in the San Francisco Bay and Delta ports.

The sizes of the zones are the minimum necessary to provide adequate protection for HIVs, their crews and passengers, other vessels operating in the vicinity of HIVs, their crews and passengers, adjoining areas, and the public. The entities most likely to be

affected are commercial vessels transiting the main ship channel en route the San Francisco Bay and Delta ports and pleasure craft engaged in recreational activities and sightseeing. The security zones will prohibit any commercial vessels from meeting or overtaking an HIV in the main ship channels, effectively prohibiting use of the channels. However, the moving security zones will only be effective during HIV transits, which will last for approximately 30 minutes.

#### Small Entities

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601–612), we have considered whether this rule would have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000.

The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The security zones will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities for several reasons: small vessel traffic can pass safely around the area and vessels engaged in recreational activities, sightseeing and commercial fishing have ample space outside of the security zones to engage in these activities. When a HIV is at anchor, vessel traffic will have ample room to maneuver around the security zones. Small entities and the maritime public will be advised of these security zones via public notice to mariners.

#### Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–121), we offer to assist small entities in understanding the rule so that they could better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process. If the rule will affect your small business, organization, or government jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** for assistance in understanding this rule.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman