

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY****Coast Guard****33 CFR Parts 101 and 102****[USCG–2003–14792]****RIN 1625–AA69****Implementation of National Maritime Security Initiatives****AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.**ACTION:** Temporary interim rule with request for comments and notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard has published a series of six interim rules in today's **Federal Register** to promulgate maritime security requirements mandated by the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002. The six interim rules consist of: Implementation of National Maritime Security Initiatives; Area Maritime Security; Vessel Security; Facility Security; Outer Continental Shelf Facility Security; and Automatic Identification System. In addition to the Automatic Identification System interim rule, we have issued a separate request for comments for further expanding the implementation of the Automatic Identification System. The series of interim rules addresses security assessments and plans, as well as other security standards, measures, and provisions that, with the exception of Automatic Identification System, will be codified in the new subchapter H of Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

This interim rule, the Implementation of National Maritime Security Initiatives, establishes the general regulations for subchapter H. It does so by providing a comprehensive discussion of industry-related maritime security requirements and a summary of the cost and benefit assessments of the entire suite of interim rules. The alignment of domestic maritime security requirements with the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code and recent amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea is also addressed here.

The discussions provided within each of the other five interim rules are limited to the specific requirements they contain.

**DATES:** Effective date. This interim rule is effective from July 1, 2003 until November 25, 2003. On July 1, 2003, the Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference

of certain publications listed in this rule.

*Comments.* Comments and related material must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before July 31, 2003. Comments on collection of information sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) must reach OMB on or before July 31, 2003.

*Meeting.* A public meeting will be held on July 23, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Washington, DC.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments. To ensure that your comments and related material are not entered more than once in the docket, please submit them by only one of the following means:

(1) Electronically to the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

(2) By mail to the Docket Management Facility (USCG–2003–14792) at the U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202–493–2251.

(4) By delivery to room PL–401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–366–9329.

You must also mail comments on collection of information to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attn: Desk Officer, U.S. Coast Guard.

*Meeting.* A public meeting will be held on July 23, 2003 in Washington, DC at the Grand Hyatt Washington, DC, 1000 H Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001.

*Availability.* You may inspect the material incorporated by reference at room 2110, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593–0001 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–267–0257. Copies of the material are available as indicated in the “Incorporation by Reference” section of this preamble.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** If you have questions on this rule, call Commander Suzanne Englebert (G–M–1), U.S. Coast Guard by telephone 202–267–1103, toll-free telephone 1–800–842–8740 ext. 7–1103, or by electronic mail [msregs@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:msregs@comdt.uscg.mil). If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Dorothy Beard, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202–366–5149.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Due to the short timeframe given to implement these National Maritime Transportation Security initiatives, as directed by the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) of 2002 (MTSA, Public Law 107–295, 116 Stat. 2064), and to ensure all comments are in the public venue for these important rulemakings, we are not accepting comments containing protected information for these interim rules. We request you submit comments, as explained in the Request for Comments section below, and discuss your concerns or support in a manner that is not security sensitive. We also request that you not submit proprietary information as part of your comment.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, will be available for inspection or copying at room PL–401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Electronic forms of all comments received into any of our dockets can be searched by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor unit, etc.) and is open to the public without restriction. You may also review the Department of Transportation's complete Privacy Act Statement published in the **Federal Register** on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477–78), or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov/>.

**Request for Comments**

We encourage you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting comments and related material. Your comments will be considered for the final rule we plan to issue before November 25, 2003, to replace this interim rule. If you choose to comment on this rule, please include your name and address, identify the specific docket number for this interim rule (USCG–2003–14792), indicate the specific heading of this document to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. If you have comments on another rule please submit those comments in a separate letter to the docket for that rulemaking.

You may submit your public comments and material electronically, by fax, by delivery, or by mail to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**. Please submit