

provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Los Angeles ACO. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Los Angeles ACO.

**Note 3:** Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Los Angeles ACO.

#### Special Flight Permits

(f) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with sections 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

#### Incorporation by Reference

(g) Unless otherwise specified in this AD, the actions shall be done in accordance with McDonnell Douglas DC-8 Service Bulletin 57-85, Revision 1, dated July 5, 1991. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Copies may be obtained from Boeing Commercial Aircraft Group, Long Beach Division, 3855 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, California 90846, Attention: Data and Service Management, Dept. C1-L5A (D800-0024). Copies may be inspected at the FAA, Transport Airplane Directorate, 1601 Lind Avenue, SW., Renton, Washington; or at the Los Angeles Aircraft Certification Office, 3960 Paramount Boulevard, Lakewood, California; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

#### Effective Date

(h) This amendment becomes effective on November 20, 2003.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on October 7, 2003.

**Ali Bahrami,**

*Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Coast Guard

#### 33 CFR Part 117

[CGD05-02-108]

RIN 1625-AA09

#### Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, South Branch of the Elizabeth River to the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, Chesapeake, VA

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, DHS.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Coast Guard is changing the regulations that govern the operation of the Jordan (S337) bridge, the Gilmerton (US 13/460) bridge, and the Dominion Boulevard (US 17) bridge that all span the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River, and the Centerville Turnpike (SR170) bridge across the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal. The changes are necessary in order to relieve increased vehicular traffic congestion during weekday rush hours and to reduce traffic delays while still providing for the reasonable needs of navigation. The change will extend the morning and evening rush hour closure periods between one hour and one-half hour for the Jordan, Gilmerton and Dominion bridges and add rush hour schedule openings for the Centerville Turnpike bridge.

**DATES:** This rule is effective November 17, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and material received from the public, as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket, are part of docket (CGD05-02-108) and are available for inspection or copying at the Commander (oan-b), Fifth Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 4th Floor, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23703-5004, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda Bonenberger, Bridge Management Specialist, Fifth Coast Guard District, at (757) 398-6227.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Regulatory History

On February 12, 2003, we published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, South Branch of the Elizabeth River to the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, Chesapeake, VA" in the *Federal Register* (68 FR 7087). We received 84 written comments and two petitions on the proposed rule. No public hearing was requested nor held.

##### Background and Purpose

The Virginia Cut of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AICW) extends approximately 28 statute miles from the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River to the North Landing River. General regulations governing the operation of bridges are set out in 33 CFR 117.1 through 117.49. Specific drawbridge regulations, which supplement the general regulations for certain AICW bridges, are set out in 33 CFR 117.997.

The City of Chesapeake (the City), through a Resolution submitted by the

Chesapeake City Council, requested changes to the existing regulations for the Jordan, Gilmerton, Dominion Boulevard and Centerville Turnpike bridges crossing the AICW, in order to balance the needs of mariners and motorists transiting in and around Chesapeake. Bridge openings at peak traffic hours during the weekdays cause considerable backups. The City is seeking to reduce the amount of vehicular traffic congestion during the weekday morning and evening rush hours. The City requested an additional change for the Dominion Boulevard bridge, from opening on signal to opening on the hour and half hour between peak traffic hours.

Recreational, public, and commercial vessels use the AICW. During the spring and fall months, the flow of recreational vessels is constant due to vessel owners that are referred to as "snowbirds". Owners of these recreational vessels are either transiting north to south towards a warmer climate in the fall or south to north towards a cooler climate in the spring and this can result in excessive bridge openings during the rush hour due to their numbers.

On February 12, 2003, a NPRM was published in the *Federal Register* (68 FR 7087) proposing changes to the Jordan, Gilmerton, and Dominion Boulevard bridges that all span the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River and the Centerville Turnpike bridges across the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal. As a result of this proposal, 84 comments and two petitions were received on the proposed changes. Based on all the information received, we have made no changes from the proposed schedules for the Jordan, Gilmerton and Centerville Turnpike Bridges. However, we have made changes to the final rule for the Dominion Boulevard Bridge.

#### Discussion of Comments and Changes

##### Jordan Bridge

The Coast Guard received 12 comments on the NPRM for the Jordan Bridge. Seven of the comments requested a change in the start of the morning rush hour closure period by a half-hour from 6:30 a.m. to 6 a.m. The Coast Guard reviewed the City's weekday road traffic counts that were conducted in 1996 and again in 2001. The rush hour traffic count for these years revealed that vehicular traffic starts around 6:30 a.m. during the weekday. The remaining five comments requested mid-point bridge openings for vessels at 7:30 a.m., during the morning closure period from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., and 4:30 p.m., during the evening