

asserting the claim against the third-party payer receive from the TRICARE contractor a report of all amounts expended by the United States for care resulting from the incident upon which potential liability in the third party is based (including amounts paid by TRICARE for both inpatient and outpatient care). Prior to assertion and final settlement of a claim, it will be necessary for the responsible claims authority to secure from the TRICARE contractor updated information to insure that all amounts expended under TRICARE are included in the government's claim. It is equally important that information on future medical payments be obtained through the investigative process and included as a part of the government's claim. No TRICARE-related claim will be settled, compromised or waived without full consideration being given to the possible future medical payment aspects of the individual case.

(j) *Reporting requirements.* Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1079a, all refunds and other amounts collected in the administration of TRICARE shall be credited to the appropriation available for that program for the fiscal year in which the refund or amount is collected. Therefore, the Department of Defense requires an annual report stating the number and dollar amount of claims asserted against, and the number and dollar amount of recoveries from third-party payers (including FMCRA recoveries) arising from the operation of the TRICARE. To facilitate the preparation of this report and to maintain program integrity, the following reporting requirements are established:

(1) *TRICARE contractors.* Each TRICARE contractor shall submit on or before January 31 of each year an annual report to the Director, TRICARE Management Activity, or a designee, covering the 12 months of the previous calendar year. This report shall contain, as a minimum, the number and total dollar of cases of potential third-party payer/FMCRA liability referred to uniformed services claims authorities for further investigation and collection. These figures are to be itemized by the states and uniformed services to which the cases are referred.

(2) *Uniformed Services.* Each uniformed service will submit to the Director, TRICARE Management Activity, or designee, an annual report covering the 12 calendar months of the previous year, setting forth, as a minimum, the number and total dollar amount of cases involving TRICARE payments received from TRICARE contractors, the number and dollar amount of cases involving TRICARE

payments received from other sources, and the number and dollar amount of claims actually asserted against, and the dollar amount of recoveries from, third-payment payers or under the FMCRA. The report, itemized by state and foreign claims jurisdictions, shall be provided no later than February 28 of each year.

(3) *Implementation of the reporting requirements.* The Director, TRICARE Management Activity, or a designee shall issue guidance for implementation of the reporting requirements prescribed by this section.

Dated: February 4, 2003.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD07-03-018]

Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Ashley River, Charleston, SC

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, has approved a temporary deviation from the regulations governing the operation of the Ashley River (US 17) drawbridges across the Ashley River, miles 2.4 and 2.5, Charleston, South Carolina. This temporary deviation allows the bridge owner or operator to keep all spans of the Ashley River drawbridges in the down or closed position for 16 days.

DATES: This temporary rule is effective from 7 a.m. on January 31, 2003 to 7 a.m. on February 15, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Material received from the public as well as documents indicated in this preamble as being available in the docket are part of docket [CGD07-03-018] and are available for inspection or copying at Commander (obr), Seventh Coast Guard District, Room 432, 909 S.E. 1st Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131-3050, between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Lieberum, Project Manager, Seventh Coast Guard District, Bridge Branch at (305) 415-6744.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Ashley River (US 17) drawbridges

across the Ashley River, miles 2.4 and 2.5 are double bascule leaf bridges, with vertical clearances of 14.0 feet at mean high water and horizontal clearances of 100 feet between fenders. The existing operating regulation in 33 CFR 117.915 requires the bridges to open on signal; except that, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Monday through Friday and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily, the draws need be opened only if at least 12 hours notice is given. The draws of either bridge shall open as soon as possible for the passage of vessels in an emergency involving danger to life or property.

On December 30, 2002, The Industrial Company (TLC), representing the South Carolina Department of Transportation, requested a temporary change to the operation of the Ashley River (US 17) drawbridges to allow them to complete the rehabilitation to the structure.

This deviation will have a limited impact on navigation as there is only one marina west of the structure and they have been notified by the contractor of the possible closure of the structure. Mariners have the opportunity to relocate the vessels that would require a bridge opening to one of the marinas located east of the structure.

The Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District has granted a temporary deviation from the operating requirements listed in 33 CFR 117.915 to allow The Industrial Company, representing the owner, to facilitate repairs to the bridge spans. Under this temporary deviation, the Ashley River drawbridges may remain closed to navigation from 7 a.m. on January 31, 2003, to 7 a.m. on February 15, 2003.

Dated: January 29, 2003.

Greg Shapley,

Chief, Bridge Administration, Seventh Coast Guard District.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 19

RIN 2900-AK62

Appeals Regulations: Title for Members of the Board of Veterans' Appeals

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Appeals Regulations to provide that a Member of the Board of Veterans'