

during a year at the same location or locations; other events may be held annually at the same location.

Should the Coast Guard issue multi-year permits for marine events held regularly by a sponsor over several years during the same time period at the same location?

Should the Coast Guard implement fast-track renewals of annual permits for marine events held regularly by a sponsor over several years during the same time period at the same location?

3. How Early Should a Permit Application be Submitted to the Coast Guard Before the Start of a Marine Event?

Under 33 CFR 100.15(c), an application must be submitted no less than 30 days prior to the start of the proposed event. The Coast Guard is currently analyzing its business processes to determine whether and how much additional time before an event date is needed in order to complete processing applications for regattas and marine parades.

The Coast Guard is also considering whether to maintain one minimum time period for submitting all permit applications before the start of an event or establish two minimum time periods, a short time for most permit applications and a longer time for the small number of permit applications that require more time to process. Establishing two minimum time periods could strike a balance between the difficulty many sponsors face to submit detailed permit applications far in advance of a proposed event and the Coast Guard's need for some additional time to conduct necessary navigation safety reviews, to contact appropriate Federal, State and local agencies, to prepare appropriate environmental documents, and to promulgate required special local regulations. Permit applications for most marine events could be submitted a short time (e.g., 30, 45 or 60 days) before a proposed event and allow sufficient time for the Coast Guard to complete processing the permit application. However, permit applications for other marine events that require additional consultation, notification, or documentation should be submitted much earlier before the event (e.g., 60, 90, 105, 120 or more days) or the sponsor may have to cancel the event or postpone it until the Coast Guard completes its required procedures. Submitting permit applications earlier for events for which the Coast Guard must prepare an environmental assessment or promulgate special local regulations should allow sufficient time for the

Coast Guard to complete consulting with environmental agencies and to provide notice and public comment on proposed safety regulations, without unreasonably burdening sponsoring organizations.

Should the Coast Guard retain a single minimum permit application submission time for all marine events?

Should the Coast Guard establish minimum permit application submission times for two or more categories of marine events?

What minimum permit application submission time(s) should the Coast Guard establish for what category(ies) of marine events?

4. What Information Should a Sponsor Provide in a Marine Event Permit Application?

Under 33 CFR 100.15(d), a permit application shall include the following details:

- (1) Name and address of sponsoring organization.
- (2) Name, address, and telephone of person or persons in charge of the event.
- (3) Nature and purpose of the event.
- (4) Information as to general public interest.
- (5) Estimated number and types of watercraft participating in the event.
- (6) Estimated number and types of spectator watercraft.
- (7) Number of boats being furnished by sponsoring organizations to patrol event.
- (8) A time schedule and description of events.
- (9) A section of a chart or scale drawing showing the boundaries of the event, various water courses or areas to be utilized by participants, officials, and spectator craft.

Section 100.15(d), last revised in 1963, does not address collection of any information related to potential adverse impacts that the event may have on the environment in the event area, or mitigation measures for those impacts. In an effort to avoid delaying scheduled marine events due to permit application processing, while still complying with its responsibilities under laws for protection of the environment, the Coast Guard has been accepting information voluntarily provided by event sponsors that address potential impacts the event may have on the environment, any Federal, State or local environmental agencies to sponsor may have contacted and any comments they may have had regarding the event, and other related environmental information.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Coast Guard has previously submitted the existing requirements to the Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) for review under section 3504(h) of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), and OMB approved them. The part number is part 100 and the corresponding OMB approval number is OMB Control Number 2115-0017. Any new information requirements proposed in a rulemaking project developed as a result of comments to this notice will also be submitted to OMB for review and approval.

What information currently required should not be required?

What information related to potential environmental impacts or mitigation of adverse impacts should be required?

What information should be initially submitted to allow the Coast Guard to begin processing the application?

What information should the sponsor be allowed to submit later in the process, but before a permit is issued?

5. What Economic Impacts May Result From Requiring Earlier Permit Application Submission Times or Additional Permit Application Information?

Currently, Coast Guard permit issuing officials rely on statements of coordination made by the sponsor, and when time permits provide notice to affected navigation interests by announcements in a Local Notice to Mariners and direct mailing or telephone contracts, and by publishing needed special local regulations in the Federal Register.

What economic impacts may occur due to longer processing time for the Coast Guard to hold public hearings on safety of life in the event area, provide notice to and receive input from affected navigation, and to consult with appropriate Federal, State and local government environmental agencies on potential adverse impacts the event may have on the environment?

What economic impacts are currently incurred in applying for a Coast Guard marine event permit?

6. Other Factor or Information

Is there any other information you feel may be helpful to assist the Coast Guard in processing permit applications for event sponsors in a timely manner while allowing adequate public notice to navigation and environmental interests, including holding public hearings for certain events; consulting with other Federal, State and local agencies; promulgating special local regulations to ensure vessel safety immediately before, during and after an event; and preparing needed environmental documentation, prior to the date of the event?