

**FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
(FMC)****Statement of Regulatory and
Deregulatory Priorities**

The Federal Maritime Commission's (Commission) regulatory objectives are guided by the Agency's vision statement. The Commission's vision is to administer the shipping statutes as effectively as possible to provide fairness and efficiency in the United States foreign maritime commerce. The Commission's regulations are designed to implement each of the statutes the Agency administers in a manner consistent with this vision in a way that minimizes regulatory costs, fosters economic efficiencies, and promotes international harmony.

The Commission is in the process of a comprehensive review of Commission regulations to ensure alignment with emerging industry trends and business practices, particularly as they relate to ocean transportation intermediaries and vessel-operating common carriers. As a result, the Commission has initiated a rulemaking to reduce the time available for ocean transportation intermediary

applicants to file the requisite proof of financial responsibility for licensing.

The Commission continues to implement technological advancements to minimize regulatory costs and improve economic efficiencies in the ocean transportation intermediary licensing program. Toward this objective, the Commission has initiated a rulemaking to provide an optional method for filing an ocean transportation intermediary license application, Form FMC-18, through an automated filing system. The Commission anticipates that this system will be implemented in phases from late FY 2007 through early FY 2010 and plans future system enhancements such as e-bonds, e-payments and e-signatures.

The Commission also oversees the financial responsibility of passenger vessel operators to indemnify passengers and other persons in cases of death or injury and to indemnify passengers for nonperformance of voyages. The Commission is presently evaluating the passenger vessel operator program, particularly with regard to

passenger vessel financial responsibility requirements.

The principal objective or priority of the Agency's current regulatory plan will be to continue to assess major existing regulations for continuing need, burden on the regulated industry, and clarity. The Commission also receives requests from the public seeking new regulations or modifications of existing regulations. If circumstances so warrant, the Commission on its own initiative, or upon request, will institute an appropriate rulemaking proceeding.

The Commission's review of existing regulations exemplifies its objective to regulate fairly and effectively while imposing a minimum burden on the regulated entities, following the principles stated by the President in Executive Order 12866.

**Description of the Most Significant
Regulatory Actions**

The Commission currently has no actions under consideration that constitute "significant regulatory actions" under the definition in Executive Order 12866.

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