

National Transportation Safety Board

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(c) A party who, at the time of the prehearing conference, fails to advise the chairman of the board of inquiry of additional exhibits he intends to submit, or additional witnesses he desires to examine, shall be precluded from introducing such evidence unless the chairman of the board of inquiry determines for good cause shown that such evidence should be admitted.

(d) *Expedited hearings.* When time permits, the chairman of the board of inquiry may hold a prehearing conference. In the event that an expedited hearing is held, the requirements in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section concerning the identification of witnesses, exhibits or other evidence may be waived by the chairman of the board of inquiry.

§ 845.24 Right of representation.

Any person who appears to testify at a public hearing shall be accorded the right to be accompanied, represented, or advised by counsel or by any other duly qualified representative.

§ 845.25 Examination of witnesses.

(a) Witnesses shall be initially examined by the board of inquiry or its technical panel. Following such examination, parties to the hearing shall be given the opportunity to examine such witnesses.

(b) Materiality, relevancy, and competency of witness testimony, exhibits, or physical evidence shall not be the subject of objections in the legal sense by a party to the hearing or any other person. Such matters shall be controlled by rulings of the chairman of the board of inquiry on his own motion. If the examination of a witness by a party is interrupted by a ruling of the chairman of the board of inquiry, opportunity shall be given to show materiality, relevancy, or competency of the testimony or evidence sought to be elicited from the witness.

§ 845.26 Evidence.

The chairman of the board of inquiry shall receive all testimony and evidence which may be of aid in determining the cause of accident. He may exclude any testimony or exhibits which are not pertinent to the investigation or are merely cumulative.

§ 845.27 Proposed findings.

Any party may submit proposed findings to be drawn from the testimony and exhibits, a proposed probable cause, and proposed safety recommendations designed to prevent future accidents. The proposals shall be submitted within the time specified by the presiding officer at the close of the hearing, and shall be made a part of the public docket. Parties to the hearing shall serve copies of their proposals on all other parties to the hearing.

[48 FR 52740, Nov. 22, 1983]

§ 845.28 Stenographic transcript.

A verbatim report of the hearing shall be taken. Copies of the transcript may be obtained by any interested person from the Board or from the court reporting firm preparing the transcript upon payment of the fees fixed therefor. (See part 801, Appendix—Fee Schedule.)

§ 845.29 Payment of witnesses.

Any witness subpoenaed to attend the hearing under this part shall be paid such fees for his travel and attendance as shall be certified by the hearing officer.

Subpart C—Board Reports

§ 845.40 Accident report.

(a) The Board will issue a detailed narrative accident report in connection with the investigation into those accidents which the Board determines to warrant such a report. The report will set forth the facts, conditions and circumstances relating to the accident and the probable cause thereof, along with any appropriate recommendations formulated on the basis of the investigation.

(b) The probable cause and facts, conditions, and circumstances of all other accidents will be reported in a manner and form prescribed by the Board.

§ 845.41 Petitions for reconsideration or modification.

(a) Petitions for reconsideration or modification of the Board's findings and determination of probable cause filed by a party to an investigation or hearing or other person having a direct

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interest in the accident investigation will be entertained only if based on the discovery of new evidence or on a showing that the Board's findings are erroneous. The petitions shall be in writing. Petitions which are repetitious of proposed findings submitted pursuant to §845.27, or of positions previously advanced, and petitions filed by a party to the hearing who failed to submit proposed findings pursuant to §845.27 will not be entertained. Petitions based on the discovery of new matter shall: identify the new matter; contain affidavits of prospective witnesses, authenticated documents, or both, or an explanation of why such substantiation is unavailable; and state why the new matter was not available prior to Board's adoption of its findings. Petitions based on a claim of erroneous findings shall set forth in detail the grounds relied upon.

(b) When a petition for reconsideration or modification is filed with the Board, copies of the petition and any supporting documentation shall be served on all other parties to the investigation or hearing and proof of service shall be attached to the petition. The other parties may file comments no later than 90 days after service of the petition.

(c) Oral presentation before the Board normally will not form a part of proceedings under this part. However, the Board may permit oral presentation where a party or interested person makes an affirmative showing that the written petition for reconsideration or modification is an insufficient means to present the party's or person's position to the Board. Where oral presentation is allowed, the Board will specify the issues to be addressed and all parties to the investigation or hearing will be given notice and the opportunity to participate.

[48 FR 52740, Nov. 22, 1983]

Subpart D—Public Record

§ 845.50 Public docket.

(a) The public docket shall include all factual information concerning the accident. Proposed findings submitted pursuant to §831.12 or §845.27 and petitions for reconsideration and modifica-

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tion submitted pursuant to §845.41, comments thereon by other parties, and the Board's rulings, shall also be placed in the public docket.

(b) The docket shall be established as soon as practicable following the accident, and material shall be added thereto as it becomes available. Where a hearing is held, the exhibits will be introduced into the record at the hearing.

(c) A copy of the docket shall be made available to any person for review at the Washington office of the Board. Copies of the material in the docket may be obtained, upon payment of the cost of reproduction, from the Public Inquiries Section, Bureau of Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, Washington, DC 20594.

[44 FR 34419, June 14, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 52740, Nov. 22, 1983]

§ 845.51 Investigation to remain open.

Accident investigations are never officially closed but are kept open for the submission of new and pertinent evidence by any interested person. If the Board finds that such evidence is relevant and probative, it shall be made a part of the docket and, where appropriate, parties will be given an opportunity to examine such evidence and to comment thereon.

PART 850—COAST GUARD—NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATIONS

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- 850.1 Purpose.
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- 850.5 Definitions.
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AUTHORITY: Sec. 304(a)(1)(E), Independent Safety Board Act of 1974, Pub. L. 93-633, 88 Stat. 2168 (49 U.S.C. 1903).