

the long-term goal is to meet customer data requirements through improved data collection, production and access. This information-gathering is the beginning of that process, and provides an opportunity for public input into the redesign of the program. This is consistent with the principles of the National Performance Review to provide better delivery of Federal services.

#### Meeting Registration Process

Users of U.S. maritime data as well as any other interested persons are encouraged to participate in this information-gathering initiative. A questionnaire has been developed for pre-registration of attendees, to facilitate preparation for the meeting, and to afford an opportunity for input to persons unable to attend. This questionnaire may be obtained on the Internet at

<http://www.wrsc.usace.army.mil/ndc> or <http://marad.dot.gov/statistics> or from: Ms. Sandy Schafer, Waterborne

Commerce Statistics Center, 504-862-1404, 504-862-1423 (fax) e-mail; [sandra.a.schafer@usace.army.mil](mailto:sandra.a.schafer@usace.army.mil), PO Box 61280, New Orleans, LA 70123-1289.

Persons completing the questionnaire are urged to mail, or fax it to Ms. Sandy Schafer by February 18, 1999, so that all data requirements can be adequately addressed at the meeting. The completed questionnaire will also serve as your pre-registration for the meeting, if you so indicate on the questionnaire. If you plan to attend the meeting, but are not completing a questionnaire, please notify Ms. Sandy Schafer by mail, e-mail, or fax. This will assist us in estimating attendance, and organizing meeting space.

#### Format of the Meeting

The meeting will be structured through the use of a facilitator to

provide each participant with an overview of the existing program and production process, the results of the questionnaire, clarification of any of the data elements involved, and a thorough discussion of the issues.

It is an opportunity for private sector data users to describe their data needs and to share any views and insights as to how the U.S. Foreign Waterborne Transportation Statistics Program might be improved. Discussion should be extremely focused, in terms of specific data elements required, why it is needed and how it is used.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: January 13, 1999.

**Joel C. Richard,**

Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Financial Management Service

#### Application and Renewal Fees Imposed on Surety Companies and Reinsuring Companies; Increase in Fees Imposed

**AGENCY:** Financial Management Service, Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Application and renewal fees imposed on surety companies and reinsuring companies; Increase in fees imposed.

**SUMMARY:** Effective December 31, 1998, The Department of the Treasury, Financial Management Service, is increasing the fees it imposes on and collects from surety companies and reinsuring companies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Surety Bond Branch, (202) 874-6765.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The fees imposed and collected, as referred to in 31 CFR 223.22, cover the costs incurred by the Government for services performed relative to qualifying corporate sureties to write Federal business. These fees are determined in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-25, as amended. The increase in fees is the result of a thorough analysis of costs associated with the Surety Bond Branch.

The new fee rate schedule is as follows:

(1) Examination of a company's application for a Certificate of Authority as an acceptable surety or as an acceptable reinsuring company on Federal bonds—\$4,300.

(2) Determination of a company's continued qualification for annual renewal of its Certificate of Authority—\$2,525.

(3) Examination of a company's application for recognition as an Admitted Reinsurer (except on excess risks running to the United States)—\$1,525.

(4) Determination of a company's continued qualification for annual renewal of its authority as an Admitted Reinsurer—\$1,075.

Questions concerning this notice should be directed to the Surety Bond Branch, Financial Accounting and Services Division, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, Hyattsville, MD 20782, Telephone (202) 874-6850.

Dated: January 8, 1999.

**Mitchell A. Levine,**

Assistant Commissioner, Financial Operations, Financial Management Service.

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