

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION

TITLE 13, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, DIVISION 2
AMEND CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE 2.7, SECTION 1159

ROUTES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS (CHP-R-2023-06201)

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) proposes to amend Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) regarding the designated routes for the transportation of highway route controlled quantity (HRCQ) shipments of radioactive materials (RAM).

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code (CVC), Division 14.5, Section 33000, the CHP shall adopt regulations specifying the routes to be used in the through transportation of HRCQ RAM. The proposed changes are developed to enhance public health and safety by adding 103.0 miles of State Route (SR)-58 between Interstate (I)-15 and SR-223, and 30.1 miles of SR-223 between SR-58 and I-5 into the designated routes to be specified in Title 13, CCR, Section 1159, providing a more direct access between Barstow and Lost Hills for commercial vehicles transporting HRCQ RAM. The proposed additional routes will present a better network of designated routes and reduce the potential risks associated with transporting HRCQ RAM.

During the process of developing these regulation amendments, the CHP has conducted a search of any similar regulations on this topic and has concluded that these regulations are neither inconsistent, nor incompatible, with existing state regulations. For the proposed regulation amendments, the CHP consulted with and received concurrence from the State Fire Marshall, California Department of Public Health, California Department of Transportation, San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, Kern County Fire Department, Barstow Fire Protection District, Bakersfield Fire Department, Southern California Association of Governments, California licensed HRCQ RAM manufacturers and carriers, and CHP's Inland Division, Southern Division, and Central Division. After the proposed regulations are adopted, they will be provided to the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, to update the National Hazardous Materials Route Registry. No opposition is anticipated.

The proposed changes implement existing statute by updating the safe routes designated for carriers transporting HRCQ RAM. Consistent with the legislative intent and the purpose of existing regulations, the proposed regulatory action will continue to provide a nonmonetary benefit by protecting the health, safety, and welfare of California's residents, workers, and environment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any interested person may submit written comments on the proposed action via facsimile at (916) 322-3154, by electronic mail to cvsregulations@chp.ca.gov, or by writing to:

California Highway Patrol
Commercial Vehicle Section
Attention: Officer Jesus Lopez
P.O. Box 942898
Sacramento, CA 94298-0001

Written comments must be received by August 14, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearing has been scheduled. If any person desires a public hearing, a written request must be received by the CHP, Commercial Vehicle Section (CVS), no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period.

AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

The CHP has available for public review an initial statement of reasons for the proposed regulatory action, the information upon which this action is based, and the proposed regulation text in strikeout and underline format. Requests to review or receive copies of this information should be directed to the CHP either at the above address, by facsimile at (916) 322-3154, or by calling the CHP, CVS, at (916) 843-3400. All requests for information should include the following: the title of the rulemaking package, the requester's name, proper mailing address (including city, state, and zip code), and a daytime telephone number in case the information is incomplete or illegible.

The rulemaking file is available for inspection. Interested parties are advised to call CHP, CVS, for an appointment.

All documents regarding the proposed action are available through the CHP's website at <https://www.chp.ca.gov/News-Alerts/Regulatory-Actions>. Any person desiring to obtain a copy of the adopted text and a final statement of reasons may request them at the above-noted address. Copies will also be posted on the CHP website.

CONTACT PERSON

Any inquiries concerning the written materials pertaining to the proposed regulations or the substance of the proposed regulations should be directed to Officer Jesus Lopez or Sergeant Adam Roha, at (916) 843-3400.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

After consideration of public comments, the CHP may adopt the proposal substantially as set forth without further notice. If the proposal is modified prior to adoption and the change is not solely grammatical or substantive in nature, the full text of the resulting regulation, with the changes clearly indicated, will be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption.

FISCAL EFFECT AND RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The CHP has made an initial determination that this proposed regulatory action: (1) will have no effect on housing costs; (2) will not impose any new mandate upon local agencies or school districts; (3) will involve no nondiscretionary cost or savings to any local agency, no cost to any local agency or school district for which Government Code (GC) Sections 17500–17630 require reimbursement, no cost or savings to any state agency, nor costs or savings in federal funding to the state; (4) will neither create nor eliminate jobs in the State of California, nor result in the elimination of existing businesses, or create or expand businesses in the State of California; and (5) will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

Benefits of the Proposed Action: The proposed regulation updating designated routes for carriers transporting HRCQ RAM will continue to provide benefits, including the nonmonetary benefit of protecting the public's health and improving safety for residents, workers, and the environment by providing a regulatory basis for enforcement efforts as they relate to safety compliance ratings.

The regulated community is encouraged to respond during the comment period of this regulatory process if significant impacts are identified.

COST IMPACTS ON REPRESENTATIVE PRIVATE PERSONS OR BUSINESSES

The CHP is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

The CHP has determined that the proposed regulatory action will not affect small businesses. The action is intended to update the designated routes for commercial vehicles transporting HRCQ RAM on the highways. As a result, no small business will be affected by the update.

ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Section 11346.5(a)(13) GC, the CHP must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the CHP, or otherwise identified and brought to the attention of the CHP, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law. The CHP invites interested parties to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulations during the written comment period.

AUTHORITY

This regulatory action is being taken pursuant to Section 33000 CVC.

REFERENCE

This action implements, interprets, or makes specific Section 33000 CVC.