

gallon of gasoline and were recommended by the CNG industry to promote broader acceptance and use of CNG as a vehicle fuel base on value. The "Gasoline Liter/Gallon Equivalents" were intended to provide a means for consumers to make accurate value comparisons between gasoline and CNG and to facilitate fuel economy comparisons. In a number of instances since the adoption of these "equivalents," some state weights and measures officials and several CNG providers have expressed the concern that the energy equivalent values adopted in 1994 do not provide an accurate estimate of the true energy content of natural gas. Another concern with the 1994 "equivalents" is that the equivalents have not been reevaluated to ensure that they accurately correlate with the energy content of today's gasoline and gasoline-oxygenate blends or other alternative fuels such as E85. Consequently, many weights and measures officials are reluctant to consider adding other energy "equivalency" values for additional fuels unless some mechanism is established to ensure that all of these energy equivalency values are routinely updated to reflect the current energy content (i.e., Joules/BTUs) of gasoline and diesel fuels and various blends of these products with alternative fuels. The need for such a mechanism is important considering the many blends of fuels that are currently in the marketplace and others that are anticipated to enter the fuel arena in the future (e.g., 15% or higher ethanol blends with gasoline and biodiesel blends greater than 5%). These new proposals would establish a "diesel liter equivalent (DLE)" and a "diesel gallon equivalent (DGE)" and specify equivalent mass values for these units when they are used in retail vehicle refueling applications. The proponents of these proposals indicate that the purpose of these units is to educate consumers that a DLE or DGE of "compressed" or "liquefied" natural gas contains approximately the same amount of energy they would receive if they purchased a liter or gallon of diesel fuel. Most sellers of these products believe that adoption and use of the DLE or DGE in retail fuel sales would make it easier for consumers to make price, value, and fuel economy comparisons between an energy "equivalent" liter or gallon of compressed natural gas and everyday diesel fuel. See also Items 337-2, 337-3, 337-4, and 337-5 on the Specifications and Tolerances Committee Agenda and Items 232-2 and 232-3 in the Laws and Regulations

Committee Agenda regarding proposed methods of sale for the DLE and DGE.

NCWM Laws and Regulations Committee (L & R Committee)

The following items are proposals to amend NIST Handbook 130 or NIST Handbook 133:

NIST Handbook 130—Uniform Regulation for the Method of Sale of Commodities

Item 231-2: Section 10.3. Aerosols and Similar Pressurized Containers.

This item includes a proposal to establish a method of sale for pressurized containers that utilize Bag-on-Valve (BOV) technology that have their net content declarations in terms of fluid volume. Unlike most aerosol containers, packages fitted with BOV technology do not expel a propellant with the product when the valve is activated. Currently, under the Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation (UPLR) adopted by many states, products sold in aerosol or similar pressurized containers must be offered for sale by weight. BOV packaging, which has been in the marketplace for many years, is used to sell the same products sold in aerosol containers (e.g., sunscreen, wound wash, shaving cream, and car-care products). Because BOV containers (with their net contents declared in fluid volume) are used to sell the same type of products dispensed from aerosol containers (with their net contents declared by weight), consumers are unable to make value comparisons between similar products. The L&R Committee is aware that most countries in the European Union require aerosol and pressurized containers to display net contents in terms of fluid volume, but other countries permit these types of containers to display net contents declarations in terms of both net weight and volume.

Dated: December 19, 2013.

Willie E. May,

Associate Director for Laboratory Programs.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Open Meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces that the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Advisory Board will hold an open meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

DATES: The meeting will be held Tuesday, January 28, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Hilton Charlotte University Place, 8629 J M Keynes Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28262.

Please note admittance instructions under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Lellock, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 4800, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-4800, telephone number (301) 975-4269, email: Karen.Lellock@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MEP Advisory Board (Board) is authorized under Section 3003(d) of the America COMPETES Act (Pub. L. 110-69); codified at 15 U.S.C. 278k(e), as amended, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. The Board is composed of 10 members, appointed by the Director of NIST. MEP is a unique program consisting of centers across the United States and Puerto Rico with partnerships at the state, federal, and local levels. The Board provides a forum for input and guidance from Hollings MEP program stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of tools and services focused on supporting and growing the U.S. manufacturing industry, provides advice on MEP programs, plans, and policies, assesses the soundness of MEP plans and strategies, and assesses current performance against MEP program plans.

Background information on the Board is available at <http://www.nist.gov/mep/advisory-board.cfm>.

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App., notice is hereby given that the MEP Advisory Board will hold an open meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. This meeting will focus on (1) MEP administrative updates, and (2) Board input into the NIST MEP strategic planning process. The agenda may change to accommodate other Board business. The final agenda will be posted on the MEP Advisory Board Web site at <http://www.nist.gov/mep/>

advisory-board.cfm. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the MEP Update meeting that will be held January 29–30, 2014 also at the Hilton Charlotte University Place, 8629 J M Keynes Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina 28262.

Admittance Instructions: Anyone wishing to attend this meeting should submit their name, email address and phone number to Karen Lellock (Karen.lellock@nist.gov or 301–975–4269) no later than Tuesday, January 21, 2014, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments and suggestions related to the MEP Advisory Board's business are invited to request a place on the agenda. Approximately 15 minutes will be reserved for public comments at the beginning of the meeting. Speaking times will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of time per speaker will be determined by the number of requests received but is likely to be no more than three to five minutes each. The exact time for public comments will be included in the final agenda that will be posted on the MEP Advisory Board Web site at <http://www.nist.gov/mep/advisory-board.cfm>. Questions from the public will not be considered during this period. Speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who had wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda, and those who were unable to attend in person are invited to submit written statements to the MEP Advisory Board, National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 4800, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899–4800, or via fax at (301) 963–6556, or electronically by email to karen.lellock@nist.gov.

Dated: December 20, 2013.

Phillip Singerman,

Associate Director for Innovation & Industry Services.

[FR Doc. 2013–31099 Filed 12–26–13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XC969

Draft Guidance for Assessing the Effects of Anthropogenic Sound on Marine Mammals—Acoustic Threshold Levels for Onset of Permanent and Temporary Threshold Shifts

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on behalf of NMFS and the National Ocean Service (referred collectively here as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)), announces the availability of draft guidance for assessing the effects of anthropogenic sound on marine mammal species under NOAA's jurisdiction. The guidance provides updated received levels, or thresholds, above which individual marine mammals are predicted to experience changes in their hearing sensitivity (either temporary or permanent) for all underwater anthropogenic sound sources. NOAA solicits public comment on the draft guidance.

DATES: Comments must be received by January 27, 2014.

ADDRESSES: The draft guidance is available in electronic form via the Internet at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/acoustics/>.

You may submit comments, identified by [NOAA–NMFS–2013–0177], by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Mail: Send comments to: Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3226, Attn: Acoustic Guidance.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

NMFS will hold a public meeting and webinar to inform interested parties and solicit comments on the draft guidance document. The meeting will be held on January 14, 2014, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) at the NOAA Silver Spring Metro Center Complex, NOAA Science Center, 1301 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Amy Scholik-Schlomer, (301) 427–8449 (voice), (301) 713–0376 (fax), or Amy.Scholik@noaa.gov at least five days before the scheduled meeting date. Information on how to register for the online webinar will be posted on via the Internet at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/acoustics/> after January 1, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Amy Scholik-Schlomer, Office of Protected Resources, 301–427–8449, Amy.Scholik@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Ocean Service (referred collectively here as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)), have developed draft guidance for assessing the effects of anthropogenic sound on marine mammal species under NOAA's jurisdiction. Specifically, the guidance identifies the received levels, or thresholds, above which individual marine mammals are predicted to experience changes in their hearing sensitivity (either temporary or permanent) for all underwater anthropogenic sound sources. This is the first time NOAA has presented this information in a single, comprehensive document. This guidance is intended to be used by NOAA analysts and managers and other relevant user groups and stakeholders, including other federal agencies, when seeking to determine whether and how their activities are expected to result in particular types of impacts to marine mammals via acoustic exposure. This document outlines NOAA's updated acoustic threshold levels and describes in detail how the thresholds were developed and how they will be updated in the future.

NOAA has compiled, interpreted, and synthesized the best available science to produce updated acoustic threshold levels for the onset of both temporary