



AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS

2200 Mill Road ★ Alexandria, VA ★ 22314-4677

53579



Driving Trucking's **Success**

Kenneth E. Siegel
Deputy General Counsel
Law Department

April 2, 1999

FHWA - 98 - 3656 - 16

Mr. Kenneth R. Wykle
Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Room 4218 - HOA1
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20590

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET SECTION
99 APR - 8 AM 11:30

Re: General Requirements Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance; Intermodal Container Chassis and Trailers; FHWA Docket No. FHWA-98-3656

Dear Administrator Wykle:

The American Trucking Associations, Inc. and the Intermodal Conference ("Petitioners") request an extension of the comment period in the above-captioned proceeding until August 2, 1999. Petitioners are the joint petitioners in the above-captioned proceeding filed with the Federal Highway Administration on March 17, 1997. FHWA has published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 64 FR 7849 (February 17, 1999) posing several questions to the public. Among those questions is a request for information concerning the frequency of out-of-service orders for intermodal equipment. Petitioners have been trying to develop current and accurate information responsive to these inquiries. During this effort petitioners have become aware that much of this information is in the hands of FHWA, although perhaps not in the form requested in the ANPRM. Petitioners have submitted a request for such data to the Office of Motor Carriers and have been informed that it will take from 6 to 8 weeks to gather the data. Petitioners agree with FHWA that this data, if available, would be important in developing effective and reasonable regulations. Petitioners therefore request that the comment date in the proceeding be extended to August 2, 1999 so that OMC may gather the information and that petitioners and others may have an opportunity to analyze and discuss it.

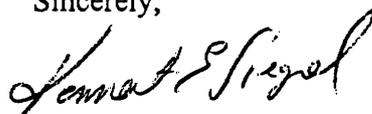
Once the data is available petitioners would like the opportunity to analyze the data, supplement it to the best of their ability and to enter into discussions with other interested parties in private industry for the purpose of developing a consensus position.

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The information being sought **from** OMC is based on a list of 100 motor carriers that operate exclusively in the **intermodal** area. Because of the nature of their businesses and the diversity of their geographic locations, petitioners are hopeful that the information will develop a **valid** sampling responsive to **FHWA's** inquiry. Petitioners also urge FHWA to consider doing its own study aimed at equipment either in or exiting various intermodal facilities. Such a study, done at several cites at various ports and rail terminal areas would provide a **conclusive** answer to the questions asked and suggest the most effective means of rectifying the problem. **ATA** and the Inter-modal Conference would welcome the opportunity t.o work with FHWA in developing these studies as we are sure would the various ports, railroads, steamship lines, pier operators and other intermodal equipment providers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth E. Siegel".

Kenneth E. Siegel
Vice President and Deputy General Counsel

cc: Charles **Medalen**, Office of the Chief Counsel, HCS- 10