

(8) failing to include details, such as the manner in which the guarantor will perform and the identity of the guarantor, for all guarantors or warranties offered for dog and cat food; and

(9) misrepresenting the price at which any dog or cat food may be purchased.

II. Regulatory Review Program

The Commission has determined to review all current Commission rules and guides periodically. These reviews seek information about the costs and benefits of the Commission's rules and guides and their regulatory and economic impact. The information obtained assists the Commission in identifying rules and guides that warrant modification or rescission. Therefore, the Commission solicits comment on, among other things, the economic impact of and the continuing need for the Dog and Cat Food Guides; possible conflict between the Guides and state, local, or federal laws; and the effect on the Guides of any technologies, economic, or other industry changes.

III. Request for Comment

The Commission solicits written public comment on the following questions:

(1) Is there a continuing need for the Dog and Cat Food Guides?

(a) What benefits have the Guides provided to purchasers of the dog or cat food products covered by the Guides?

(b) Have the Guides imposed costs on purchasers?

(2) What changes, if any, should be made to the Guides to increase the benefits of the Guides to purchasers? How would these changes effect the costs the Guides impose on firms that conform to the Guides? How would these changes affect the benefits to purchasers?

(3) What significant burdens or costs, including costs of compliance, have the Guides imposed on firms that conform to the Guides? Have the Guides provided benefits to such firms? If so, what benefits?

(4) What changes, if any, should be made to the Guides to reduce the burdens or costs imposed on firms that conform to the Guides? How would these changes affect the benefits provided by the Guides?

(5) Do the Guides overlap or conflict with other federal, state, or local laws or regulations?

(6) Since the Guides were issued, what effects, if any, have changes in relevant technology or economic conditions had on the Guides? For example, do sellers use E-mail or the Internet to promote or sell dog or cat good products covered by the Guides? If

so, in what manner? Does use of this new technology affect consumers' rights of sellers' responsibilities under the Guides?

(7) Are there private industry standards addressing the practices covered by the Guides?

(8) Are there any abuses occurring in the promotion, sale, or distribution of dog or cat food products covered by the Guides that are not dealt with in the Guides? If so, what mechanisms should be explored to address such abuses (e.g., consumer education, industry self-regulation, revisions to the Guides)?

List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 241

Advertising, Animal food, Foods, Labeling, Pets, Trade practices.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 41-58.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-6597 Filed 3-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

16 CFR Part 256

Request for Comment Concerning the Guides for the Law Book Industry

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Request for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission") requests public comment on the overall costs and benefits and the continuing need for its Guides for the Law Book Industry ("Law Book Guides" or "Guides"), as part of the Commission's systematic review of all current Commission regulations and guides.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until May 17, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Mailed comments should be directed to: Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Room H-159, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20580. Mailed comments should be identified as "Law Book Guides, 16 CFR Part 256—Comment." E-mail comments will be accepted at [lawbooks@ftc.gov]. Those who comment by e-mail should give a mailing address to which an acknowledgment can be sent.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edwin Rodriquez, Attorney, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580, telephone number (202) 326-3147.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Commission promulgated the Law Book Guides under section 5 of the

Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. 45, on August 8, 1975, 40 FR 33436, and they became effective eight months thereafter.¹ The Guides contain seventeen sections, or guides, that provide guidance regarding the sale of legal reference materials to the law profession and law schools. The seventeen cover practices ranging from the marketing of legal reference materials to consumers, to the supplementation of these materials and billing practices employed by sellers.

Guides 1 through 9 pertain to solicitations for the sale of legal reference materials, particularly direct-mail promotional materials or oral representations. Guide 1 advises that sellers should make disclosures property identifying the product being sole (e.g., title, publisher, editor, copyright, price, type of binding, whether product is part of set or series). Guide 2 recommends disclosures regarding the supplementation of products offered for sale, including the kind of supplementation currently being supplied, its frequency, cost, credits or discounts for supplements in connection with the original purchase, and information pertaining to the continuation or abandonment of supplementation. Guide 3 advises sellers to disclose the general scope of a work. For publications that are not supplemented, Guide 4 advises that sellers should inform prospective purchasers if a work offered for sale will be replaced or substantially revised within a year of the sale (and the approximate date of replacement or revision), and that sellers should offer refunds or credits to buyers who have been so informed. Guide 5 advises sellers against misrepresenting that the product is new, current, or up-to-date. Guide 6 advises that direct-mail promotional materials or oral representations soliciting the sale of specific texts or treaties should clearly and conspicuously disclose the names of authors or editors who contributed substantial parts to a work when a title contains the name of a person who did not author or edit, or who only partially authored or edited, the work. It also advises sellers to disclose the sources of the work's contents, whether a work is a compilation, other titles under which the work has been published, and information identifying the previous

¹ Section 5 of the FTC Act declares methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices to be unlawful. Corrections of the Guides were published on August 19, 1975, 40 FR 36116.

version of a revision or new edition of a work. Guide 7 advises that solicitation for the sale of works not yet published should not represent that the publication has been published and should disclose that the publication is planned or contemplated and that inquiries or orders are being solicited to determine demand for the publication. Guide 8 advises against misrepresenting the jurisdictional scope of works offered for sale. Guide 9 pertains to disclosures in catalog listings describing law publications.

Guides 10–13 address practice that take place after the purchase of legal reference materials. Guide 10 pertains to subscription renewals. It advises that subscription renewal notices should not be sent to anyone who is not a current subscriber of the work, and that notices should indicate renewal numbers (i.e., first or second renewal). Guides 11 through 13 related to disclosures that should be made on publications themselves. Guide 11 advises sellers to disclose specific information identifying the publication (e.g., titles and subtitles of books and series, the edition number, original title of revised publication, authors, editors, publisher). Guide 12 warns against the use of misleading jurisdictional designations on publications. Guide 13 specifies certain disclosures that should be made on supplements (e.g., title of publication or set to which the supplement belongs, the names or authors, editors, or compilers of the publication and the supplements, and the date covered by the supplement, or the month and year of issuance of each replacement sheet).

Guide 14 pertains to upkeep services and is designed to furnish the seller and buyer with a clear understanding of what upkeep services are being ordered. Many upkeep services provides for automatic shipment of supplementation materials. The Guide advises that sellers should clearly and conspicuously disclose the provisions of such automatic upkeep services before any agreement for the purchase of legal materials is entered, that they should provide upkeep services that include only materials that are absolutely essential to make a set or series functional, and that they should not require the purchase of other, non-basic upkeep services.

Guide 15 concerns the billing process and includes recommendations regarding account management and information that should appear on invoices and billing statements. Guide 16 states that sellers should not add to a publication materials that are not substantially germane to its subject matter. Finally, Guide 17 advises

generally against misleading or deceptive representations regarding a publication or supplementation or any service offered in connection therewith.

II. Regulatory Review Program

The Commission has determined to review all current Commission rules and guides periodically. These reviews seek information about the cost and benefits of the Commission's rules and guides and their regulatory and economic impact. The information obtained assists the Commission in identifying rules and guides that warrant modification or rescission. Therefore, the Commission solicits comments on, among other things, the economic impact of and the continuing need for the Law Book Guides; possible conflict between the Guides and state, local, or other federal laws; and the effect on the Guides of any technological, economic, or other industry changes.

III. Request for Comment

The Commission solicits written public comment on the following questions:

(1) Is there a continuing need for the Law Book Guides?

(a) What benefits have the Guides provided to purchasers of the legal reference materials affected by the Guides?

(b) Have the Guides imposed costs on purchasers?

(2) What changes, if any, should be made to the Guides to increase the benefits of the Guides to purchasers? How would these changes affect the costs the Guides impose on firms who conform to the Guides? How would these changes affect the benefits to purchasers?

(3) What significant burdens or costs, including costs of compliance, have the Guides imposed on firms who conform to the Guides? Have the Guides provided benefits to such firms? If so, what benefits?

(4) What changes, if any, should be made to the Guides to reduce the burdens or costs imposed on firms who conform to the Guides? How would these changes affect the benefits provided by the Guides?

(5) Do the Guides overlap or conflict with other federal, state, or local laws or regulations?

(6) Since the Guides were issued, what effects, if any, have changes in relevant technology or economic conditions had on the Guides? For example, do sellers use E-mail or the Internet to promote or sell legal reference materials covered by the Guide? If so, in what manner? Does use

of this new technology affect consumers' rights or sellers' responsibilities under the Guides?

(7) Are there private industry standards addressing the practices covered by the Guides?

(8) Are there any abuses occurring in the promotion, sale, or distribution of legal reference materials covered by the Guides that are not dealt with in the Guides? If so, what mechanisms should be explored to address such abuses (e.g., consumer education, industry self-regulation, revisions to the Guides)?

List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 256

Advertising, Law, Trade practices.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 41–58.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99–6596 Filed 3–17–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

19 CFR Part 4

RIN 1515–AC35

Vessel Equipment Temporarily Landed for Repair

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This document proposes to amend the Customs Regulations to provide for the temporary landing in the United States of vessel equipment in need of repair, without requiring entry of that equipment under a Temporary Importation Bond (TIB). It is proposed that such equipment be permitted to be landed for repair and relading aboard the same vessel, subject to Customs issuance of a special permit or license for the landed equipment, under an International Carrier Bond. Uncertainty exists whether the relading of repaired equipment on vessels departing the United States would satisfy the TIB requirement that such merchandise be exported. The proposed amendments will eliminate this uncertainty while still allowing Customs adequate control over such unladings and ladings.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 17, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be addressed to and inspected at the Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., 3rd Floor, Washington, D.C. 20229.