the 10,000 vehicle limitation for eligibility, hardship, good faith efforts, etc. We note, for example, that we have in the past cited the possible situation of large manufacturers potentially avoiding the statutory 10,000 vehicle limit by engaging in joint ventures with small companies and having the small company submit the petition.[6]

Wheego uses the chassis of the ShuangHuan Noble for its vehicle. However, we have no knowledge of the modifications Wheego makes to the vehicles other than to install an electric powertrain in the vehicle. We have little knowledge of whether Wheego makes changes to the design of the ShuangHuan Noble to bring it into compliance with U.S. standards or whether ShuangHuan is making the modifications. Wheego states that it has spent the majority of its time and resources developing the LiFe's safety features, including the seat belt requirements. However, Wheego also states that the standard air bags have been developed by ShuangHuan.

We have found articles on Wheego's Web site stating that Wheego and ShuangHuan are entering into a "partnership" to produce electric vehicles. Wheego's Web site also states that ShuangHuan would manufacture an electric vehicle similar to the LiFe, called the E-Noble, to sell outside of the United States.[7] Also, the Web site of ShuangHuan includes, at the top right of its home page (English language),[8] a box titled "Electric Noble in USA" with a picture of the vehicle. Clicking on the box brings up the Wheego Web site. This linkage suggests that the E-Noble and LiFe are very similar vehicles.

Due to the nature of the LiFe and the relationship between ShuangHuan and Wheego, NHTSA will closely examine whether Wheego is eligible for a financial hardship exemption for this vehicle. NHTSA specifically requests comments on this issue.

Upon receiving a petition, NHTSA conducts an initial review of the petition with respect to whether the petition is complete and whether the petitioner appears to be eligible to apply for the requested petition. The agency has tentatively concluded that the petition is complete. The agency has not made any judgment on the eligibility of the petitioner or the merits of the application, and is placing a non-confidential copy of the petition in the docket.

We are providing a 30-day comment period. After considering public comments and other available information, we will publish a notice of final action on the application in the **Federal Register**.

Issued on: August 17, 2010.

Joseph S. Carra,

Acting Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 2010–20805 Filed 8–20–10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

[6] *See* grant of petition to Tesla Motors, Inc., 73 FR 4944, 4948 (Jan. 28, 2008).

[7] *See* Wheego and ShuangHuan Automobile Announce Electric Car Partnership, available at *http://wheego.net/more/2008/11/19/rtev-and-shuanghuan-automobile-announce-electric-car-partnership-2/* (last accessed July 27, 2010); Wheego Electric Cars and Shuanghuan Automobile Form EV Partnership, *available at http://wheego.net/more/2008/11/20/rtev-and-shuanghuan-automobile-form-ev-partnership/* (last accessed July 27, 2010); Wheego, Shuanghuan Auto Plan 2-Seater Electric Car for '09, *available at http://wheego.net/more/2008/11/20/rtev-shuanghuan-auto-plan-2-seater-electric-car-for-%E2%80%9809/* (last accessed July 27, 2010). A copy of these articles has been included in the docket.

[8] *See http://www.hbshauto.com/en/* (last accessed July 28, 2010).

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2010–0074]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Invitation for public comments on a requested administrative waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws for the vessel TARA VANA.

SUMMARY: As authorized by 46 U.S.C. 12121, the Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirement of the coastwise laws under certain circumstances. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below. The complete application is given in DOT docket MARAD–2010–0074 at *http://www.regulations.gov.* Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388 (68 FR 23084; April 30, 2003), that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the docket number of this notice and the vessel name in order for MARAD to properly consider the comments. Comments should also state the commenter's interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in § 388.4 of MARAD's regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 22, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to docket number MARAD–2010–0074. Written comments may be submitted by hand or by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590. You may also send comments electronically via the Internet at *http://www.regulations.govhttp://smses.dot.gov/submit/.* All comments will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection and copying at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. An electronic version of this document and all documents entered into this docket is available on the World Wide Web at *http://www.regulations.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joann Spittle, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room W21–203, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202–366–5979.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel TARA VANA is:

Intended Commercial Use of Vessel: "Carrying passengers for pleasure cruising, sailing."

Geographic Region: "California."

Privacy Act

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, *etc.*). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477–78).

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: August 13, 2010.

Christine Gurland,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2010–20760 Filed 8–20–10; 8:45 am]

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