

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration**

49 CFR Parts 387, 390, 391, 392, 395, 396, and 397

[FHWA Docket No. MC-97-3]

RIN 2125-AD72

Review of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; Regulatory Removals and Substantive Amendments

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The FHWA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the **Federal Register** on January 27, 1997 (62 FR 3855), in which the agency requested comments on its intent to remove, amend, and redesignate certain regulations in parts 387, 390, 391, 392, 395, 396, and 397 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). The comment period for the NPRM was scheduled to close on March 28, 1997. In response to a request for an extension of the comment period, the FHWA is extending the comment period until May 12, 1997.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than May 12, 1997.

ADDRESSES: All signed, written comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter C. Chandler, Office of Motor Carrier Research and Standards, (202) 366-5763, or Mr. Charles E. Medalen, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1354, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The first FMCSRs were promulgated in 1937. The FMCSRs have been amended many times during the past 60 years. In September 1992, the FHWA

began a comprehensive multi-year project to develop modern, uniform safety regulations that are up to date, clear, concise, easier to understand, and more performance oriented. This project has been named the Zero Base Regulatory Review.

Consistent with the Zero Base project and the President's Regulatory Reinvention Initiative, the FHWA published an NPRM in the **Federal Register** on January 27, 1997 (62 FR 3855), in which the agency requested comments on its intent to remove, amend, and redesignate certain regulations concerning financial responsibility; general applicability and definitions; accident recordkeeping requirements; qualifications of drivers; driving of commercial motor vehicles; hours of service of drivers; inspection, repair, and maintenance; and the transportation of hazardous materials. These regulations were identified as being obsolete, redundant, unnecessary, ineffective, burdensome, more appropriately regulated by State and local authorities, better addressed by company policy, in need of clarification, or more appropriately contained in another section.

The National Tank Truck Carriers, Inc. (NTTC) requested the FHWA to extend the comment period of the NPRM by 30 days. The NTTC explained that it will be holding an annual meeting in early April and a review of the NPRM is planned at the meeting. The timing of the meeting would make the NTTC unable to submit substantive comments to the docket on behalf of its membership by the March 28, 1997, deadline.

The FHWA has decided to grant a 45 day extension of the comment period. Because of the importance of the rulemaking, and the volume and complexity of issues raised in it, the FHWA believes that the public interest would be served by permitting the NTTC, regulated entities and their representative associations and organizations, interested parties, and the public an additional 45 days in which to submit comments. Any additional time beyond 45 days, however, would unnecessarily delay the issuance of the final rule. Accordingly, the FHWA is extending the comment period for this docket until Monday, May 12, 1997.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 504, 5112, 5125, 31132, 31133, 31136, 31138, 31139, 31502, and 31504; sec. 345, Pub.L. 104-59, 109 Stat. 568, 613; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: March 19, 1997.

Jane Garvey,

Acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17**

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Status Reviews for the Alexander Archipelago Wolf and Queen Charlotte Goshawk

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of status reviews; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides notice that the comment period on the rangewide status reviews for the Queen Charlotte goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*) and the Alexander Archipelago wolf (*Canis lupus ligoni*) is reopened. The Service solicits any information, data, comments, and suggestions from the public, other government agencies, the scientific community, industry, or other interested parties concerning the status of these species. The notice of the status reviews was published on December 5, 1996 (61 FR 64496), and extension of the comment period was published December 3, 1996 (61 FR 69065). On February 14, 1997 (62 FR 6930), the public comment period was reopened until March 5, 1997.

DATES: The comment period, previously scheduled to close March 5, 1997 (62 FR 6930), is reopened and will now close on April 4, 1997. Any comments received by the closing date will be considered in the findings on the species' status under the Endangered Species Act.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials should be sent to Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 3000 Vintage Blvd., Suite 201, Juneau, Alaska 99801-7100.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Teresa Woods, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Service has prepared draft status reviews for the Queen Charlotte goshawk and the Alexander Archipelago wolf. The information in the reviews will be used in the Service's evaluation