SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation is directing all interested persons to show cause why it should not issue an order finding that Farwest Airlines, LLC, is fit, willing, and able to provide scheduled passenger operations as a commuter air carrier.

Responses: All interested persons wishing to respond to the Department of Transportation's tentative fitness determination should file their responses with the Department of Transportation Dockets, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room PL–401, Washington, DC 20590, and serve them on all persons listed in Attachment A to the order. Responses shall be filed no later than August 2, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Galvin Coımbre, Air Carrier Fitness Division (X–56, Room 6401), U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366–5347.

Dated: July 19, 2000.

A. Bradley Mims,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. 00–18777 Filed 7–24–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–08–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Electronic Drug Testing Information Roundtable

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) are holding a public meeting on August 4, 2000, to foster further discussion of the application of electronic transmission, storage, and signature of material concerned with the DOT and HHS drug testing programs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron Matzner, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, New Executive Office Building, 750 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20503; 202–395–4856; Rmatzner@omb.eop.gov : Don Shatinsky, Drug and Alcohol Policy Advisor, Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance, DOT, 400 7th Street, SW., Room 10403, Washington, DC, 20590; 202–366–3784; don.shatinsky@ost.dot.gov : or Dr. Walter Vogl, Drug Testing Section, Division of Workplace Programs, HHS, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockwall 2 Building, Room 815, Rockville, MD 20857; 301–443–6014; *wvogl@samhsa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 15, 2000, the OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) held a public meeting, attended by Federal agency and laboratory representatives and other interested persons, to discuss how best to apply electronic technology to the information collection, transmission, and storage of data connected with Federally-mandated drug testing programs. The meeting was titled ''The Paperless Laboratory,'' though the subject matter was not limited to laboratory matters, as such. OMB, DOT, and HHS are very interested in moving forward in this area, and for this purpose we are convening a second public meeting.

The meeting will take place in the Truman Room of the White House Conference Center on August 4, 2000, from 9 a.m. to approximately 5 p.m. The White House Conference Center is located at 726 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC 20503. Lunch will be on your own.

The following is the tentative agenda for this meeting:

I. Overview and summary of the June 15 meeting
II. Objectives of the August 4 meeting
III. Procedure
  a. Scope
  b. Discussion of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and its application to this subject matter
  c. Discussion of organization of working groups
  d. Development of work plan and time line
IV. Legal issues (presentation by Department of Justice)
  a. Current status and future of laws related to electronic records
  b. Transmission of electronic records
  c. Admissibility in court
  d. Use in forensic programs
V. Policy issues
  a. What process changes should be made?
  b. What information should be collected?
  c. Who should collect the information (*e.g.,* should employer/collector initiate an electronic custody and control form?)
  d. To whom and in what form should reports be made?
VI. Technical issues
  a. Interoperable interfaces
  b. Portal technology
  c. Standards
VII. Security technical issues: encryption, PKI, firewalls, biometrics, token technologies, etc.
VIII. Next steps

One of the ideas the Federal agencies involved are considering is forming a formal advisory committee, under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (see item III(b) in agenda). This committee would consist of representatives of interested parties who would meet periodically with the Federal agencies concerned with drug testing and attempt to formulate consensus recommendations on electronic technology as it relates to the DOT and HHS drug testing procedures. One of the purposes of the meeting is to determine the interest of non-government parties in participating in such a committee.

The primary focus of this initiative has been drug testing. However, DOT also has a parallel alcohol testing program. Many of the issues we are discussing also have relevance to the alcohol testing program. DOT is interested in using this meeting as a forum to discuss electronic alcohol testing information matters as well.

If you are interested in attending, please fax or e-mail the following information to Lisa Jones, OIRA, at 202–395–7245 or Ljones@omb.eop.gov by August 1, 2000. If you have any questions concerning registration for the meeting, you may call 202–395–5898.

Full Name, Title, Organization, Telephone and fax numbers, E-mail address, Special needs.

Issued this 21st day of July, 2000, at Washington, DC.

Mary Bernstein,

Director, Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 00–18905 Filed 7–24–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–62–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice permits employers regulated by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to begin using a new Federal Drug Testing Custody and Control Form (CCF) as of August 1, 2000, provided they follow the procedures specified in this notice. Employers may also continue to use the current seven-part CCF. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has revised the current CCF which has a July 31, 2000, expiration date. The Office of Management and Budget has approved the use of the new Federal CCF until July 31, 2003. Federal agencies are permitted to begin using the new Federal CCF on August 1, 2000, for their workplace drug testing programs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Don Shatinsky, Drug and Alcohol Policy Advisor, Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance, Office of the Secretary, DOT, 400 7th Street, SW., Room 10403, Washington, DC 20590, telephone number (202) 366–3784.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

All urine specimens collected under the DOT drug and alcohol testing rule (49 CFR Part 40) must be collected using chain of custody procedures to document the integrity and security of the specimen from the time of collection until receipt by the laboratory. To ensure uniformity of procedures among all Federal agencies and DOT regulated employers, the use of the Federal CCF is required. Based on the experiences of using the current Federal CCF for the past several years, DOT and HHS initiated a joint effort to develop a new Federal CCF that was easier to use and more accurately reflected both the collection process and how results were reported by the drug testing laboratories. This effort included scheduling two public meetings attended by over 35 industry representatives who recommended most of the changes to the current Federal CCF. As a result of these meetings, HHS published a proposed revised Federal CCF in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 61916) on November 15, 1999. Comments from the public were incorporated in a revised final form which was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 39155) on June 23, 2000, with an effective date of August 1, 2000.

Major changes included eliminating two copies of the form so that the new Federal CCF now has five instead of seven copies. The new form moves the specimen bottle seals from the right side of the form to the bottom, simplifies the chain of custody step by requiring the collector to sign the form only once, provides a wider choice of terms that a laboratory can use to report results, allows the use of Copy 1 to report results of the split specimen testing, and places the Medical Review Officer (MRO) steps for both the primary and split specimens on the MRO copy of the form.

To avoid inconsistencies with procedures established by HHS for the new CCF, the Department will parallel HHS guidance for the use of the new form. Issues dealing with transmission of alcohol information (DOT Breath Alcohol Testing Form) will be addressed in the final DOT drug and alcohol rule.

Implementation Guidance

DOT-regulated employers may start to use the new Federal CCF starting August 1, 2000. There are changes associated with the use of the new CCF (*e.g.*, Step 2, check box for Split, Single, or None Provided; check box for Observed) that must be followed even though they are not currently procedures required in 49 CFR Part 40. DOT-regulated employers who chose to use the new CCF must ensure that the form is filled out completely. However, the procedures used in the urine specimen collection process, other than the use of the form, must still conform to the current requirements as directed in 49 CFR Part 40. HHS published on their web site (www.health.org/workpl.htm) a new Urine Specimen Collection Handbook for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs and a new Medical Review Officer Manual for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs for use with the new CCF. This guidance and the MRO manual are only for Federal agency testing programs, not for DOT-regulated transportation industry programs.

The following are differences between the new HHS guidance and Part 40. DOT-regulated parties must continue to use the Part 40 requirements except where otherwise noted:

(1) The new HHS guidance directs the donor to empty his/her pockets. Current DOT guidelines permit the collector to make this request only if there is reason to believe that the donor has something in his/her pockets that may be used to adulterate a specimen (*e.g.*, a bulging pocket).

(2) The new HHS guidance tells the collector to initiate an immediate direct observation collection when a donor's conduct clearly indicates an attempt to substitute or adulterate a specimen. DOT rules require, in advance, the review and concurrence of a collection site supervisor or designated employer representative that the condition for a direct observation collection exists.

(3) The new HHS guidance tells the collector to immediately begin a direct observation collection if the temperature is outside the acceptable range. DOT rules direct the collector to first offer to take the donor's body temperature. Direct observation collection is triggered only if the donor declines to provide a measurement of his/her body temperature or the temperature varies by more than 1.8° F from the temperature of the specimen.

(4) The new HHS guidance permits Federal employees subject to drug testing to waive the split specimen requirement in a shy bladder situation. Under DOT rules, those individuals who are required to provide split specimens under modal administration rules, may not waive this requirement, but must provide a split specimen.

(5) The new HHS guidance permits the collector to initiate a Arefusal to test@ procedure if the donor refuses to drink fluids as directed. Under current DOT rules, this is not considered a refusal.

(6) Unlike the procedures in the new HHS guidance, DOT required collections conducted under direct observation are limited to current Part 40 requirements and to the September 28, 1998 MRO Guidance for Interpreting Specimen Validity Test Results memorandum signed by Mary Bernstein, Director, Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance.

(7) The new five-part CCF does not contain a shipping container seal, as does the current seven-part form. Collection sites may use separate collection container seals with the new CCF or may use the current process described in 49 CFR Part 40.25(h), which states, in part, ''* * * (shipping) containers shall be securely sealed to eliminate the possibility of undetected tampering with the specimen and/or the form. On the tape sealing the shipping container, the collection site person shall sign and enter the date specimens were sealed in the shipping container for shipment.'' Collection sites may utilize any appropriate adhesive material or packing tape provided the collection site person's signature and date may be affixed to the material used. Users of current seven-part CCF should continue to use the shipping container seals provided with these forms.

Under the new HHS guidance, the laboratory may transmit all results (negative and non-negative) to the MRO by either faxing the completed Copy 1 of the CCF or transmitting a scanned image of the form via computer. Each method must be designed to ensure the confidentiality of the information, the security of the data transmission, and limit access to any data transmission, storage, and retrieval system. A laboratory may also continue to use the current method of sending a hard copy of the form. For all non-negative results, the laboratory must also send to the MRO a hard copy of the original Copy 1 of the CCF. Regulated parties in the DOT program may begin to follow this practice, though they are not required to do so. This practice is consistent with the Department's proposal in the Part 40 notice of proposed rulemaking, which most commenters favored.

The Department will permit employers and laboratories to also use

the same process of transmitting the current seven-part CCF from the laboratory to the MRO:

(1) A laboratory may send negative results by electronic (*e.g.*, facsimile, imaging) transmission of Copy 1 of the seven part CCF to the MRO. For negative results, a hard copy (Copy 2) does not have to be sent to the MRO.

(2) A laboratory may send non-negative results by electronic (*e.g.*, facsimile, imaging) transmission of Copy 1 or Copy 2 of the seven part CCF to the MRO. A hard copy of the CCF must subsequently be sent to the MRO.

Employers and service agents who provide DOT related drug and alcohol services must ensure that all current regulatory procedures related to drug testing, collection, record keeping, etc., are followed even if the option to use the new Federal CCF is initiated. Additionally, implementation of the new CCF and transmission of laboratory results of the new CCF or the current seven part CCF must have the concurrence of the employer and the employer's MRO. The Department is projecting the publication of a final drug and alcohol rule by the end of 2000 or the first part of 2001. At that time, the Department will address in more detail the various changes and options that will be implemented as a result of public input to the current NPRM.

Issued this 21st day of July, 2000, at Washington, DC.

Mary Bernstein,

Director, Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance, Department of Transportation.

[FR Doc. 00–18904 Filed 7–24–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–62–U

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting of the FAA's Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee to discuss rotorcraft issues.

DATES: The meeting will be held on August 8, 2000, 2:00 p.m. EST.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at Helicopter Association International, 1635 Prince St, Alexandria VA, 22314, telephone (703) 682–4646.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Anderson, Office of Rulemaking, ARM–200, FAA, 800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591, telephone (202) 267–9681.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The referenced meeting is announced pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463; 5 U.S.C. App. II).

The agenda will include:

Presentation of work plans for the following:

a. Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structure.

b. Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Metallic Rotorcraft Structure.

Presentation and vote on the NPRM from the Performance and Handling Qualities working group.

Attendance is open to the public but will be limited to the space available. The public must make arrangements to present oral statements at the meeting. Written statements may be presented to the committee at any time by providing 16 copies to the Assistant Chair or by providing the copies at the meeting. If you are in need of assistance or require a reasonable accommodation for the meeting, please contact the person listed under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. In addition, sign and oral interpretation, as well as a listening device, can be made available at the meeting if requested 10 calendar days before the meeting. Arrangements may be made by contacting the person listed under the heading **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 18, 2000.

Anthony F. Fazio,

Assistant Executive Director, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 00–18686 Filed 7–24–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–13–M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2000–7363]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of petitions and intent to grant applications for exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the FMCSA's preliminary determination to grant the applications of 70 individuals for an exemption from the vision requirements in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). Granting the exemptions will enable these individuals to qualify as drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce without meeting the vision standard prescribed in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Your written, signed comments must refer to the docket number at the top of this document, and you must submit the comments to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001. All comments will be available for examination at the above address between 9 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: For information about the vision exemptions in this notice, Ms. Sandra Zywokarte, Office of Bus and Truck Standards and Operations, (202) 366–2987; for information about legal issues related to this notice, Ms. Judith Rutledge, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366–2519, FMCSA, 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:

Electronic Access

Internet users may access all comments received by the U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL–401, by using the universal resource locator (URL): *http://dms.dot.gov*. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Please follow the instructions online for more information and help.

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512–1661. Internet users may reach the Office of the Federal Register's home page at: *http://www.nara.gov/fedreg* and the Government Printing Office's database at: *http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara.*

Background

Seventy individuals have requested an exemption from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), which applies to drivers of CMVs in interstate commerce. Under 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the FMCSA (and