

commercial vehicle." Mr. Viscaya stated that he has driven tractor-trailer combination vehicles for 4½ years, accumulating 567,000 miles. He holds a Class A CDL from North Carolina and has had no accidents or convictions for moving violations in a CMV for the last 3 years, according to his driving record.

63. Michael P. Walsh

Mr. Walsh, 41, is amblyopic in his right eye. His visual acuity with correction is 20/20 in the left eye and 20/200 in the right. He was examined in 2000, and his optometrist certified, "In my opinion the patient has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle." Mr. Walsh submitted that he has operated straight trucks for 20 years and 1 million miles, and tractor-trailer combinations for 10 years and 520,000 miles. He holds a Class A XT CDL from Michigan. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no convictions for moving violations and one accident in a CMV. He was not charged in the accident. According to the accident report, the other driver crossed the middle double lines on a curve and struck Mr. Walsh's vehicle.

64. Jerry L. Whitefield

Mr. Whitefield, 49, has amblyopia in his left eye. The best-corrected vision in his right eye is 20/15, and in his left eye, 20/70. Following an examination in 2000, his optometrist stated, "I will certify that his right eye has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle." Mr. Whitefield submitted that he has operated tractor-trailer combination vehicles for 29 years, accumulating 2.9 million miles, and straight trucks for 4 years, accumulating 200,000 miles. He holds a Class A CDL from Oklahoma, and his driving record for the last 3 years contains no accidents or convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

65. Robert E. Wientjes

Mr. Wientjes, 59, has best-corrected vision in the right eye of 20/20 and the left eye 20/400. His left eye has had a central corneal scar since 1985. Following a 2000 examination, his ophthalmologist stated, "As Mr. Wientjes' vision has not changed in a number of years, I feel he has sufficient vision to operate a commercial vehicle, which he has done up until now." Mr. Wientjes reported that he has driven tractor-trailer combination vehicles for 30 years and a total of 1.1 million miles. He holds a Kentucky Class DA CDL. His driving record for the last 3 years shows

no accidents or convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the FMCSA is requesting public comment from all interested persons on the exemption petitions and the matters discussed in this notice. All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be considered and will be available for examination in the docket room at the above address. Comments received after the closing date will be filed in the docket and will be considered to the extent practicable, but the FMCSA may publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of final determination at any time after the close of the comment period. In addition to late comments, the FMCSA will also continue to file in the docket relevant information which becomes available after the closing date. Interested persons should continue to examine the docket for new material.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 31136 and 31315; and 49 CFR 1.73.

Issued on: October 30, 2000.

Clyde J. Hart, Jr.,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2000-8203]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

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

ACTION: Notice of renewal of exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the FMCSA's decision to renew the exemptions from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), for nine individuals.

DATES: This decision is effective November 9, 2000. Comments from interested persons should be submitted by December 4, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand deliver comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Management Facility, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, or submit electronically at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. All comments received will be available for

examination and copying at the above address from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard or you may print the acknowledgment page that appears after submitting comments electronically.

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, Mr. Joe Solomey, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1374, 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 and Filing

You may submit or retrieve comments online through the Document Management System (DMS) at: <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Acceptable formats include: MS Word (versions 95 to 97), MS Word for Mac (versions 6 to 8), Rich Text File (RTF), American Standard Code Information Interchange (ASCII)(TXT), Portable Document Format (PDF), and WordPerfect (versions 7 to 8). The DMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Electronic submission and retrieval help and guidelines are available under the help section of the web site.

An electronic copy of this document may also be downloaded by using a computer, modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may also 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

Nine individuals have requested renewal of their exemptions from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) which applies to drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce. They are Larry A. Dahleen, Earl D. Edland, Dale H. Hellman, Danny E. Hillier, Robert J. Johnson, Michael L. Manning, Gerald R. Rietmann, Jimmy E. Settle, and Hubert Whittenburg. Under 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the FMCSA may grant an exemption for a renewable 2-year period

if it finds "such exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption." Accordingly, the FMCSA has evaluated the nine petitions for renewal on their merits and made a determination to extend their exemptions for a renewable 2-year period.

On October 9, 1998, the agency published a notice of final disposition announcing its decision to exempt 12 individuals, including these nine applicants for renewal, from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) (63 FR 54519). The qualifications, experience, and medical condition of each applicant were stated and discussed in detail at 63 FR 30285, June 3, 1998. Three comments were received, and their contents were carefully considered by the agency in reaching its final decision to grant the petitions (63 FR 54519). The agency determined that exempting the individuals from 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) was likely to achieve a level of safety equal to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved without the exemption as long as the vision in each applicant's better eye continues to meet the standard specified in 391.41(b)(10). As a condition of the exemption, therefore, the agency imposed requirements on the individuals similar to the grandfathering provisions in 49 CFR 391.64(b) applied to drivers who participated in the agency's former vision waiver program.

These requirements are as follows: (1) That each individual be physically examined every year (a) by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who attests that vision in the better eye meets the standard in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), and (b) by a medical examiner who attests the individual is otherwise physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41; (2) that each individual provide a copy of the ophthalmologist's or optometrist's report to the medical examiner at the time of the annual medical examination; and (3) that each individual provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver's qualification file and retains a copy of the certification on his/her person while driving for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official.

Basis for Renewing Exemptions

Under 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(1), an exemption may be granted for no longer than 2 years from its approval date and may be renewed upon application for an additional 2-year period. In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), each

of the nine applicants has satisfied the entry conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirements (63 FR 30285; 63 FR 54519) and each has requested timely renewal of the exemption. These nine applicants have submitted evidence showing that the vision in their better eye continues to meet the standard specified at 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), and that the vision impairment is stable. In addition, a review of their records of safety while driving with their respective vision deficiencies over the past 2 years indicates each applicant continues to meet the vision exemption standards. These factors provide an adequate basis for predicting each driver's ability to continue to drive safely in interstate commerce. Therefore, the FMCSA concludes that extending the exemption for a period of 2 years is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption for each renewal applicant.

Conclusion

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the FMCSA extends the exemptions from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) granted to Larry A. Dahleen, Earl D. Edland, Dale H. Hellman, Danny E. Hillier, Robert J. Johnson, Michael L. Manning, Gerald R. Rietmann, Jimmy E. Settle, and Hubert Whittenburg, subject to the following conditions: (1) That each individual be physically examined every year (a) by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who attests that the vision in the better eye continues to meet the standard in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), and (b) by a medical examiner who attests that the individual is otherwise physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41; (2) that each individual provide a copy of the ophthalmologist's or optometrist's report to the medical examiner at the time of the annual medical examination; and (3) that each individual provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver's qualification file and retains a copy of the certification on his/her person while driving for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official. Each exemption will be valid for 2 years unless revoked earlier by the FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked if: (1) The person fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption; (2) the exemption has resulted in a lower level of safety than was maintained before it was granted; or (3) continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e).

Request for Comments

The FMCSA has evaluated the qualifications and driving performance of the nine applicants here and extends their exemptions based on the evidence introduced. The agency will review any comments received concerning a particular driver's safety record and determine if the continuation of the exemption is consistent with the requirements at 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e). While comments of this nature will be entertained at any time, the FMCSA requests that interested parties with information concerning the safety records of these drivers submit comments by December 4, 2000. All comments will be considered and will be available for examination in the docket room at the above address. The FMCSA will also continue to file in the docket relevant information which becomes available. Interested persons should continue to examine the docket for new material.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 31136 and 31315; and 49 CFR 1.73.

Issued on: October 30, 2000.

Clyde J. Hart, Jr.,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) hereby announces that it is seeking renewal of the following currently approved information collection activities. Before submitting these information collection requirements for clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FRA is soliciting public comment on specific aspects of the activities identified below.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than January 2, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on any or all of the following proposed activities by mail to either: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Safety, Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1120 Vermont