DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2012–0149]

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners Testing Providers Public Meeting

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (National Registry) Testing Providers Public Meeting will take place on Monday, June 11, 2012, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. (EDT), at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. The purpose of the meeting is to help testing providers understand the regulation and their role so they can make an informed decision about their participation.

DATES: The National Registry Testing Providers meeting will be held from 1:00–4:00 p.m. (EDT) on June 11, 2012.

The preliminary agenda for this meeting is located in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this notice for specific information.

ADRESSES: The meeting will take place at the U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. A conference phone number will be provided for those that are unable to physically attend but would still like to participate. Once you have notified FMCSA that you plan to participate, the Agency will provide the room number, conference phone number, and access code.

TO PARTICIPATE OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Robin Hamilton, Program Analyst, Medical Programs Division, FMCSA, 202–366–4001, robin.hamilton@dot.gov.

SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES: Should you need sign language interpretation or other assistance to participate, please contact Ms. Hamilton by Wednesday, June 6, 2012, to allow us to arrange for such services. There is no guarantee that services requested on short notice can be provided.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Preliminary Agenda

1:00–1:15 p.m. Introductions

1:15–2:15 p.m. Overview of the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners and the role of the test delivery organizations

2:15–2:45 p.m. Security requirements and privacy protections

2:45–3:15 p.m. Data transfer requirements

3:15–4:00 p.m. Questions

II. Background

FMCSA published The National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (National Registry) in the Federal Register on April 20, 2012. This rule requires all healthcare practitioners who conduct medical examinations for interstate commercial motor vehicle drivers to undergo training, pass a certification exam, and be listed on the National Registry on the Agency’s Web site. The rule becomes effective on May 21, 2012. At that time, testing providers may apply on-line through the National Registry System to be a test delivery organization for the certification exam. Test delivery organizations play a key role in the rule’s implementation. In writing this rule, the Agency decided to use the public/private partnership model. The Agency develops and provides the test to test delivery organizations, who then deliver the test, charge whatever fee they determine reasonable, and transmit test results to the Agency. The Agency does not pay the test delivery organization. However, to participate, test delivery organizations must apply and be approved before the Agency will provide access to the system and give the test delivery organization the test forms.

III. Meeting Participation

Attendance is open to all interested parties.


Larry W. Minor,
Associate Administrator for Policy.
Drivers to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

**Diabetes Mellitus and Driving Experience of the Applicants**

The Agency established the current requirement for diabetes in 1970 because several risk studies indicated that drivers with diabetes had a higher rate of crash involvement than the general population. The diabetes rule provides that “a person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if that person has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus currently requiring insulin for control” (49 CFR 391.41(b)(3)).

FMCSA established its diabetes exemption program, based on the Agency’s July 2000 study entitled “A Report to Congress on the Feasibility of a Program to Qualify Individuals with Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus to Operate in Interstate Commerce as Directed by the Transportation Act for the 21st Century.” The report concluded that a safe and practicable protocol to allow some drivers with ITDM to operate CMVs is feasible. The September 3, 2003 (68 FR 52441), Federal Register notice in conjunction with the November 8, 2005 (70 FR 67777), Federal Register notice provides the current protocol for allowing such drivers to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

These 22 applicants have had ITDM over a range of 1 to 41 years. These applicants report no severe hypoglycemic reactions resulting in loss of consciousness or seizure, requiring the assistance of another person, or resulting in impaired cognitive function that occurred without warning symptoms, in the past 12 months and no recurrent (2 or more) severe hypoglycemic episodes in the past 5 years. In each case, an endocrinologist verified that the driver has demonstrated a willingness to properly monitor and manage his/her diabetes mellitus, received education related to diabetes management, and is on a stable insulin regimen. These drivers report no other disqualifying conditions, including diabetes-related complications.

The qualifications and medical condition of each applicant were stated and discussed in detail in the April 6, 2012, Federal Register notice and they will not be repeated in this notice.

**Discussion of Comments**

FMCSA did not receive any comments in this proceeding.

**Basis for Exemption Determination**

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA may grant an exemption from the diabetes requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3) if the exemption is likely to achieve an equivalent or greater level of safety than would be achieved without the exemption. The exemption allows the applicants to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

To evaluate the effect of these exemptions on safety, FMCSA considered medical reports about the applicants’ ITDM and vision, and reviewed the treating endocrinologists’ medical opinion related to the ability of the driver to safely operate a CMV while using insulin.

Consequently, FMCSA finds that in each case exempting these applicants from the diabetes requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3) is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

**Conditions and Requirements**

The terms and conditions of the exemption will be provided to the applicants in the exemption document and they include the following: (1) That each individual submit a quarterly monitoring checklist completed by the treating endocrinologist as well as an annual checklist with a comprehensive medical evaluation; (2) that each individual reports within 2 business days of occurrence, all episodes of severe hypoglycemia, significant complications, or inability to manage diabetes; also, any involvement in an accident or any other adverse event in a CMV or personal vehicle, whether or not it is related to an episode of hypoglycemia; (3) 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 (4) that each individual provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver’s qualification file, or keep a copy in his/her driver’s qualification file if he/she is self-employed. The driver must also have a copy of the certification when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official.

**Conclusion**

Based upon its evaluation of the 22 exemption applications, FMCSA exempts, Adele M. Aasen (ND), David P. Altmor (NY), Steven W. Beatty (SD), David B. Brown (MI), Erik F. Brown (GA), Michael R. Conley (WI), Emil H. Ellis, Jr. (WA), Cecil E. Glenn (CA), Evan P. Hansen, (WI), Todd A. Heitschmidt (WA), John M. Konned (NC), Jeremy A. Ludolph, (KS), Bradley A. Marlow (WA), Gerlad N. Martinson (ND), Karl L. Price (MS), Earl C. Saxton (MO), Alan J. Schipkowski (IL), William H. Stone, Sr. (FL), Glenn D. Taylor (NY), Richard E. Thomas (OH), Thomas R. Toews (OR) and James E. Waller, III. (GA) from the ITDM requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3), subject to the conditions listed under “Conditions and Requirements” above.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 each exemption will be valid for two years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked if the following occurs: (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. 31136(e) and 31315. If the exemption is still effective at the end of the 2-year period, the person may apply to FMCSA for a renewal under procedures in effect at that time.

Issued on: May 29, 2012.

Larry W. Minor,
Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2012–13536 Filed 6–4–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P