The decision of the Agency must be current regulation [49 CFR 381.305].

The Agency must provide analyses and the public comments and analyses that have been conducted. The Agency must publish a notice of each exemption request in the [49 CFR 381.315(a)]. The Agency must provide a final rule (69 FR 51589) implementing section 4007. Under this rule, FMCSA has the authority to grant an exemption [49 CFR 381.300(b)] and 31136(e) to provide authority to grant exemptions from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). On August 20, 2004, FMCSA published a final rule (69 FR 51589) implementing section 4007. Under this rule, FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the Federal Register [49 CFR 381.315(a)]. The Agency must provide the public with an opportunity to inspect the information relevant to the application, including any safety analyses that have been conducted. The Agency must also provide an opportunity for public comment on the request.

The Agency reviews the safety analyses and the public comments and determines whether granting the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved by the current regulation [49 CFR 381.305]. The decision of the Agency must be published in the Federal Register [49 CFR 381.315(b)]. If the Agency denies the request, it must state the reason for doing so. If the decision is to grant the exemption, the notice must specify the person or class of persons receiving the exemption and the regulatory provision or provisions from which an exemption is granted. The notice must also specify the effective period of the exemption (up to 2 years) and explain the terms and conditions of the exemption. The exemption may be renewed [49 CFR 381.315(c) and 49 CFR 381.300(b)]


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4007 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA–21) [Pub. L. 105–178, June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 401] amended 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e) to provide authority to grant exemptions from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). On August 20, 2004, FMCSA published a final rule (69 FR 51589) implementing section 4007. Under this rule, FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the Federal Register [49 CFR 381.315(a)]. The Agency must provide the public with an opportunity to inspect the information relevant to the application, including any safety analyses that have been conducted. The Agency must also provide an opportunity for public comment on the request.

The Agency reviews the safety analyses and the public comments and determines whether granting the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved by the current regulation [49 CFR 381.305]. The decision of the Agency must be published in the Federal Register [49 CFR 381.315(b)]. If the Agency denies the request, it must state the reason for doing so. If the decision is to grant the exemption, the notice must specify the person or class of persons receiving the exemption and the regulatory provision or provisions from which an exemption is granted. The notice must also specify the effective period of the exemption (up to 2 years) and explain the terms and conditions of the exemption. The exemption may be renewed [49 CFR 381.315(c) and 49 CFR 381.300(b)].

Van Hool/Coach USA Application for Exemption

On May 15, 2013, Van Hool/Coach USA applied for an exemption from 49 CFR 393.76(c)(1) to allow the use of a sleeper berth exit which meets the requirement for sleeper berths installed before January 1, 1963. A copy of the application is included in the docket referenced at the beginning of this notice.

Section 393.76(c)(1) of the FMCSRs requires that for sleeper berths installed after January 1, 1963, the exit must be a doorway or opening at least 18 inches high and 36 inches wide.

In its application, Van Hool/Coach USA states:

Van Hool and Coach USA are making this request because we jointly developed a double deck motorcoach with sleeper berths for passengers (hereafter referred to as sleeper coach) where in order to meet the driver hours of service requirements for the routes planned for this sleeper coach, a sleeper berth must be provided for a 2nd driver. The designed sleeper berth compartment in the sleeper motor coach meets and exceeds the minimum dimensional requirements for the actual sleeper berth, however due to the limited available locations to place the sleeper berth within the confines of the motorcoach, it is requested that the entry/exit of the sleeper berth be allowed to meet the dimensional requirements for those sleeper berths manufactured/installed before January 1, 1963. The entry/exit of the sleeper berth [as currently designed] has a maximum area of 606 square inches, which is sufficient area to contain an ellipse having a major axis of 24 inches and a minor axis of 16 inches, which was the requirement for sleeper berths installed prior to January 1, 1963.

Van Hool/Coach USA notes that whereas the pre-January 1, 1963, exit dimension requirements accommodated all type of commercial motor vehicles including the sleeper coach, the current language of Section 393.76(c)(1) “is designed to fit sleeper berths in trucks” and does “not take into account the limited space available on a motorcoach for utilization of a sleeper berth.”

Van Hool/Coach USA notes that without the proposed temporary exemption, it will not be able to fully utilize the operation of the sleeper coach on routes that require a second driver, because the sleeper berth exit does not meet the requirements for a sleeper berth installed on or after January 1, 1963.

Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), FMCSA requests public comment from all interested persons on Van Hool/Coach USA’s application for an exemption from 49 CFR 393.76(c)(1). All comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated at the beginning of this notice will be considered and will be available for examination in the docket at the location listed under the ADDRESSES section of this notice. Comments received after the comment closing date will be filed in the public docket and will be considered to the extent practicable. In addition to late comments, FMCSA will also continue to file, in the public docket, relevant information that becomes available after the comment closing date. Interested persons should continue to examine the public docket for new material.

Issued on: July 29, 2013.

Larry W. Minor, Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2013–18919 Filed 8–5–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2013–0165]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

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

ACTION: Notice of applications for exemptions; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces receipt of applications from 25 individuals for exemption from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. They are unable to meet the vision requirement in one eye for various reasons. The exemptions will enable these individuals to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce without meeting the prescribed vision requirement in one eye. If granted, the exemptions would enable these individuals to qualify as drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 5, 2013.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA may grant an exemption from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for a 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.” FMCSA can renew exemptions at the end of each 2-year period. The 25 individuals listed in this notice have each requested such an exemption from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), which applies to drivers of CMVs in interstate commerce. Accordingly, the Agency will evaluate the qualifications of each applicant to determine whether granting an exemption will achieve the required level of safety mandated by statute.

Qualifications of Applicants

Larry E. Blakely

Mr. Blakely, age 63, has had a retinal detachment in his right eye since 2011. The visual acuity in his right eye is hand motion, and in his left eye, 20/25. Following an examination in 2013, his ophthalmologist noted, “It would be my opinion that he would be safe on the road. I would feel very comfortable with him driving next to me and I think his level of visual performance should be adequate to operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Blakely reported that he has driven straight trucks for 15 years, accumulating 510,000, and tractor-trailer combinations for 20 years, accumulating 1.4 million miles. He holds a Class A Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) from Georgia. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

William Bucaria, Jr.

Mr. Bucaria, 37, has a shattered retina in his left eye due to a traumatic incident during childhood. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/20, and in his left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2013, his optometrist noted, “In my medical opinion Mr. Bucaria has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Bucaria reported that he has driven straight trucks for 40 years, accumulating 22,200 miles, and tractor-trailer combinations for 11 years, accumulating 2,200 miles. He holds a Class AM CDL from Pennsylvania. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

James E. Goodman

Mr. Goodman, 44, has a corneal laceration in his left eye due to a traumatic incident in 2011. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/20, and in his left eye, 20/40. Following an examination in 2012, his
ophthalmologist noted, “In my medical opinion, the patient has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Goodman reported that he has driven tractor-trailer combinations for 25 years, accumulating 1.5 million miles. He holds an operator’s license from Alabama. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Britt A. Green

Mr. Green, 43, has had exotropia in his left eye since birth. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/15, and in his left eye, 20/200. Following an examination in 2013, his optometrist noted, “Therefore, I certify that in my medical opinion, Mr. Green has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle to take a practical, behind-the-wheel test.” Mr. Green reported that he has driven straight trucks for 28 years, accumulating 210,000 miles, and tractor-trailer combinations for 22 years, accumulating 110,000 miles. He holds a Class A CDL from North Dakota. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Craig C. Harris

Mr. Harris, 41, has a macular scar in his right eye due to a traumatic incident during childhood. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/125, and in his left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2012, his optometrist noted, “It is my opinion that Mr. Harris is able to drive with no limitations per my November 15, 2012 exam.” Mr. Harris reported that he has driven straight trucks for 21 years, accumulating 630,000 miles. He holds an operator’s license from New Hampshire. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Jesus J. Huerta

Mr. Huerta, 41, has optic nerve damage in his right eye due to a traumatic incident in 1995. The visual acuity in his right eye is no light perception, and in his left eye, 20/25. Following an examination in 2013, his optometrist noted, “Mr. Huerta has had a CDL license for a great many years after the loss of his right eye. I think his driving record speaks for itself with regards to having sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Huerta reported that he has driven straight trucks for 8 years, accumulating 108,000 miles. He holds a Class B CDL from Nevada. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Arlene S. Kent

Ms. Kent, 52, has had refractive amblyopia in her right eye since childhood. The visual acuity in her right eye is 20/70, and in her left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2013, her optometrist noted, “Due to the fact that her condition only affects the central vision in her right eye, the other eye has 20/20 with correction, and her peripheral vision is excellent in both eyes, it is my medical opinion that she has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle.” Ms. Kent reported that she has driven buses for 8 years, accumulating 16,000 miles. She holds a Class C CDL from New Hampshire. Her driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Willie L. Murphy

Mr. Murphy, 52, has a prostatic left eye due to a traumatic incident during childhood. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/20, and in his left eye, no light perception. Following an examination in 2013, his optometrist noted, “In my medical opinion he has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks associated with driving a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Murphy reported that he has driven straight trucks for 25 years, accumulating 1 million miles. He holds a Class B CDL from Indiana. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Chad J. Nolan

Mr. Nolan, 42, has had a congenitally underdeveloped optic nerve in his right eye since birth. The visual acuity in his right eye is counting fingers, and in his left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2013, his optometrist noted, “I feel Mr. Nolan does have the visual ability to continue to safely operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Nolan reported that he has driven straight trucks for 4 years, accumulating 38,000 miles. He holds an operator’s license from Ohio. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Joseph J. Pudlik

Mr. Pudlik, 47, has had a refractive amblyopia in his left eye since birth. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/20, and in his left eye, 20/400. Following an examination in 2013, his optometrist noted, “In my opinion vision is sufficient for driving commercial vehicle.” Mr. Pudlik reported that he has driven straight trucks for 24 years, accumulating 672,000 miles. He holds a Class BM CDL from Illinois. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Freddie G. Reed

Mr. Reed, 60, has a corneal scar in his right eye due to a traumatic incident in 2006. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/80, and in his left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2013, his ophthalmologist noted, “It is my medical opinion that Mr. Reed’s vision is stable and sufficient with correction to perform driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Reed reported that he has driven tractor-trailer combinations for 39 years, accumulating 1.4 million miles. He holds a Class A CDL from Mississippi. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Elmer L. Roberson

Mr. Roberson, 64, has a prothetic left eye due to a traumatic incident during childhood. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/25, and in his left eye, no light perception. Following an examination in 2013, his optometrist noted, “This individual has driven almost 50 years with one eye and seems to have sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required for a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Roberson reported that he has driven straight trucks for 3 years, accumulating 288,000 miles, and tractor-trailer combinations for 10 years, accumulating 1.6 million miles. He holds an operator’s license from Oklahoma. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Anthony R. Santomango

Mr. Santomango, 68, has had amblyopia in his right eye since childhood. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/100, and in his left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2012, his optometrist noted, “Patient has adapted very well over his lifetime and can perform all driving task [sic] well, commercially or otherwise.” Mr. Santomango reported that he has driven straight trucks for 50 years, accumulating 100,000 miles, tractor-trailer combinations for 50 years, accumulating 4.5 million miles, and buses for 5 years, accumulating 5000 miles. He holds a Class A CDL from
Mr. Spell reported that he has driven straight trucks for 13 years, accumulating 455,000 miles. He holds an operator’s license from Pennsylvania. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Keith A. Sommers

Mr. Sommers, 46, has complete loss of vision in his right eye due to a traumatic incident during childhood. The visual acuity in his right eye is light perception, and in his left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2013, his ophthalmologist noted, “In my opinion, Mr. Sommers has sufficient vision to operate a commercial vehicle safely.” Mr. Sommers reported that he has driven straight trucks for 20 years, accumulating 5,000 miles, and tractor-trailer combinations for 10 years, accumulating 3,750 miles. He holds a chauffeur’s license from Indiana. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

James A. Spell

Mr. Spell, 56, has a macular scar in his right eye due to a traumatic incident in 2009. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/400, and in his left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2012, his ophthalmologist noted, “I have found no reason that should preclude Mr. Spell from obtaining a commercial driving license. He is safe to continue driving commercial motor vehicles.” Mr. Spell reported that he has driven tractor-trailer combinations for 20 years, accumulating 700,000 miles. He holds a Class A CDL from Maryland. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Robert L. Spencer

Mr. Spencer, 58, has had amblyopia in his left eye since childhood. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/20, and in his left eye, 20/200. Following an examination in 2013, his optometrist noted, “Patient has sufficient vision to perform driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Spencer reported that he has driven straight trucks for 35 years, accumulating 875,000 miles. He holds an operator’s license from Connecticut. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Daniel W. Schafer

Mr. Schafer, 29, has had optic atrophy in his right eye since birth. The visual acuity in his right eye is 5/200, and in his left eye, 20/15. Following an examination in 2013, his optometrist noted, “In summary, in my medical opinion, Dan meets the standards set forth in 49 CFR 391.41 and from an ophthalmic standpoint, appears capable of operating a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Schafer reported that he has driven straight trucks for 13 years, accumulating 455,000 miles. He holds an operator’s license from Pennsylvania. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Brian C. Tate

Mr. Tate, 37, has had amblyopia in his right eye since birth. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/100, and in his left eye, 20/25. Following an examination in 2013, his ophthalmologist noted, “It is of my professional opinion that he is safe to operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Tate reported that he has driven straight trucks for 15 years, accumulating 240,000 miles, and tractor-trailer combinations for 14 years, accumulating 1.1 million miles. He holds a Class A CDL from Virginia. His driving record for the last 3 years shows one crash, for which he was cited, and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Aaron M. Vernon

Mr. Vernon, 55, has had a prosthetic right eye since 2009. The visual acuity in his right eye is no light perception, and in his left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2013, his ophthalmologist noted, “In my medical opinion, my patient has sufficient vision to perform the driving tasks required to operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Vernon reported that he has driven straight trucks for 28 years, accumulating 672,000 miles. He holds a Class B CDL from Ohio. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and no convictions for moving violations in a CMV.

Jeffrey R. Swett

Mr. Swett, 39, has had open angle glaucoma in his right eye since 2010. The visual acuity in his right eye is 20/300, and in his left eye, 20/20. Following an examination in 2013, his ophthalmologist noted, “Mr. Swett has sufficient vision to operate a commercial vehicle.” Mr. Swett reported that he has driven straight trucks for 14 years, accumulating 2.7 million miles. He holds a Class A CDL from South Carolina. His driving record for the last 3 years shows no crashes and one conviction for a moving violation in a CMV; he was driving in an improper lane.
delivery, but please use only one of these means. FMCSA recommends that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so that FMCSA can contact you if there are questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to http://www.regulations.gov and in the search box insert the docket number FMCSA–2013–0165 and click the search button. When the new screen appears, click on the blue “Comment Now!” button on the right hand side of the page. On the new page, enter information required including the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit comments by mail and would like to know that they reached the facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

We will consider all comments and material received during the comment period and may change this proposed rule based on your comments. FMCSA may issue a final rule at any time after the close of the comment period.

Viewing Comments and Documents

To view comments, as well as any documents mentioned in this preamble, To submit your comment online, go to http://www.regulations.gov and in the search box insert the docket number FMCSA–2013–0165 and click “Search.” Next, click “Open Docket Folder” and you will find all documents and comments related to the proposed rulemaking.

Issued on: July 30, 2013.
Larry W. Minor,
Associate Administrator for Policy.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System]

In accordance with Part 235 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and 49 U.S.C. § 20502(a), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated July 16, 2013, the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) and the New York & Atlantic Railway (NYA) jointly petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of a signal system. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2013–0082.

Applicants:
Long Island Rail Road, Mr. Kevin Tomlinson, Chief Engineer, 93–59 183rd Street, Hollis, NY 11428; New York & Atlantic Railway, Mr. Paul Victor, President, 68–1 Otto Road, Glendale, NY 11386. LIRR and NYA jointly seek approval of the proposed discontinuance of the automatic block signal (ABS) system on Main Line #1 and #2, from Milepost (MP) 1.2 Bliss to MP 7.3 Jay Interlocking on LIRR’s Montauk Branch. Signals S14,S18, S21, S24, S30, S31, S36, S39, S45, S51, S52, S59, S62, S67, S72, and S73 will be removed, as well as the pipe-connected center-lock crossover equipment on crossovers at MP 2.9, 4.2, 4.4, and 5.0. Switches will remain in service. Highway-rail grade crossings in the application area will have their warning distance revised to “island only,” with the exception of 88th Street, which will have its warning time shortened. The maximum authorized speed will be “restricted speed,” not to exceed 15 mph.

The reason given for the proposed changes is that the ABS system is no longer needed for freight switching operations. There are no through freight operations. Passenger service has been discontinued on the line. A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the Department of Transportation’s Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Web site: http://www.regulations.gov/. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Hand Delivery: 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by September 20, 2013 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). See http://www.regulations.gov/#!privacyNotice for the privacy notice of regulations.gov or interested parties may review DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477).

Robert C. Lauby,
Deputy Associate Administrator for Regulatory and Legislative Operations.

[FR Doc. 2013–18826 Filed 8–5–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P