CDL provisions of part 383 of the FMCSR for itself and 50 European drivers. It wishes to employ the foreign drivers to conduct approximately 87 motorcoach tours in the United States. Miami states that these drivers “have a long-term relationship with the passengers; the passengers simply would not book the tour without [these drivers] accompanying them. . . .” A copy of the application for exemption is in the docket listed at the beginning of this notice.

Part 383 requires motorcoach drivers to hold a CDL. The foreign drivers do not hold CDLs issued by a U.S. State, but they are licensed to operate motorcoaches in their respective country of residence (Germany, Austria, or Switzerland). Miami seeks the exemption because the foreign drivers cannot satisfy the residency requirement that all States require of applicants for a CDL. Miami states that an exemption is appropriate because Miami asserts that these drivers are likely to achieve a level of safety operating motorcoaches in the U.S. that is equivalent to or greater than the level of safety that would be obtained if they held U.S. CDLs.

Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(4) and 31316(e), FMCSA requests public comment on Miami’s application for an exemption from the CDL requirements of 49 CFR 383.23. The Agency will consider all comments received by close of business on September 16, 2013. Comments will be available for examination in the docket as explained in the Addresses section of this notice under the term “Docket.”

Issued on: August 9, 2013.

Larry W. Minor,
Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2013–20011 Filed 8–15–13; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA–2013–0019]

Qualification of Drivers: Exemption Applications; Diabetes Mellitus

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its decision to exempt 24 individuals from its rule prohibiting persons with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus (ITDM) from operating commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce. The exemptions will enable these individuals to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

DATES: The exemptions are effective August 16, 2013. The exemptions expire on August 16, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elaine M. Papp, Chief, Medical Programs Division, (202) 366–4001, fmcsamedical@dot.gov, FMCSA, Room W64–224, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590–0001. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

You may see all the comments online through the Federal Document Management System (FDMS) at: http://www.regulations.gov.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments, go to http://www.regulations.gov and/or Room W12–140 on the ground level of the West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Privacy Act: Anyone may search the electronic form of all comments received into any of DOT’s dockets by name of the individual submitting the comment (or of the person signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, or other entity). You may review DOT’s Privacy Act Statement for the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) published in the Federal Register on January 17, 2008 (73 FR 3316).

Background

On May 31, 2013, FMCSA published a notice of receipt of Federal diabetes exemption applications from 24 individuals and requested comments from the public (78 FR 32704). The public comment period closed on July 1, 2013, and one comment was received. FMCSA has evaluated the eligibility of the 24 applicants and determined that granting the exemptions to these individuals would achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved by complying with the current regulation 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3).

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 24 applicants have had ITDM over a range of 1 to 38 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. Each meets the vision requirement at 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10).

The qualifications and medical condition of each applicant were stated and discussed in detail in the May 31, 2013, Federal Register notice and they will not be repeated in this notice.

Discussion of Comments

FMCSA received one comment in this proceeding. The comment is considered and discussed below.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is in favor of granting an exemption to Kyle P. Cerra, Jeffrey S. Hubbell, and Thomas R. Yecker after reviewing their driving histories.
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 24 exemption applications, FMCSA exempts Herlen D. Barner (TN), Paul D. Blakeslee (AK), James W. Bledsoe (AL), Bryant M. Bosler (IL), Daniel L. Bosley (KY), Richard J. Buckman (MA), Fred S. Carpenter (NJ), Verland G. Casper (WI), Kyle P. Cerra (PA), David M. Galler (MO), Raymond K. Harper (KS), Shane B. Henninger (IA), Ronald A. Hersch (NJ), Lucius L. Holmes, Jr. (VA), Jeffrey S. Hubbell (PA), Jason L. Jarman (OK), Kevin T. Johnson (SD), Randall L. Krider (IN), Jose R. Monroy (IL), Eric J. Mullins (VA), William S. Panoch (WI), James E. Smith (TN), Kevin R. Treichel (IA), and Thomas R. Yecker (PA) 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 1/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: August 8, 2013.

Larry W. Minor, Associate Administrator for Policy.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Surface Transportation Board
[Docket No. FD 35753]

Illinois Central Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—BNSF Railway Company

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF), pursuant to a written trackage rights agreement dated June 17, 2013, has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to Illinois Central Railroad Company (IC), a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of Canadian National Railway Company, over BNSF’s Thayer South Subdivision, between milepost 483.8 at CN Junction and milepost 485.8 at KC Junction in Memphis, Shelby County, Tenn., a distance of approximately 2.0 miles.1

The purpose of the transaction is to permit IC to interchange loaded and empty cars with the Norfolk Southern Railroad Company (NS) at NS’s Forrest Yard.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in Norfolk & Western Railway—Trackage Rights—Burlington Northern, Inc., 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in Mendocino Coast Railway—Lease & Operate—California Western Railroad, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980). This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the effectiveness of the exemption. Petitions for stay must be filed by August 23, 2013 (at least 7 days before the exemption becomes effective).

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to Docket No. FD 35753, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Audrey L. Brodrick, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606–2832.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at “www.stb.dot.gov.”


By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Jeffrey Herzig, Clearance Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,