

in 2016 and certified that he has had no severe hypoglycemic reactions resulting in loss of consciousness, requiring the assistance of another person, or resulting in impaired cognitive function that occurred without warning in the past 12 months and no recurrent (2 or more) severe hypoglycemic episodes in the last 5 years. His endocrinologist certifies that Mr. Wiltgen understands diabetes management and monitoring, has stable control of his diabetes using insulin, and is able to drive a CMV safely.

Mr. Wiltgen meets the requirements of the vision standard at 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10). His ophthalmologist examined him in 2016 and certified that he has stable nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy. He holds a Class B CDL from Iowa.

#### *Richard C. Wright*

Mr. Wright, 50, has had ITDM since 2000. His endocrinologist examined him in 2016 and certified that he has had no severe hypoglycemic reactions resulting in loss of consciousness, requiring the assistance of another person, or resulting in impaired cognitive function that occurred without warning in the past 12 months and no recurrent (2 or more) severe hypoglycemic episodes in the last 5 years. His endocrinologist certifies that Mr. Wright understands diabetes management and monitoring, has stable control of his diabetes using insulin, and is able to drive a CMV safely.

Mr. Wright meets the requirements of the vision standard at 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10). His ophthalmologist examined him in 2016 and certified that he has stable nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy. He holds a Class A CDL from New Jersey.

### III. Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA requests public comment from all interested persons on the exemption petitions described in this notice. We will consider all comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated in the date section of the notice.

FMCSA notes that section 4129 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users requires the Secretary to revise its diabetes exemption program established on September 3, 2003 (68 FR 52441).<sup>1</sup> The revision must provide for individual assessment of drivers with

<sup>1</sup> Section 4129(a) refers to the 2003 notice as a "final rule." However, the 2003 notice did not issue a "final rule" but did establish the procedures and standards for issuing exemptions for drivers with ITDM.

diabetes mellitus, and be consistent with the criteria described in section 4018 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (49 U.S.C. 31305).

Section 4129 requires: (1) elimination of the requirement for 3 years of experience operating CMVs while being treated with insulin; and (2) establishment of a specified minimum period of insulin use to demonstrate stable control of diabetes before being allowed to operate a CMV.

In response to section 4129, FMCSA made immediate revisions to the diabetes exemption program established by the September 3, 2003 notice. FMCSA discontinued use of the 3-year driving experience and fulfilled the requirements of section 4129 while continuing to ensure that operation of CMVs by drivers with ITDM will achieve the requisite level of safety required of all exemptions granted under 49 U.S.C. 31136 (e).

Section 4129(d) also directed FMCSA to ensure that drivers of CMVs with ITDM are not held to a higher standard than other drivers, with the exception of limited operating, monitoring and medical requirements that are deemed medically necessary.

The FMCSA concluded that all of the operating, monitoring and medical requirements set out in the September 3, 2003 notice, except as modified, were in compliance with section 4129(d). Therefore, all of the requirements set out in the September 3, 2003 notice, except as modified by the notice in the **Federal Register** on November 8, 2005 (70 FR 67777), remain in effect.

### IV. Submitting Comments

You may submit your comments and material online or by fax, mail, or hand 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-2016-0225 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. FMCSA may issue a final determination at any time after the close of the comment period.

### V. Viewing Comments and Documents

To view comments, as well as any documents mentioned in this preamble, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and in the search box insert the docket number FMCSA-2016-0225 and click "Search." Next, click "Open Docket Folder" and you will find all documents and comments related to this notice.

Issued on: November 16, 2016.

**Larry W. Minor,**

*Associate Administrator for Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA-[2016-0221]

### Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Diabetes Mellitus

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

**ACTION:** Notice of final disposition.

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA confirms its decision to exempt 39 individuals from its rule prohibiting persons with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus (ITDM) from operating commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce. The exemptions enable these individuals to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

**DATES:** The exemptions were effective on November 1, 2016. The exemptions expire on November 1, 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Christine A. Hydock, Chief, Medical Programs Division, (202) 366-4001, [fmcamedical@dot.gov](mailto:fmcamedical@dot.gov), FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W64-113, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### I. 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:* In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy).

## II. Background

On September 30, 2016, FMCSA published a notice of receipt of Federal diabetes exemption applications from 39 individuals and requested comments from the public (81 FR 67425). The public comment period closed on October 31, 2016, and no comments were received.

FMCSA has evaluated the eligibility of the 39 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 39 applicants have had ITDM over a range of 1 to 36 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 September 30, 2016, **Federal Register** notice and they will not be repeated in this notice.

## III. Discussion of Comments

FMCSA received no comments in this proceeding.

## IV. 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.

## V. 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.

## VI. Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the 39 exemption applications, FMCSA exempts the following drivers from the diabetes requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3), subject to the requirements cited above 49 CFR 391.64(b):

Thomas A. Alcon (NM)  
John K. Bottkol (FL)  
Donald J. Brinkman (CO)  
John D. Cline (AZ)  
Paul H. Coleman, Jr. (PA)  
John D. Colpitts (NC)  
Salvatore A. Corrao (MA)  
Patrick R. Dawson (NY)  
Kevin A. Dietz (IL)  
Steven M. Dunham (NH)  
James H. Elliott (OH)  
Frank A. W. Emrath (WI)  
Kirk M. Faria (MA)  
Richard L. Farris (WA)  
Alex J. Gerena-Santiago (PA)  
Matthew D. Homan (MI)  
Donna J. Jones (IL)  
Jamison G. Land (VA)  
Richard H. Leger (LA)  
Solomon J. Mayfield (GA)  
Calvin W. McDaniel (MI)  
Clay A. McDaniel (MO)  
Steven D. Mellott (OH)  
Sean R. T. Murray (MN)  
Chris A. Perez (IL)  
Luther S. Pickell (KS)  
Michael K. Piirto (IN)  
William A. Pope, Jr. (PA)  
Jeffrey E. Prevost (ME)  
Eric W. Ransom (WY)  
Phillip A. Rentschler (IN)  
Steven L. Saddler (FL)  
Allan C. Smith (IA)  
Craig A. Squib (PA)  
Timothy B. Suck (MI)  
Tyrel J. Turner (ID)

Daniel R. Violette (OR)  
Robert C. Williams (OR)  
David W. Wiltrout (PA)

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 each exemption is 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: November 16, 2016.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-1999-5578; FMCSA-2001-9258; FMCSA-2001-10578; FMCSA-2002-11426; FMCSA-2003-14223; FMCSA-2003-15892; FMCSA-2003-16241; FMCSA-2005-21711; FMCSA-2005-22194; FMCSA-2007-27897; FMCSA-2007-29019; FMCSA-2009-0121; FMCSA-2009-0154; FMCSA-2009-0206; FMCSA-2011-0092; FMCSA-2011-0142; FMCSA-2011-0275; FMCSA-2011-0276; FMCSA-2011-26690; FMCSA-2013-0022; FMCSA-2013-0166; FMCSA-2013-0169]

### Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

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

**ACTION:** Notice of final disposition.

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA confirms its decision to renew exemptions for 99 individuals from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) for interstate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers. The exemptions enable these individuals to continue to operate CMVs in interstate commerce without meeting the vision requirement in one eye.

**DATES:** Each group of renewed exemptions were effective on the dates stated in the discussions below and will expire on the dates stated in the discussions below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Christine A. Hydock, Chief, Medical Programs Division, 202-366-4001,

fmcsamedical@dot.gov, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W64-224, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you have questions regarding viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Docket Services, telephone (202) 366-9826.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Electronic Access

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**Privacy Act:** In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <http://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <http://www.dot.gov/privacy>.

##### II. Background

On November 2, 2015, FMCSA published a notice announcing its decision to renew exemptions for 99 individuals from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) to operate a CMV in interstate commerce and requested comments from the public (80 FR 67481). The public comment period ended on December 2, 2015, and no comments were received.

As stated in the previous notice, FMCSA has evaluated the eligibility of these applicants and determined that renewing these exemptions 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)(10).

The physical qualification standard for drivers regarding vision found in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) states that a person is physically qualified to driver a CMV if that person:

Has distant visual acuity of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in each eye without corrective lenses or visual acuity separately corrected to 20/40 (Snellen) or better with corrective lenses, distant binocular acuity of a least 20/40 (Snellen) in both eyes with or without

corrective lenses, field of vision of at least 70° in the horizontal meridian in each eye, and the ability to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing red, green, and amber.

##### III. Discussion of Comments

FMCSA received no comments in this preceding.

##### VI. Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the 99 renewal exemption applications and comments received, FMCSA confirms its' decision to exempt the following drivers from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41 (b)(10), subject to the requirements cited above:

As of December 5, 2015, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, the following 17 individuals have satisfied the conditions for obtaining a renewed exemption from the vision requirements (66 FR 17743; 66 FR 33990; 68 FR 10301; 68 FR 19596; 68 FR 35772; 68 FR 52811; 68 FR 61860; 70 FR 25878; 70 FR 33937; 70 FR 61165; 72 FR 32705; 72 FR 46261; 72 FR 54972; 72 FR 58359; 72 FR 58362; 72 FR 67344; 74 FR 26461; 74 FR 26464; 74 FR 34630; 74 FR 43217; 74 FR 53581; 74 FR 57551; 74 FR 57553; 76 FR 25766; 76 FR 34135; 76 FR 37168; 76 FR 37885; 76 FR 54530; 76 FR 64169; 76 FR 64171; 76 FR 66123; 76 FR 70212; 76 FR 75943; 78 FR 12815; 78 FR 22602; 78 FR 62935; 78 FR 65032; 78 FR 68137; 78 FR 76395; 78 FR 77782; 78 FR 78477; 80 FR 67481):

Daniel F. Albers (CA)  
Keith Bell (FL)  
Kevin G. Clem (SD)  
David N. Cleveland (ME)  
David J. Comeaux (LA)  
Tommy R. Crouse (LA)  
Albion C. Doe, Sr. (NH)  
Mark D. Kraft (IL)  
Rocky J. Lachney (LA)  
Chase L. Larson (WA)  
Herman G. Lovell (OR)  
Danny C. Pope (IL)  
James B. Prunty (WV)  
Rick E. Smith (IL)  
Robert E. Smith (CT)  
Fred L. Stotts (OK)  
Randell K. Tyler (AL)

The drivers were included in one of the following dockets: Docket Nos. FMCSA-2001-9258; FMCSA-2003-14223; FMCSA-2003-15892; FMCSA-2007-27897; FMCSA-2007-29019; FMCSA-2009-0121; FMCSA-2009-0206; FMCSA-2011-0092; FMCSA-2011-26690; FMCSA-2013-0022; FMCSA-2013-0166. Their exemptions are effective as of December 5, 2015 and will expire on December 5, 2017.

As of December 6, 2015, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, the following 7 individuals have