

obtaining an exemption from the rule prohibiting drivers with ITDM from driving CMVs in interstate commerce (79 FR 14579; 79 FR 28590):

Schylor M. Altenhofen (IA)
Don R. Anderson III (IN)
Thomas A. Barnes (MI)
Alvin L. Carpenter (MT)
Richard J. D'Ambrosia (NY)
Jefferey F. Deane (MA)
Keith M. Dickerson (WI)
Carl A. Federighi (CA)
Bradley J. Frazier (IL)
Carl R. Gentry (WA)
Robert M. Hutchison (NY)
Craig A. Keese, Jr. (NY)
Amos L. Lapp (PA)
Edward J. Lulay (IL)
Donald S. Middleton (MO)
Alva D. Moffatt (WA)
John M. Muske (MN)
Stephen R. Newlin (IL)
Antonio Pepiciello (NY)
David R. Pettitt (WA)
James K. Popp (MN)
Dustin P. Russell (PA)
Sean L. Shidell (WI)
Randall L. Shultz (MO)
Kenneth R. Soult (OH)
Chad B. Spidell (PA)
Cameron M. Sprinkle (IN)
Douglas E. Stewart (MS)
Thomas L. Williams (MN)

The drivers were included in docket No. FMCSA–2014–0013. Their exemptions are effective as of May 16, 2016, and will expire on May 16, 2018.

As of May 17, 2016, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, the following 30 individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the rule prohibiting drivers with ITDM from driving CMVs in interstate commerce (75 FR 13647; 75 FR 27616; 77 FR 18302; 77 FR 29446):

Mark S. Boettcher (MN)
Steven C. Boudreau (MA)
Roy L. Brokaw (WI)
Chris D. Chambers (LA)
Charles A. Cinert, Sr. (IL)
Dale J. Cleaver (PA)
James H. Collins (FL)
Bert R. Duncan II (UT)
Lance L. Fuller (MN)
Johnny Gardner, Jr. (SC)
Mark D. Golden (MI)
Nathaniel W. Gorham (IN)
DeVere E. Hansen (UT)
Grant C. Huftalin (IA)
Steven M. Janczak (WI)
Sheldon R. Koehn (KS)
Jason R. Kropp (OK)
James W. McClintock, III (AR)
Adolfo Moreno, Jr. (WA)
John W. Morrison (CA)
Bruce V. Oppgaard (MN)
Steven G. Petersen (MN)

Damian J. Porter (NY)
David L. Rice (ME)
Wayne F. Richards (PA)
Gary G. Sironen (MT)
Rodney L. Stoltenberg (IA)
Wade D. Street (MT)
Charles M. Sweat (VA)
Stanley C. Tarvidas (IL)

The drivers were included in one of the following docket Nos: FMCSA–2009–0322; FMCSA–2012–0043. Their exemptions are effective as of May 17, 2016, and will expire on May 17, 2018.

As of May 21, 2016, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, the following 52 individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the rule prohibiting drivers with ITDM from driving CMVs in interstate commerce (75 FR 14652; 75 FR 28684; 79 FR 18400; 79 FR 29262):

Douglas L. Atkins (GA)
Bradley E. Bradshaw (NC)
Phillip W. Bulen (ID)
Robert L. Buol (IA)
Carlos V. Candelaria (NM)
Suellen M. Civiello (ME)
Michael T. Clements (WI)
Daniel G. Conery (NJ)
John A. Conness (MO)
James R. Crawford (WA)
Alan Curtis (UT)
David P. Dengate (PA)
Alan D. Ekberg (NE)
Richard A. Flieth (ND)
Neil G. Ford (PA)
Alden J. Haskins, Sr. (MD)
James Herrada (NE)
Gary W. Hochstein (MN)
Harold D. Hoggard II (PA)
Terry L. Horn (NC)
Wayne L. Hurley (MD)
Gerald A. Johnson (WI)
Frank J. Katzbeck (IL)
Frank T. Katzele (WI)
Cory M. Kobernick (KY)
Thomas G. Lambertson (WA)
Lee H. Lewis (PA)
James K. Libke (IN)
Gordon E. Lindley (WY)
Edwin J. Ludwig (OH)
Edwin H. Maranville (OR)
Joseph R. Marcelewski (OH)
Douglas J. Murray (NY)
David R. Norton (OH)
Eugene P. OQuendo (MA)
Curtis J. Pitt (OR)
Larry J. Reese (PA)
William O. Ruiz III (AZ)
James P. Rushing, Jr. (VA)
Harold D. Russman (SD)
Hector M. Sanchez (NM)
Scott W. Shindledecker (IN)
Shirliann F. Skroch (NV)
Ross L. Smith, Sr. (NJ)
Thomas G. Sosnoski (FL)
Christopher Starghill (DC)

Richard L. Stark (OH)
Philip E. Stegeman (ID)
Kevin L. Upmann (IL)
Brandon L. Weaver (PA)
Matthew G. Williams (KY)
Michael B. Wilson (OH)

The drivers were included in one of the following docket Nos: FMCSA–2010–0051; FMCSA–2014–0014. Their exemptions are effective as of May 21, 2016, and will expire on May 21, 2018.

As of May 23, 2016, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, Derald E. Moenning (NE) has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the rule prohibiting drivers with ITDM from driving CMVs in interstate commerce (79 FR 22573; 79 FR 35855).

This driver was included in docket No. FMCSA–2014–0015. The exemption is effective as of May 23, 2016, and will expire on May 23, 2018.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315, each exemption will be valid for two years from the effective date 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 prior to being granted; or (3) continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136 and 31315.

Issued on: August 4, 2017.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2017–16855 Filed 8–9–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2017–0017]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its decision to exempt 36 individuals from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). 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. The Agency has concluded that granting these exemptions will provide a level of safety that is equivalent to or greater than the level of safety maintained without the exemptions for these CMV drivers.

DATES: The exemptions were granted June 6, 2017. The exemptions expire on June 6, 2019.

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 W64-113, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are 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

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., e.t., 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, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at www.dot.gov/privacy.

II. Background

On May 4, 2017, FMCSA published a notice of receipt of exemption applications from certain individuals, and requested comments from the public (82 FR 20962). That notice listed 36 applicants' case histories. The 36 individuals applied for exemptions from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), for drivers who operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA may grant an exemption for a two 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." The statute also allows the Agency to renew

exemptions at the end of the two year period. Accordingly, FMCSA has evaluated the 36 applications on their merits and made a determination to grant exemptions to each of them.

III. Vision and Driving Experience of the Applicants

The vision requirement in the FMCSRs provides:

A person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle 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 (49 CFR 391.41(b)(10)).

FMCSA recognizes that some drivers do not meet the vision requirement but have adapted their driving to accommodate their limitation and demonstrated their ability to drive safely. The 36 exemption applicants listed in this notice are in this category. They are unable to meet the vision requirement in one eye for various reasons, including age-related macular degeneration, amblyopia, central vision loss, chorioretinal scarring, choroidal neovascular membrane, coats disease, complete loss of vision, degenerated globe, enucleation, exotropia, glaucoma, macular scar, optic atrophy, optic nerve damage, prosthetic eye, retinal detachment, and scarring. In most cases, their eye conditions were not recently developed. Twenty-four of the applicants were either born with their vision impairments or have had them since childhood.

The 12 individuals that sustained their vision conditions as adults have had it for a range of 4 to 36 years.

Although each applicant has one eye which does not meet the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), each has at least 20/40 corrected vision in the other eye, and in a doctor's opinion, has sufficient vision to perform all the tasks necessary to operate a CMV. Doctors' opinions are supported by the applicants' possession of valid commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) or non-CDLs to operate CMVs. Before issuing CDLs, States subject drivers to knowledge and skills tests designed to evaluate their qualifications to operate a CMV.

All of these applicants satisfied the testing requirements for their State of residence. By meeting State licensing

requirements, the applicants demonstrated their ability to operate a CMV, with their limited vision, to the satisfaction of the State.

While possessing a valid CDL or non-CDL, these 36 drivers have been authorized to drive a CMV in intrastate commerce, even though their vision disqualified them from driving in interstate commerce. They have driven CMVs with their limited vision in careers ranging for 3 to 50 years. In the past three years, one driver was involved in a crash and three drivers were convicted of moving violations in a CMV.

The qualifications, experience, and medical condition of each applicant were stated and discussed in detail in the May 4, 2017 notice (82 FR 20962).

IV. Basis for Exemption Determination

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA may grant an exemption from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) if the exemption is likely to achieve an equivalent or greater level of safety than would be achieved without the exemption. Without the exemption, applicants will continue to be restricted to intrastate driving. With the exemption, applicants can drive in interstate commerce. Thus, our analysis focuses on whether an equal or greater level of safety is likely to be achieved by permitting each of these drivers to drive in interstate commerce as opposed to restricting him or her to driving in intrastate commerce.

To evaluate the effect of these exemptions on safety, FMCSA considered the medical reports about the applicants' vision as well as their driving records and experience with the vision deficiency.

To qualify for an exemption from the vision requirement, FMCSA requires a person to present verifiable evidence that he/she has driven a commercial vehicle safely with the vision deficiency for the past three years. Recent driving performance is especially important in evaluating future safety, according to several research studies designed to correlate past and future driving performance. Results of these studies support the principle that the best predictor of future performance by a driver is his/her past record of crashes and traffic violations. Copies of the studies may be found at Docket Number FMCSA-1998-3637.

FMCSA believes it can properly apply the principle to monocular drivers, because data from the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) former waiver study program clearly demonstrate the driving performance of experienced monocular drivers in the program is

better than that of all CMV drivers collectively (See 61 FR 13338, 13345, March 26, 1996). The fact that experienced monocular drivers demonstrated safe driving records in the waiver program supports a conclusion that other monocular drivers, meeting the same qualifying conditions as those required by the waiver program, are also likely to have adapted to their vision deficiency and will continue to operate safely.

The first major research correlating past and future performance was done in England by Greenwood and Yule in 1920. Subsequent studies, building on that model, concluded that crash rates for the same individual exposed to certain risks for two different time periods vary only slightly (See Bates and Neyman, University of California Publications in Statistics, April 1952). Other studies demonstrated theories of predicting crash proneness from crash history coupled with other factors. These factors—such as age, sex, geographic location, mileage driven and conviction history—are used every day by insurance companies and motor vehicle bureaus to predict the probability of an individual experiencing future crashes (See Weber, Donald C., “Accident Rate Potential: An Application of Multiple Regression Analysis of a Poisson Process,” Journal of American Statistical Association, June 1971). A 1964 California Driver Record Study prepared by the California Department of Motor Vehicles concluded that the best overall crash predictor for both concurrent and nonconcurrent events is the number of single convictions. This study used three consecutive years of data, comparing the experiences of drivers in the first two years with their experiences in the final year.

Applying principles from these studies to the past three year record of the 36 applicants, one driver was involved in a crash and three drivers were convicted of moving violations in a CMV. All the applicants achieved a record of safety while driving with their vision impairment, demonstrating the likelihood that they have adapted their driving skills to accommodate their condition. As the applicants’ ample driving histories with their vision deficiencies are good predictors of future performance, FMCSA concludes their ability to drive safely can be projected into the future.

We believe that the applicants’ intrastate driving experience and history provide an adequate basis for predicting their ability to drive safely in interstate commerce. Intrastate driving, like interstate operations, involves

substantial driving on highways on the interstate system and on other roads built to interstate standards. Moreover, driving in congested urban areas exposes the driver to more pedestrian and vehicular traffic than exists on interstate highways. Faster reaction to traffic and traffic signals is generally required because distances between them are more compact. These conditions tax visual capacity and driver response just as intensely as interstate driving conditions. The veteran drivers in this proceeding have operated CMVs safely under those conditions for at least three years, most for much longer. Their experience and driving records lead us to believe that each applicant is capable of operating in interstate commerce as safely as he/she has been performing in intrastate commerce. Consequently, FMCSA finds that exempting these applicants from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption. For this reason, the Agency is granting the exemptions for the two year period allowed by 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 to the 36 applicants listed in the notice of May 4, 2017 (82 FR 20962).

We recognize that the vision of an applicant may change and affect his/her ability to operate a CMV as safely as in the past. As a condition of the exemption, therefore, FMCSA will impose requirements on the 36 individuals consistent with the grandfathering provisions applied to drivers who participated in the Agency’s vision waiver program.

Those requirements are found at 49 CFR 391.64(b) and include the following: (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 requirement 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, or keep a copy in his/her driver’s qualification file if he/she is self-employed. The driver must have a copy of the certification when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official.

V. Discussion of Comments

FMCSA received one comment that is outside the scope of this proceeding and will not be addressed in this notice. This one comment was from Mr. Reginald Jackson asking “why does any moving violations have to stay on a CDL Driver record for three years if no one was injured or lost there [sic] life or the CDL Driver did not receive a citation for careless or reckless driving?” He also asked “If the citation must [be] on the drivers record why it cannot [sic] be for one year for a speeding ticket and not three years? [sic]” Mr. Jackson suggested “changing the law and shorting the time down to 1 year? [sic]” He also suggested “the driver can pay [a] 300 dollar fine and not have anything be paced on his or her mvr [sic] record.”

IV. Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the 36 exemption applications, FMCSA exempts the following drivers from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10):

David A. Buchanan (SC)
 Brian E. Burrows (TX)
 Esta Cadet (FL)
 Gary G. Colby (UT)
 Herman A. Davis (AL)
 Brandon G. Dills (NC)
 Jeremy L. Fricke (ND)
 Scott J. Geritano (NC)
 Jonathon M. Gilligan (NY)
 Jeffrey J. Graham (MI)
 Dustin L. Hawkins (MO)
 Michael S. Higham (IL)
 Travis R. Honzel (CA)
 Lloyd M. Hoover (PA)
 Roy W. Houser, II (NC)
 Maurice R. Jones, Jr. (MD)
 Robert B. Jordahl (ND)
 Damian Klyza (NJ)
 John J. Lackey (CA)
 Zachary J. McCluskey (PA)
 Adam Merges (MN)
 Jimmy L. Metcalf (NC)
 John R. Miller (PA)
 David G. Neff (KY)
 Matthew J. Neuffer (PA)
 Vincent R. Neville (MN)
 Willie L. Nez, Jr. (UT)
 Kevin B. Patterson (GA)
 Stuart W. Penner (KS)
 Brock E. Peterson (ND)
 Efron J. Soliz (NM)
 Anthony J.M. Thornburg (MI)
 Eric J. Wickman (MI)
 Don S. Williams (AL)
 Garfield M. Williams (TX)
 James J. Wyles (NC)

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: (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 and 31315.

If the exemption is still effective at the end of the two year period, the person may apply to FMCSA for a renewal under procedures in effect at that time.

Issued on: August 4, 2017.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2017-16857 Filed 8-9-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA-2017-0035]

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 42 individuals from the prohibition in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) against persons with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus (ITDM) from operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) in interstate commerce. The exemptions enable these individuals with ITDM to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

DATES: The exemptions were applicable on July 7, 2017. The exemptions expire on July 7, 2019.

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:

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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., e.t., 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 <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 June 6, 2017, FMCSA published a notice announcing receipt of applications from 42 individuals requesting an exemption from diabetes requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3) and requested comments from the public (82 FR 26211). The public comment period ended on July 6, 2017, and no comments were received.

FMCSA has evaluated the eligibility of these 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).

The physical qualification standard for drivers regarding diabetes found in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3) states that a person is physically qualified to drive a CMV if that person:

Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus currently requiring insulin for control.

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 standard 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.

The Agency's decision regarding these exemption applications is based on the program eligibility criteria and an individualized assessment of information submitted by each applicant.

These 42 applicants have had ITDM over a range of 1 to 25 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 (two or more) severe hypoglycemic episodes in the past five 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, experience, and medical condition of each applicant were stated and discussed in detail in the June 6, 2017, **Federal Register** notice (82 FR 26211) and will not be repeated in this notice.

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 are provided to the applicants in the exemption document and includes the following: (1) Each driver must submit a quarterly monitoring checklist completed by the treating endocrinologist as well as an annual checklist with a comprehensive medical evaluation; (2) each driver must report within two 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) each driver must 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) each driver must provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver's qualification file, or keeping a copy in his/her driver's qualification file if he/she is self-employed. The driver must also have a copy of the exemption when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official.

VI. Preemption

During the period the exemption is in effect, no State shall enforce any law or regulation that conflicts with this