II. Background

On March 23, 2021, FMCSA published a notice announcing its decision to renew exemptions for 68 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. The public comment period ended on April 22, 2021, and no comments were received.

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 § 391.41(b)(10).

The physical qualification standard for drivers regarding vision found in § 391.41(b)(10) states that a person is physically qualified to drive 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 at 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 proceeding.

IV. Conclusion

Based on its evaluation of the 68 renewal exemption applications and comments received, FMCSA confirms its decision to exempt the following drivers from the vision requirement in § 391.41(b)(10).

Jeffrey Sanders (NC)
Stephen A. Scales (IL)
Steven D. Schlichting (NE)
Kirk Scott (CT)
Mustafa Shahadah (OH)
Gerardo Silva (IL)
John D. Stork (IL)
Sherman L. Taylor (FL)
Jason E. Thomas (TX)
Karl M. Vanderstucken (TX)
Kenneth E. Vigue, Jr. (WA)
Khamla Vongvoraseng (NC)
James R. Wagner (IL)
Bobby M. Warren (KY)
Patricia A. White (IL)
Jeffrey D. Wilson (CO)


The exemptions were applicable as of April 1, 2021, and will expire on April 1, 2023.

As of April 5, 2021, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), Donald P. Dodson, Jr. (WV) has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (76 FR 9856, 76 FR 20076, 78 FR 16762, 80 FR 15863, 82 FR 13187, 82 FR 15277, 82 FR 23712, 84 FR 21401).

This driver was included in docket number FMCSA–2014–0302. The exemption was applicable as of April 7, 2021, and will expire on April 7, 2023.

The drivers were included in docket numbers FMCSA–2011–0010, and FMCSA–2016–0213. Their exemptions were applicable as of April 11, 2021, and will expire on April 11, 2023.

As of April 18, 2021, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), Jaroslav Cigler (IN) has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (76 FR 9856, 76 FR 20076, 78 FR 16762, 80 FR 15863, 82 FR 13187, 82 FR 15277, 82 FR 23712, 84 FR 21401).

Wesley M. Creamer (NM); Wade C. Uhler (MN)

The drivers were included in docket numbers FMCSA–2011–0010, and FMCSA–2016–0213. Their exemptions were applicable as of April 18, 2021, and will expire on April 18, 2023.

As of April 20, 2021, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), Keith A. Larson (MA) has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (80 FR 14223, 80 FR 33011, 84 FR 21401).

This driver was included in docket number FMCSA–2014–0304. The exemption was applicable as of April 18, 2021, and will expire on April 18, 2023.

As of April 20, 2021, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), James R. Kieck (CA) has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (65 FR 66286, 66 FR 13825, 68 FR 10300, 70 FR 7546, 72 FR 7111, 76 FR 17483, 78 FR 18667, 80 FR 16500, 82 FR 15277, 84 FR 21401).
This driver was included in docket number FMCSA–2010–7918. The exemption was applicable as of April 21, 2021, and will expire on April 21, 2023.

As of April 30, 2021, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), Clay A. Applegarth (ND) has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (84 FR 11859, 84 FR 27685).

This driver was included in docket number FMCSA–2019–0006. The exemption was applicable as of April 30, 2021, and will expire on April 30, 2023.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), each exemption will be valid for 2 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(e) and 31315(b).

Larry W. Minor,
Associate Administrator for Policy.

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BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA–2021–0046]
Draft General Conformity Determination for the California High-Speed Train System Bakersfield to Palmdale Section

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: FRA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a draft General Conformity Determination for the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section of the California High-Speed Rail (HSR) System is available for public and agency review and comment.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 14, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Comments related to Docket No. FRA–2021–0046 may be submitted by going to http://www.regulations.gov and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number (FRA–2021–0046). All comments received will be posted without change to https://www.regulations.gov; this includes any personal information. Please see the Privacy Act Statement heading in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document for Privacy Act information related to any submitted comments or materials.

Docket: For access to the docket to read the draft General Conformity Determination, background documents, or comments received, go to https://www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for accessing the docket.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Andréa Martin, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Railroad Policy and Development (RPD), telephone: (202) 493–6201, email: Andrea.Martin@dot.gov; or Marlys Osterhues, Chief Environment and Project Engineering, RPD, telephone: (202) 493–0413, email: Marlys.Osterhues@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Privacy Act Statement: FRA will post comments it receives, without edit, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL–14 FDMS, accessible through www.dot.gov/privacy. To facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, inclusion of names is completely optional. Whether commenters identify themselves or not, all timely comments will be fully considered. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact the agency for alternate submission instructions.

Background: The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is advancing the environmental review of the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section (Project) of the California HSR System pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327, under which it has assumed FRA’s environmental review responsibilities. However, under Section 327, FRA remains responsible for making General Conformity Determinations under the Clean Air Act. This draft General Conformity Determination documents FRA’s evaluation of the Bakersfield to Palmdale Section, consistent with the relevant section of the Clean Air Act, and implementing regulations.

FRA's analysis of the Project's potential emissions, completed in close collaboration with CHSRA, found that construction period emissions would exceed the General Conformity de minimis threshold for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and volatile organic compounds (VOC), a precursor for ozone. However, operation of the Project would result in an overall reduction of regional emissions of all applicable air pollutants and would not cause a localized exceedance of an air quality standard. Conformance of the Project will be accomplished through offsets of the NO₂ and VOC emissions, consistent with applicable regulatory requirements.

Next Steps
The draft General Conformity Determination for the California HSR System, Bakersfield to Palmdale Section is being issued for public review and comment for 30-days at Docket No. FRA–2021–0046. Comments related to Docket No. FRA–2021–0046 may be submitted by going to http://www.regulations.gov and following the online instructions for submitting comments. Although CHSRA is assisting FRA by disseminating notice of the availability of the draft General Conformity Determination through its usual outreach methods, CHSRA is not accepting comments on behalf of FRA. FRA cannot ensure consideration of any comment that is not submitted via http://www.regulations.gov. FRA will consider all relevant comments it receives before issuing a final General Conformity Determination.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Jamie P. Rennert,
Director, Office of Infrastructure Investment.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel’s Notices and Correspondence Project Committee

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel’s Notices and Correspondence Project Committee will be conducted. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service. This meeting will still be held via teleconference.

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday, June 9, 2021.