I. Public Participation

A. Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (Docket No. FMCSA–2019–0010 or Docket No. FMCSA–2019–0029). You may submit comments online instructions for submitting comments on the “Comment” button. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Mail: Dockets Operations; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

Hand Delivery: West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Fax: (202) 493–2251.

To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. See the “Public Participation” portion of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for instructions on submitting comments.

For further information contact: Ms. Christine A. Hydock, Chief, Medical Programs Division, (202) 366–4001, fmcsamedical@dot.gov, FMCSA, DOT, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W64–224, Washington, DC 20590–0001. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you have questions regarding viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Dockets Operations, (202) 366–9626.
B. Viewing Comments


If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8٢ by 11 inches, containing fewer than 8 pages, and in legible font containing at least 11-point text. You may submit your comments by mail and would like to have FMCSA will consider all comments received during the comment period.

II. Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 31313(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA may grant an exemption from the FMCSRs for no longer than a 5-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 5-year period. FMCSA grants medical exemptions from the FMCSRs for a 2-year period to align with the maximum duration of a driver’s medical certification.

The physical qualification standard for drivers regarding vision found in 49 CFR 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 one eye, and the ability to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing red, green, and amber.
The 91 individuals listed in this notice have requested renewal of their exemptions from the vision standard in §31.41(b)(10), in accordance with FMCSA procedures. Accordingly, FMCSA has evaluated these applications for renewal on their merits and decided to extend each exemption for a renewable 2-year period.

III. Request for Comments

Interested parties or organizations possessing information that would otherwise show that any, or all, of these drivers are not currently achieving the statutory level of safety should immediately notify FMCSA. The Agency will evaluate any adverse evidence submitted and, if safety is being compromised or if continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption of a driver.

IV. Basis for Renewing Exemptions

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), each of the 91 applicants has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision standard (see 64 FR 40404; 64 FR 66962; 65 FR 33406; 65 FR 57234; 66 FR 53826; 66 FR 63289; 66 FR 66966; 68 FR 13360; 68 FR 61806; 68 FR 64944; 69 FR 69434; 70 FR 12265; 70 FR 17504; 70 FR 48797; 70 FR 53412; 68 FR 13360; 70 FR 25766; 70 FR 28125; 83 FR 23797; 80 FR 29149; 80 FR 29152; 80 FR 31635; 80 FR 49302; 80 FR 52295; 80 FR 59230; 80 FR 62161; 80 FR 63636; 80 FR 67472; 80 FR 67481; 80 FR 70060; 80 FR 76345; 80 FR 79414; 80 FR 80443; 81 FR 1284; 81 FR 11462; 81 FR 70253; 81 FR 86063; 81 FR 96165; 81 FR 96191; 82 FR 12683; 82 FR 13045; 82 FR 13048; 82 FR 15277; 82 FR 18956; 82 FR 20962; 82 FR 22379; 82 FR 24430; 82 FR 32919; 82 FR 33542; 82 FR 35050; 82 FR 37499; 82 FR 37504; 82 FR 43647; 82 FR 47309; 82 FR 47912; 83 FR 2289; 83 FR 2306; 83 FR 28325; 83 FR 33292; 83 FR 53724; 83 FR 54644; 84 FR 2326; 84 FR 10389; 84 FR 12665; 84 FR 16320; 84 FR 21393; 84 FR 21397; 84 FR 21401; 84 FR 23629; 84 FR 33801; 84 FR 46088; 84 FR 47045; 84 FR 47047; 84 FR 47050; 84 FR 47057; 84 FR 52160; 84 FR 52166; 84 FR 58437; 84 FR 58448; 84 FR 58450; 85 FR 66442; 85 FR 66444; 85 FR 68828; 85 FR 69814; 85 FR 74676; 85 FR 8334). They have submitted evidence and, if safety is being compromised or if continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption of a driver.

In accordance with §31.41(b)(10) and that the vision impairment is stable. In addition, a review of each record of safety while driving with the respective vision deficiencies over the past 2 years indicates each applicant continues to meet the vision exemption requirements. These factors provide an adequate basis for predicting each driver’s ability to continue to drive safely in interstate commerce. Therefore, FMCSA concludes that extending the exemption for each renewal applicant for a period of 2 years is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), the following groups of drivers received renewed exemptions in the month of February and are discussed below. As of February 9, 2022, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), the following 85 individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSA's Pre-Interstate CMV Drivers (64 FR 40404; 64 FR 66962; 65 FR 33406; 65 FR 57234; 66 FR 53826; 66 FR 63289;
As of February 16, 2022, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), the following three individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (83 FR 2311; 83 FR 18648; 85 FR 4769):

- Ryan J. Plank (PA)
- Aaron R. Rupe (IL)
- Juan D. Zertuche (TX)

The drivers were included in docket number FMCSA–2017–0026. Their exemptions are applicable as of February 16, 2022 and will expire on February 16, 2024.

As of February 22, 2022, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), the following individual has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (77 FR 539; 77 FR 10608; 79 FR 6993; 81 FR 15401; 83 FR 6925; 85 FR 4769):

- Brian K. Cline (NC)

The driver was included in docket number FMCSA–2011–0325. The exemption is applicable as of February 22, 2022 and will expire on February 22, 2024.

As of February 27, 2022, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), the following individual has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (79 FR 1908; 79 FR 14333; 81 FR 15401; 83 FR 6925; 85 FR 4769):

- Danielle Wilkins (CA)

The driver was included in docket number FMCSA–2013–0174. The exemption is applicable as of February 27, 2022 and will expire on February 27, 2024.

V. Conditions and Requirements

The exemptions are extended subject to the following conditions: (1) Each driver must undergo an annual physical examination (a) by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who attests that the vision in the better eye continues to meet the requirements in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), and (b) by a certified medical examiner (ME), as defined by §390.5, who attests that the driver is otherwise physically qualified under §391.41; (2) each driver must provide a copy of the ophthalmologist’s or optometrist’s report to the ME at the time of the annual medical examination; and (3) each driver must provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver’s qualification file or keep a copy of his/her driver’s qualification if he/her 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. The exemption will be rescinded 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(e) and 31315(b).

VI. Preemption

During the period the exemption is in effect, no State shall enforce any law or regulation that conflicts with this exemption with respect to a person operating under the exemption.

VI. Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the 91 exemption applications, FMCSA renews the exemptions of the aforementioned drivers from the vision requirement in § 391.41(b)(10), subject to the requirements cited above. In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), each exemption will be valid for 2 years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA.

Larry W. Minor, Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2022–00148 Filed 1–7–22; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[DOCKET No. FRA–2022–0001]

Establishment of an Emergency Relief Docket for Calendar Year 2022

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

ACTION: Notice of establishment of public docket.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the establishment of FRA’s emergency relief docket (ERD) for calendar year 2022. The designated ERD for calendar year 2022 is docket number FRA–2022–0001.

ADDRESS: See the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for further information regarding submitting petitions and/or comments to docket number FRA–2022–0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 19, 2009, FRA published a direct final rule establishing ERDs and the procedures for handling petitions for emergency waivers of safety rules, regulations, or standards during an emergency situation or event. 74 FR 23329. That direct final rule became effective on July 20, 2009 and made minor modifications to 49 CFR 211.45 in FRA’s Rules of Practice in 49 CFR part 211. Section 211.45(b) provides that each calendar year FRA will establish an ERD in the publicly accessible DOT docket system (available at www.regulations.gov). Section 211.45(b) further provides that FRA will publish a notice in the Federal Register identifying by docket number the ERD for that year. FRA established the ERD and emergency waiver procedures to provide an expedited process for FRA to address the needs of the public and the railroad industry during emergency situations or events. FRA makes every effort to post the statement on its website at railroads.dot.gov. Any party desiring relief from FRA regulatory requirements as a result of the emergency should submit a petition for emergency waiver under 49 CFR 211.45(e) and (f). Specific instructions for filing petitions for emergency waivers under 49 CFR 211.45 are found at 49 CFR 211.45(f). Specific instructions for filing comments in response to petitions for emergency waivers are at 49 CFR 211.45(h).

Privacy

Anyone can 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 associate, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. 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.transportation.gov/privacy. See also https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy, Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety, Chief Safety Officer.

[FR Doc. 2022–00166 Filed 1–7–22; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DOT–OST–2021–0167]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Renewed Approval of Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary (OST), DOT.

ACTION: 60-Day notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation (DOT) invites public comments on our intention to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for an information collection in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The collection is necessary for administration of the “Discretionary Grants for Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) Program”. INFRA grants support surface transportation infrastructure projects that have a significant local or regional impact.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by March 11, 2022.

ADDRESSES: To ensure that you do not duplicate your docket submissions, please submit them by only one of the following means:

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to https://www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

• Mail: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.

• Hand Delivery: West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202–366–9329.