

(e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. We will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Administration is updating the NAP RBC to show how the U.S. Government encourages businesses to achieve high standards of responsible business conduct and champions U.S. businesses that demonstrate best practices in that regard. It will also highlight what the U.S. Government is doing, including with partners, to encourage responsible business conduct by U.S. businesses operating and investing abroad.

The Department of State is leading the update of the NAP RBC in coordination with the White House and other federal agencies. The process will involve U.S. private sector, civil society, and workers’ organizations, and will serve to promote RBC by U.S. businesses operating and investing abroad. The last National Action Plan—the U.S. Government’s first—was published on December 16, 2016. (See 2016 National Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct here: <https://2009-2017.state.gov/e/eb/eppd/csr/naprbc/265706.htm>).

RBC is a broad concept based on growing evidence that businesses can perform well while doing good, and that governments should create and facilitate the conditions for this to take place. The principles underlying this concept are encompassed in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. They place importance on three aspects of the business-society relationship:

- Emphasizing and accentuating the positive contributions businesses can make to economic, environmental, and social progress.
- Committing to robust due diligence efforts, including identifying and mitigating adverse impacts of business conduct, and remedying abuses where they occur.
- Ensuring businesses are aware of and complying with legal obligations within their supply chains both at home and overseas.

We are updating the NAP in light of the U.S. Government’s commitment to promoting fair play, the rule of law, and high standards for global commerce in line with democratic values and responsible business conduct. This includes supporting a foreign policy that benefits the middle class by

ensuring workers’ rights and a level playing field for American workers; protecting the environment; combating the climate crisis; promoting rights-respecting technology deployment; and helping U.S. businesses to be global leaders in promoting respect for human rights and responsible business conduct in the communities where they operate.

The revitalized NAP will build upon the previous framework. We are committed to coordinating and advancing policies that promote responsible business conduct by U.S. businesses operating and investing abroad, and work with all stakeholders to reach our joint goals.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions, is available on the following website: <https://www.state.gov/responsible-business-conduct-national-action-plan/>.

For questions concerning this notice, contact the State Department’s NAP RBC team at RBCNAP@state.gov.

(Authority: 22 U.S.C. 2656)

Zachary A. Parker,

*Director, Office of Directives Management,
U.S. Department of State.*

[FR Doc. 2022-04178 Filed 2-25-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-AE-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2020–0144]

[Hours of Service of Drivers: Mountain Blade Runner Helicopters, LLC (MBR Helicopters); Application for Exemption

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition; denial of application for exemption.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its decision to deny the exemption request from Mountain Blade Runner Helicopters, LLC (MBR Helicopters) for an exemption from the hours-of-service (HOS) regulations for operators of its ground support equipment. MBR Helicopters requested relief from the 14-hour “driving window” rule and the requirement that drivers have 10 consecutive hours off duty at the end of the work shift. The exemption would allow drivers of MBR Helicopters’ ground support equipment a 16-hour window to complete all driving and enable them to use an 8-consecutive hour off-duty break, combined with at least 2 additional off-duty hours during

the 16-hour driving window. FMCSA analyzed the exemption application and public comments, and determined that the application lacked evidence that the exemption would ensure a level of safety equivalent to or greater than that which would be achieved absent such exemption.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard Clemente, FMCSA Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards; (202) 366–2722; MCPD@dot.gov. If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Dockets Operations, (202) 366–9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Participation

Viewing Comments and Documents

To view comments, as well as documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to www.regulations.gov and insert the docket number, FMCSA–2020–0144 in the “Keyword” box and click “Search.” Next, click the “Open Docket Folder” button and choose the document to review. If you do not have access to the internet, you may view the docket online by visiting the Docket Management Facility in Room W12–140 on the ground floor of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 366–9317 or (202) 366–9826 before visiting Dockets Operations.

II. Legal Basis

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 to grant exemptions from certain Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(a)). The Agency must provide the public an opportunity to inspect the information relevant to the application, including any safety analyses that have been conducted. The Agency must also provide an opportunity for public comment on the request.

The Agency reviews safety analyses and public comments submitted, and determines whether granting the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved by the current regulation (49 CFR 381.305). The decision of the Agency must be published in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(b)) with the reasons for denying or granting the application and, if granted, the name of the person or

class of persons receiving the exemption, and the regulatory provision from which the exemption is granted. The notice must also specify the effective period (up to 5 years) and explain the terms and conditions of the exemption. The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.300(b)).

III. Current Regulations

Under 49 CFR 395.3(a)(1), a driver may not drive without first taking 10 consecutive hours off duty, and 49 CFR 395.3(a)(2) permits a driver to drive only during a period of 14 consecutive hours after coming on duty following 10 consecutive hours off duty. The driver may not drive after the end of the 14-consecutive-hour period, without first taking 10 consecutive hours off duty.

IV. Request for Exemption

MBR Helicopters requested relief from the 14-hour “driving window” rule and the requirement that drivers have 10 consecutive hours off duty at the end of the work shift. The requested exemption would allow drivers of MBR Helicopters’ ground support equipment a 16-hour window within which to complete all driving and enable them to use an 8-consecutive hour off-duty break, combined with at least 2 additional off-duty hours during the 16-hour driving window.

MBR Helicopters has been serving the utility helicopter industry and its customers since 2008 in the State of Colorado and across the United States. MBR Helicopters requested this exemption for approximately 10 of its drivers of ground support commercial motor vehicles (CMVs), all of whom possess commercial driver licenses (CDLs) with applicable endorsements. MBR Helicopters currently operates a fleet of Class 5 straight trucks and pickup trucks that pull trailers. Drivers of ground support equipment are specially trained to refuel, rig, reload, and maintain helicopters. They also operate CMVs transporting helicopter fuel that requires a CDL with a hazardous materials and tank endorsement.

The driver of an MBR Helicopters ground-support CMV typically drives an average of 60 miles one way to a remote landing zone, arrives at dawn, performs duties during the day, drives back to an airport to refill the tank with helicopter fuel, then drives back to the place of lodging near dusk. During the day, ground crew members have relatively few duties, allowing 2 or more hours off duty between tasks. This schedule varies greatly depending on customer needs. In general, however, when not responding to or returning from

incidents, work days usually last about 8 to 10 hours, including all on-duty and driving time.

MBR Helicopters’ contracts with government agencies specify that its maintenance personnel must be available for a maximum of 14 hours, and that maintenance personnel may extend their duty day to 16 hours. The ground crews travel between the helicopter base and the place of lodging, thus making it difficult to stay within the 14-hour limit because of travel before and after the work day.

V. Method To Ensure an Equivalent or Greater Level of Safety

To ensure an equivalent level of safety, MBR Helicopters proposed the following conditions and alternative HOS provisions:

- MBR Helicopters’ drivers would, on average, use the exemption once every 2 weeks during the months of April through October;
- MBR Helicopters’ drivers would not drive after the 16th hour after coming on duty;
- MBR Helicopters’ drivers would take 8 hours consecutively off duty before coming on duty again;
- MBR Helicopters’ drivers must have at least 2 hours off duty during the 16-hour period; and
- MBR Helicopters’ drivers must be responding to or returning from an active incident as requested by an officer of a public agency or public utility.

MBR Helicopters stated that these conditions and alternatives are designed to keep the drivers using the potential exemption from driving fatigued. MBR Helicopters added that these conditions would ensure that the drivers authorized to use this exemption have guidelines that would enable them to use it only when necessary.

VI. Public Comments

On December 18, 2020, FMCSA published notice of the MBR Helicopters application and requested public comment (85 FR 82574). The Agency received two comments, both opposing the exemption request. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance stated the following:

In MBR Helicopters’ request they fail to adequately identify how their drivers will maintain an equivalent level of safety while operating under extended hours-of-service requirements, which is a key component to a credible exemption request. Granting this request would extend the amount of time drivers can operate, exposing them to higher risk for fatigue and negatively impacting safety. Under extenuating emergency circumstances, emergency declarations are issued that waive the hours-of-service

requirements for drivers responding to the emergency. Emergency declarations exist for the exact reasons outlined in the exemption request, to allow for operation beyond the current hours-of-service framework when there is an emergency that requires an expedited response. Short of an emergency declaration, there isn’t a reasonable need for relaxation of the hours-of-service requirements to the level requested in this application. FMCSA should deny the exemption request.

Mr. Michael Millard added:

When working wildfires and other emergency activities MBR has the use of Part 390.23 as applicable to work the emergency based on its safety protocols. MBR doesn’t specify whether or not the eight-hour break includes a commute time to and from work which makes the eight hours more like six hours or less. I hope the FMCSA denies MBR’s request. If eight hours were suitable for drivers to get adequate rest, then the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations should be revised to accommodate the trucking industry.

VII. FMCSA Safety Analysis and Decision

When the Agency established the HOS rules, it relied upon research indicating that the requirements improve CMV safety. The HOS regulations provide a 14-hour window within which all driving must be completed and, with the exception of the adverse driving clause and the sleeper berth provision, all drivers subject to the HOS requirements must adhere to this restriction which helps to ensure that drivers remain alert during the work shift. In addition, the current regulations require that drivers of property-carrying vehicles have 10 consecutive hours off duty at the end of the work shift to ensure adequate opportunities for recuperative rest prior to the beginning of the next work shift.

The exemption application does not provide sufficient countermeasures to enable the Agency to conclude that the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved by complying with the current regulations. There is no basis to conclude that extending the 14-hour “driving window” for the applicant would ensure the requisite level of safety or that decreasing the mandatory off-duty period would provide drivers with a sufficient amount of rest.

FMCSA has reviewed MBR’s application and the public comments and has concluded that the requisite level of safety cannot be ensured, for the reasons discussed above. Accordingly,

FMCSA denies the request for an exemption.

Robin Hutcheson,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2022-04073 Filed 2-25-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

Bond Guarantee Program, Fiscal Year 2022; Guarantee Availability

Funding Opportunitites: Bond Guarantee Program, FY 2022; Notice of Guarantee Availability.

Funding Opportunity Title: Notice of Guarantee Availability (NOGA) inviting Qualified Issuer Applications and Guarantee Applications for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Bond Guarantee Program.

Announcement Type: Announcement of opportunity to submit Qualified Issuer Applications and Guarantee Applications.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 21.011.

Dates: Qualified Issuer Applications and Guarantee Applications may be submitted to the CDFI Fund starting on the date of publication of this NOGA. In order to be considered for the approval of a Guarantee in fiscal year (FY) 2022, Qualified Issuer Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on April 20, 2022 and Guarantee Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. ET on April 26, 2022. If applicable, CDFI Certification Applications must be received by the CDFI Fund by 11:59 p.m. ET on March 28, 2022. Under FY 2022 authority, Bond Documents and Bond Loan documents must be executed, and Guarantees will be provided, in the order in which Guarantee Applications are approved or by such other criteria that the CDFI Fund may establish, in its sole discretion, and in any event by December 31, 2022.

Executive Summary: This NOGA is published in connection with the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program, administered by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund), the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury). Through this NOGA, the CDFI Fund announces the availability of up to \$500 million of Guarantee Authority in FY 2022. This NOGA explains application submission and evaluation requirements and processes, and provides agency contacts

and information on CDFI Bond Guarantee Program outreach. Parties interested in being approved for a Guarantee under the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program must submit Qualified Issuer Applications and Guarantee Applications for consideration in accordance with this NOGA. Capitalized terms used in this NOGA and not defined elsewhere are defined in the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program regulations (12 CFR 1808.102) and the CDFI Program regulations (12 CFR 1805.104).

I. Guarantee Opportunity Description

A. Authority. The CDFI Bond Guarantee Program was authorized by the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-240; 12 U.S.C. 4713a) (the Act). Section 1134 of the Act amended the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4701, *et seq.*) to provide authority to the Secretary of the Treasury (Secretary) to establish and administer the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program.

B. Bond Issue size; Amount of Guarantee authority. In FY 2022, the Secretary may guarantee Bond Issues having a minimum Guarantee of \$100 million each, and up to an aggregate total of \$500 million, or other amounts authorized by FY 2022 Appropriations.

C. Program summary. The purpose of the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program is to support CDFI lending by providing Guarantees for Bonds issued for Eligible Community or Economic Development Purposes, as authorized by section 1134 and 1703 of the Act. The Secretary, as the Guarantor of the Bonds, will provide a 100% Guarantee for the repayment of the Verifiable Losses of Principal, Interest, and Call Premium of Bonds issued by Qualified Issuers. Qualified Issuers, approved by the CDFI Fund, will issue Bonds that will be purchased by the Federal Financing Bank. The Qualified Issuer will use 100% of Bond Proceeds to provide Bond Loans to Eligible CDFIs, which will use Bond Loan proceeds for Eligible Community and Economic Development Purposes, including providing Secondary Loans to Secondary Borrowers in accordance with the Secondary Loan Requirements. Secondary Loans may support lending in the following asset classes: CDFI-to-CDFI, CDFI to Financing Entity, Charter Schools, Commercial Real Estate, Daycare Centers, Healthcare Facilities, Rental Housing, Rural Infrastructure, Owner-Occupied Home Mortgages, Licensed Senior Living and Long-Term Care Facilities, Small Business, and Not-for-Profit Organizations, as these terms are defined in the Secondary Loan Requirements (Underwriting Review

Checklist), which can be found on the CDFI Fund's website at www.cdfifund.gov/bond.

D. Review Guarantee Applications, in general.

1. Qualified Issuer Applications submitted with Guarantee Applications will have priority for review over Qualified Issuer Applications submitted without Guarantee Applications. With the exception of the aforementioned prioritized review, all Qualified Issuer Applications and Guarantee Applications will be reviewed by the CDFI Fund on an ongoing basis, in the order in which they are received, or by such other criteria that the CDFI Fund may establish in its sole discretion.

2. Guarantee Applications that are incomplete or require the CDFI Fund to request additional or clarifying information may delay the ability of the CDFI Fund to move the Guarantee Application to the next phase of review. Submitting an incomplete Guarantee Application earlier than other applicants does not ensure first approval.

3. Qualified Issuer Applications and Guarantee Applications that were received in FY 2021 and that were neither withdrawn nor declined in FY 2021 will be considered under FY 2022 authority.

4. Pursuant to the Regulations at 12 CFR 1808.504(c), the Guarantor may limit the number of Guarantees issued per year or the number of Guarantee Applications accepted to ensure that a sufficient examination of Guarantee Applications is conducted.

E. Additional reference documents. In addition to this NOGA, the CDFI Fund encourages interested parties to review the following documents, which have been posted on the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program page of the CDFI Fund's website at <http://www.cdfifund.gov/bond>.

1. Guarantee Program Regulations. The regulations that govern the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program were published on February 5, 2013 (78 FR 8296; 12 CFR part 1808) (the Regulations), and provide the regulatory requirements and parameters for CDFI Bond Guarantee Program implementation and administration including general provisions, eligibility, eligible activities, applications for Guarantee and Qualified Issuer, evaluation and selection, terms and conditions of the Guarantee, Bonds, Bond Loans, and Secondary Loans.

2. Application materials. Details regarding Qualified Issuer Application and Guarantee Application content requirements are found in this NOGA and the respective application materials.