

(4) Should DOT continue to require Class I carriers of property to submit quarterly reports (Form QFR)?

(5) Should DOT eliminate or add specific line items in the annual report (Form M) and, if so, which specific line items should be eliminated/added?

(6) If your company is subject to the current Form M reporting requirements, what is the annual cost for your company to comply with those requirements? Please explain, in detail, how you calculated this total cost.

Issued in Washington, DC on August 12, 2003.

**Emil Frankel,**

*Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA-2003-15268]

#### Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

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

**ACTION:** Notice of final disposition.

**SUMMARY:** The FMCSA announces its decision to exempt 35 individuals from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). The exemptions will enable these individuals to qualify as drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce without meeting the vision standard prescribed in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10).

**DATES:** August 15, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT DMS Docket Number FMCSA-2003-15268 by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** <http://dms.dot.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

- **Fax:** 1-202-493-2251.

- **Mail:** Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- **Hand Delivery:** Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

**Instructions:** All submissions must include the agency name and docket number for this notice. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the Public Participation heading of the Supplementary Information section of this document. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://dms.dot.gov>, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading under Regulatory Notices.

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time or to Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Sandra Zywockarte, Office of Bus and Truck Standards and Operations, (202) 366-2987, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., *e.t.*, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Public Participation:** The DMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. You can get electronic submission and retrieval help guidelines under the "help" section of the DMS Web site. If you want us to notify you that we received your comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard or print the acknowledgement page that appears after submitting comments on-line.

**Privacy Act:** Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, *etc.*). You may review the Department of Transportation's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

#### Background

On June 23, 2003, the FMCSA published a Notice of its receipt of applications from 36 individuals, and requested comments from the public (68 FR 37197). The 36 individuals petitioned the FMCSA for exemptions from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), which applies to drivers

of CMVs in interstate commerce. They are: Gene E. Adams, Morris R. Beebe, William V. Beekler, Jerry W. Branning, Dennis R. Burda, James A. Busbin, Jr., Domenic J. Carassai, Theodore W. Cozat, Todd L. Dewey, John F. Dougherty, Fred W. Duran, Paul J. Edwards, Sr., William R. Evridge, Kenneth J. Fisk, Leslie W. Good, Michael E. Grens, Rodney P. Hains, Bruce E. Hemmer, Steven P. Holden, Russell R. Inlow, Christopher G. Jarvela, Henry Joiner, Darrell D. Kropf, Brad L. Mathna, William G. McClam, Vincent P. Miller, Warren J. Nyland, Dennis M. Prevas, Terry B. Pritchett, Greg L. Riles, Dwayne L. Sandlin, Jon D. Schwengel, Steven R. Smith, Calvin D. Tomlinson, Mona J. van Krieken, and Paul S. Yocum.

Under 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the FMCSA may grant an exemption for a 2-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 2-year period. Accordingly, the FMCSA has evaluated the 36 applications on their merits and made a determination to grant the exemptions to 35 of them. The comment period closed on July 23, 2003. One comment was received, and its contents were carefully considered by the FMCSA in reaching the final decision to grant the exemptions.

The FMCSA has not made a decision on the application of Dwayne L. Sandlin. Subsequent to the publication of the notice of applications and request for comments, the agency received additional documentation concerning his driving record and is evaluating the information. A decision on this application will be made in the future.

#### 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 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 standard red, green, and amber (49 CFR 391.41(b)(10)).

Since 1992, the agency has undertaken studies to determine if this