

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Josh Fitzpatrick, Environmental Protection Specialist, FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office (ADO), 6020 28th Avenue South, Suite 102, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55450. Telephone number is (612) 253-4639. Copies of the FONSI/ROD and/or Final EA are available upon written request by contacting Mr. Josh Fitzpatrick through the contact information above.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Final EA evaluated the DYT Obstruction Removal Project. The purpose of the project is to provide a safe airport facility that will meet FAA and MnDOT aeronautics design and operation requirements and safely maintain adequate runways with clear approach surfaces for local, regional, and interregional aviation users.

The FAA and the Duluth Airport Authority (DAA) jointly prepared the Final EA, pursuant to the requirements of the NEPA and the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act, respectively. A joint Federal-State EA was prepared.

Chapter 2 of the Final EA identified and evaluated all reasonable alternatives. Numerous alternatives were considered but eventually discarded for not meeting the purpose and need. Three alternatives (No Action, Alternative 5a Short, and Alternative 13) were examined in detail. After careful analysis and consultation with various resource agencies, the DAA selected Alternative 5a Short as the preferred alternative. Alternative 5a Short satisfies the purpose and need while minimizing impacts.

Alternative 5a Short includes the construction of a rotated and shortened runway. Compared to the existing runway, the new runway would be shortened by 450 feet and rotated five degrees (Runway 32 end) into Superior Bay. The primary surface would be graded and the parallel taxiway reconstructed at a separation of 150 feet. The existing Medium Intensity Runway Lights (MIRLs), Runway End Identifier Lights (REILs), Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPIs) and Medium Intensity Taxiway Lights (MITLs) would be relocated or replaced. Existing pavements would be removed and previously paved areas would be restored with native vegetation.

Alternative 5a Short includes placing approximately 69,800 cubic yards of soil for runway construction (combined in water and on land), 50,000 cubic yards of surcharge (fill to be placed in order to compact soft soils, and then removed) and 25,000 tons of riprap over a total project area of 29.47 acres. The project will not impact the Scientific Natural Area.

Based on the analysis in the Final EA, the FAA has determined that Alternative 5a Short will not result in significant impacts to resources identified in accordance with FAA Orders 1050.1E and 5054.4B. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Issued in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 8, 2015.

Christopher Hugunin,

Manager, Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office, FAA, Great Lakes Region.

[FR Doc. 2015-15273 Filed 6-19-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Requests for Comments; Clearance of Renewed Approval of Information Collection: Flight Plans

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, FAA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. Flight plan information is used to govern the flight of aircraft for the protection and identification of aircraft and property and persons on the ground. The use of form 7233-1, FAA Flight Plan, is being removed from this information collection request. Effective October 1, 2015, the civilian burden for all flight plan information, both domestic and international, will be collected via form 7233-4, FAA International Flight Plan. Form 7233-1 will continue to be used by military respondents.

DATES: Written comments should be submitted by August 21, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the FAA at the following address: Ronda Thompson, Room 300, Federal Aviation Administration, ASP-110, 950 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20024.

PUBLIC COMMENTS INVITED: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for FAA's performance; (b) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (c) ways for FAA to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality

of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ronda Thompson at (202) 267-1416, or by email at: Ronda.Thompson@faa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

OMB Control Number: 2120-0026.

Title: Flight Plans.

Form Numbers: FAA form 7233-4.

Type of Review: Revision of an information collection.

Background: Title 49 U.S.C., paragraph 40103(b) authorizes regulations governing the flight of aircraft. 14 CFR 91 prescribes requirements for filing domestic and international flight plans. Information is collected to provide services to aircraft inflight and protection of persons/property on the ground.

Respondents: Approximately 300,000 air carriers, operators and pilots.

Frequency: Information is collected on occasion.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: 1-3 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 225,966 hours.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 16, 2015.

Ronda Thompson,

FAA Information Collection Clearance Officer, IT Enterprises Business Services Division, ASP-110.

[FR Doc. 2015-15269 Filed 6-19-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2013-0313]

Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Grant of Exemption For HELP Inc.

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition.

SUMMARY: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announces its decision to grant an exemption to HELP, Inc. that will allow the placement of its transponder systems at the bottom of windshields on commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) currently require antennas, transponders, and similar devices to be located not more than 6 inches below the upper edge of the windshield, outside the area swept by the windshield wipers, and outside the

driver's sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals. The exemption will enable motor carriers to mount the HELP, Inc. transponder systems lower in the windshield than is currently permitted by the Agency's regulations in order to utilize a mounting location that maximizes the device's ability to send and receive roadside data. FMCSA believes that permitting the transponder systems to be mounted lower than currently allowed, but still outside the driver's sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals, will maintain a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety achieved without the exemption.

DATES: This exemption is effective from June 22, 2015 until June 22, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mr. Mike Huntley, Vehicle and Roadside Operations Division, Office of Carrier, Driver, and Vehicle Safety, MC-PSV, (202) 366-4325; Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4007 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) [Pub. L. 105-178, June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 401] amended 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e) to provide authority to grant exemptions from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). On August 20, 2004, FMCSA published a final rule (69 FR 51589) implementing section 4007. Under this rule, FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(a)). The Agency must provide the public with 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 the safety analyses and the public comments 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)). If the Agency denies the request, it must state the reason for doing so. If the decision is to grant the exemption, the notice must specify the person or class of persons receiving the exemption and the regulatory provision or provisions from which an exemption is granted. The notice must also specify

the effective period of the exemption (up to 2 years) and explain the terms and conditions of the exemption. The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.315(c) and 49 CFR 381.300(b)).

HELP, Inc. Application for Exemption

Help, Inc. applied for an exemption from 49 CFR 393.60(e)(1) to allow the installation of transponders on its customers' CMVs in a location that is lower than currently allowed under the regulation. Section 393.60(e)(1) of the FMCSRs prohibits the obstruction of the driver's field of view by devices mounted on the windshield. Antennas, transponders and similar devices must not be mounted more than 152 mm (6 inches) below the upper edge of the windshield. These devices must be located outside the area swept by the windshield wipers and outside the driver's sight lines to the road, highway signs and signals.

In its application, Help, Inc. states:

Help, Inc. is making this request because we are coordinating device development and installation of PrePass transponder in up to 430,000 commercial motor vehicles. The 5.9 and toll transponder equipment installed is located at the bottom of the windshield, but within the swept area of windshield because the safety equipment must have a clear forward facing view of the road, and low enough to accurately be read by roadside infrastructure. . . . The restrictions on the location of devices mounted in the windshield area significantly degrade the ability to capture the proper viewing area in commercial motor vehicles. A 5.9 and toll transponder which lacks an effective view of the roadside infrastructure through the front windshield will negatively impact the ability to send and receive roadside data.

Help, Inc.'s preferred mounting location for the transponders is 2 inches right of the center of the windshield, and 2-3 inches above the dashboard. Help, Inc. states that using this mounting location that is lower in the windshield than currently permitted by the FMCSRs "will offer the best opportunity to optimize the data transmission and evaluate the benefits of such a system" while maximizing "the external view of the roadway."

Comments

On July 31, 2013, FMCSA published notice of the application and asked for public comment (78 FR 46406). The Agency received two comments.

1. Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety ("Advocates") provided general comments stating that it "supports the development and use of technology and devices to improve safety and vehicle operation," but noted that it "is aware of several similar new and emerging technologies, with applications for

commercial motor vehicles, that will likely come into conflict" with the regulations in 49 CFR 393.60(e)(1) and (2) that limit the location of devices and decals in the windshield of CMVs. As a result, Advocates concluded that "Advances in technology may be such that the agency should reconsider the limitations specified in section 393.60(e) and consider establishing updated guidelines which will both permit the optimal installation of beneficial safety devices while at the same time limiting the proliferation and installation of multiple devices that could interfere with a driver's view of the road, side and rearview mirrors or, in some cases, interfere or distract the driver from the driving task."

Specifically with respect to Help, Inc.'s application, Advocates recommended "that the agency consider the positioning/size of the device and its impact on the field of view afforded the driver in making the determination to grant or deny this application exemption."

FMCSA response: Enforcement personnel, motor carriers, regulators, and manufacturers alike are increasingly faced with accommodating the use of various technologies, designed to improve commercial motor vehicle safety, which may impact the driver's field of view of the roadway through the windshield wiper swept area. Examples include a variety of electronic devices, window tint products, decorations, decals and stickers, sun visors and window shades, and other devices and products—all of which serve different purposes but can, in some cases, diminish or block part of the driver's view.

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), in cooperation with FMCSA and other industry trade associations hosted a dialogue among enforcement experts, industry representatives, and Federal regulators to help improve the common understanding of the balance between the benefits and the possible risks of using these technologies and devices. The "Technology Impacts on CMV Driver Direct Field of Vision Symposium" was held on April 22, 2013 in conjunction with the CVSA Workshop in Louisville, KY. FMCSA may consider amendments to 49 CFR 393.60(e) in the future, and will certainly use the information gathered at that symposium—in conjunction with all other available information, research, and data—in the development of such possible amendments.

While FMCSA acknowledges that Help, Inc. did not present specific studies or data showing that safety will

not be degraded, the Agency believes that placement of the transponders lower in the windshield than currently permitted will be outside the drivers' sight lines, and therefore, will not have an adverse impact on safety.

2. Mr. Paul Baute supported the application, but noted that "the exemption should not be necessary. FMCSA 393.60(e)(1) is in conflict with FMCSA 393.60(e)(2) with locations of items such as transponders and decals . . . FMCSR 393.60(e)(1) should be changed to allow the transponders to be mounted on the bottom of the windshield."

FMCSA response: The regulations at section 393.60(e)(1) and section 393.60(e)(2) do not conflict. Section 393.60(e)(1) defines the dimensional limits at the *top* of the windshield in which "antennas, *transponders*, and similar devices" can be mounted, whereas section 393.60(e)(2) defines the dimensional limits at the *bottom* of the windshield for applying "Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) inspection decals, and stickers and/or decals required under Federal or State laws." Section 393.60(e)(2) does not currently allow other devices, such as transponders, to be mounted in the area at the bottom of the windshield, and any amendment to the regulation to allow such devices to be mounted in this location would have to be made through a notice-and-comment rulemaking.

Terms and Conditions for the Exemption

Based on its evaluation of the application for an exemption, FMCSA grants Help, Inc.'s exemption application. The Agency believes that the safety performance of motor carriers during the 2-year exemption period will likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety achieved without the exemption because (1) based on the technical information available, there is no indication that the transponders would obstruct drivers' views of the roadway, highway signs and surrounding traffic; (2) generally, trucks and buses have an elevated seating position which greatly improves the forward visual field of the driver, and any impairment of available sight lines would be minimal; and (3) the location at the bottom of the windshield but within the windshield wiper sweep, and out of the driver's sightline is reasonable and enforceable at roadside. Without the exemption, Help, Inc. would be unable to utilize a mounting location that maximizes the device's ability to send and receive roadside data.

The Agency hereby grants the exemption for a two-year period, beginning June 22, 2015 until June 22, 2017.

During the temporary exemption period, motor carriers using Help, Inc. transponders must ensure that the devices are mounted 2 inches right of the center of the windshield, and 2–3 inches above the dashboard. If however, because of the design and mounting of the windshield wipers on a particular CMV, use of the mounting location identified above does not result in the transponder being located within the swept area of the wipers, the transponder may be positioned such that it is located (1) to the right of the center of the windshield, and (2) as low as possible in the swept area of the wipers.

The FMCSA encourages any party having information that motor carriers utilizing this exemption are not achieving the requisite level of safety immediately to notify the Agency. If safety is being compromised, or if the continuation of the exemption is not consistent with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b) and 31136(e), FMCSA will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption.

Preemption

In accordance with section 381.600 of the FMCSRs, during the period the exemption is in effect, no State shall enforce any law or regulation that conflicts with or is inconsistent with this exemption with respect to a person operating under the exemption.

Issued on: June 3, 2015.

T.F. Scott Darling III,
Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2015–15159 Filed 6–19–15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2015–0052]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

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

ACTION: Notice of applications for exemptions; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces receipt of applications from 34 individuals for exemption from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. 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. If granted, the exemptions would enable these individuals to qualify as drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 22, 2015. All comments will be investigated by FMCSA. The exemptions will be issued the day after the comment period closes.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments bearing the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket No. FMCSA–2015–0052 using any of the following methods:

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

- Mail: Docket Management Facility; 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., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

- Fax: 1–202–493–2251.

Instructions: Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket numbers for this notice. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading below for further information.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time 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., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The FDMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. If you want acknowledgment 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: 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.