

petitions, USTR has arranged to accept on-line submissions via <http://www.regulations.gov>. To submit petitions via this site, enter docket number USTR–2014–0018 on the home page and click “search.” The site will provide a search-results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice by selecting “notice” under “Document Type” on search-results page and click on the link entitled “Submit a Comment.” (For further information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site, please consult the resources provided on the Web site by clicking on “Help” at the top of the home page.)

The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site provides the option of making submissions by filling in a “Type Comment” field, or by attaching a document. USTR prefers comments to be submitted as attachments. When doing this, it is sufficient to type “See attached” in the “Type Comment” field. Submissions in Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) are preferred.

Persons wishing to file comments containing business confidential information must submit both a business confidential version and a public version. Persons submitting business confidential information should write “See attached BC comments” in the “Type Comment” field. Any page containing business confidential information must be clearly marked “BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL” on the top of that page. Persons submitting a business confidential comment must also submit a separate public version of that comment with the business confidential information deleted. Persons should write “See attached public version” in the “Type Comment” field of the public submission. Submissions should not attach separate cover letters; rather, information that might appear in the cover letter should be included in the comments you submit. Similarly, to the extent possible, please include any exhibits, annexes, or other attachments to a submission in the same file as the submission itself and not as separate files.

Public versions of all documents relating to this review will be available for review no later than two weeks after the due date at www.regulations.gov, docket number USTR–2014–0018.

Douglas Bell,

Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 2014–23414 Filed 9–30–14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3290–F4–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2014–0352]

Commercial Driver’s License Standards: Application for Exemption; Recreation Vehicle Industry Association

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

ACTION: Notice of application for exemption; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces that the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) has requested a limited exemption from the Federal requirement to hold a commercial driver’s license (CDL) for transporters of certain newly manufactured motorhomes and recreation vehicles (RVs) that are individually transported one at a time and are always empty. RVIA is requesting the exemption because compliance with the CDL requirements prevents its members from implementing more efficient and effective operations. The exemption would apply to individuals who are employees of U.S. driveaway-towaway companies, RV manufacturers, and RV dealers transporting RVs between the manufacturing site and dealer location and for movements prior to first retail sale. The exemption would apply when transporting RVs with an actual vehicle weight not exceeding 26,000 pounds, or a combination of RV trailer/tow vehicle with the actual weight of the towed unit not exceeding 10,000 pounds and the gross combined weight not exceeding 26,000 pounds. RV units that have a combined GVWR rating exceeding 26,000 pounds would not be covered by the exemption. RVIA believes that such a change would maintain a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level achieved without the exemption.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 31, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Federal Docket Management System Number FMCSA–2014–0352 by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 1–202–493–2251.
- *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 or Courier:* West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–

140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Instructions: All submissions must include the Agency name and docket number. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the exemption process, see the *Public Participation* heading below. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. Please see the *Privacy Act* heading below.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to www.regulations.gov at any time and in the box labeled “SEARCH for” enter FMCSA–2014–0352 and click on the tab labeled “SEARCH.”

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 a Privacy Act notice regarding our public dockets in the January 17, 2008, issue of the **Federal Register** (73 FR 3316).

Public Participation: The Federal eRulemaking Portal is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. You can get electronic submission and retrieval help and guidelines under the “help” section of the Federal eRulemaking Portal 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 online.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Pearlie Robinson, FMCSA Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards; Telephone: 202–366–4325. Email: MCPSD@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 to grant exemptions from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. 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 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)) with the reason for the grant or denial, and, if granted, the specific person or class of persons receiving the exemption, and the regulatory provision or provisions from which 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 381.300(b)).

Request for Exemption

The Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) is the national trade association representing recreational vehicle (RV) manufacturers and their component parts suppliers who together build more than 98 percent of all RVs produced in the United States. An RV is a vehicle designed as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel and seasonal use. RVs may be motorized (motorhomes) or towable (travel trailers, fifth wheel trailers, folding camping trailers and truck campers).

The RVIA is requesting an exemption to the CDL requirements under 49 CFR 383.91(a)(1)–383.91(a)(2) when transporting RVs with an actual vehicle weight not exceeding 26,000 pounds, or a combination of RV trailer/tow vehicle with the actual weight of the towed unit not exceeding 10,000 pounds and the gross combined weight not exceeding 26,000 pounds. RV units that have a ship weight and combined GVWR rating exceeding 26,000 pounds would not be covered by the exemption. RVIA contends that compliance with the CDL rule prevents its members from implementing more efficient and effective operations. RVIA asserts that FMCSA should look at the actual weight of the RV when it is manifested as empty and should not require a CDL during the short time the RV is not loaded, does not carry freight and is transported from the factory where they are manufactured, or from a holding area to a dealership site.

In its application, RVIA contends that a shortage of drivers with CDLs is having a significant impact on the RV industry, which is just recovering from the 2008–2009 economic downturn. A large percentage of RV sales occur during the spring buying season. The jump in RV shipments trends stronger each month, thereafter increasing consistently from February through

June. These excess units regularly accumulate in RV transporters' yards. It is in this period that there is insufficient commercial driver capacity for RV transportation. This commercial driver shortage, which is seasonal, creates delays in the delivery of product to consumers and potentially reduces the RV sales volume and the overall number of drivers employed by the RV industry. Consumers who wish to purchase an RV may have to wait weeks or months to receive delivery of their purchase because there are not enough drivers with CDLs to transport the vehicles from the factory to the dealership, especially since each RV must be individually transported. While these delays are costly and inconvenient to the RV industry and consumers, the greater costs result in potential lost sales from consumers who are unwilling to wait for their purchase.

RVIA states that the exemption would apply to individuals who are employees of U.S. driveaway-towaway companies, RV manufacturers, and RV dealers. RVIA contends that due to the class nature and the number of parties that will be affected thereby, it is not feasible or practicable to provide the names of individuals or transporters responsible for use or operation of these CMVs. RV units that have a ship weight and combined GVWR rating exceeding 26,000 pounds would not be covered by the exemption. RVIA asserts that exempting delivery for a subset of newly manufacturer RVs from the Class A and B CDL requirements would likely result in the level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level achieved without the exemption.

RVIA asserts that there is compelling evidence that safety records for RV transport companies delivering RVs from the manufacturers to dealers is and will continue to be better than the cited statistics in its application for drivers using RVs for recreational purposes if the requested exemption is granted.

RVIA contends that if the exemption is granted the level of safety associated with transportation of RVs from manufacturers to dealers is likely to be equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety obtained by complying with the FMCSA regulation for the following reasons:

- On average, drivers employed by RV manufacturers and dealers to deliver RVs have substantially more experience operating RVs than an average driver operating an RV for recreational purposes.

- A thorough analysis using the FMCSA Safety Measurement System revealed that the majority of RV driveaway-towaway companies'

accident frequency average of 0.234 recordable accidents per million miles traveled in 2012, is far less than the national average of 0.747 recordable accidents per million miles traveled that was used as a benchmark by the FMCSA in fiscal years 1994–1996 when developing criteria for "Factor 6, Accident" of the "safety rating process."

- FMCSA established an "unsatisfactory rating" threshold for all carriers operating outside of a 100 mile air radius with a recordable accident rate greater than 1.5 accidents per million miles traveled. Accordingly, RV driveaway-towaway accident frequency is approximately 640% less than the FMCSA unsatisfactory rating threshold for 2012, the most recent year for which data is available.

- Compared to drivers using RVs for recreational purposes, RV manufacturers and driveaway-towaway companies have substantially greater economic incentive to systematically train, monitor and evaluate their RV drivers with respect to safe operation of RVs because of substantially greater exposure to liability for any traffic accidents.

- As with any motor vehicle, newly manufactured RVs are much less likely to present a safety concern on account of mechanical failures.

- Travel distances between the manufacturing sites and dealer locations are on average much shorter than typical distances which RVs travel when in recreational use and the highway presence of RVs transported from manufacturers to dealers is negligible even during the peak spring delivery season.

RVIA asserts that without the exemption, one-time deliveries of new RVs with a GVWR exceeding 26,000 pounds or a GCWR exceeding 26,000 inclusive of a towed vehicle with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or higher will continue to remain subject to CDL requirements and other FMCSA regulations even though end users of RVs purchasing them from dealers in the same states would not be subject to those requirements and regulations. This anomalous situation will continue to materially curb the growth of the RV industry without countervailing safety or other benefit to the public. In particular, RV manufacturers and dealers will continue to experience shortage of CDL operators during the busy spring season.

A copy of RVIA's application for exemption is available for review in the docket for this notice.

Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(4) and 31136(e), FMCSA requests public comment on RVIA's application for an exemption from the CDL requirements of 49 CFR part 383. The Agency will consider all comments received by close of business on October 31, 2014. Comments will be available for examination in the docket at the location listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. The Agency will consider to the extent practicable comments received in the public docket after the closing date of the comment period.

Issued On: September 24, 2014.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2014-23434 Filed 9-30-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration**

[Docket No. FMCSA-2014-0216]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders

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

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

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces receipt of applications from 7 individuals for an exemption from the prohibition against persons with a clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition which is likely to cause a loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) from operating CMVs in interstate commerce. The regulation and the associated advisory criteria published in the Code of Federal Regulations as the "Instructions for Performing and Recording Physical Examinations" have resulted in numerous drivers being prohibited from operating CMVs in interstate commerce based on the fact that they have had one or more seizures and are taking anti-seizure medication, rather than an individual analysis of their circumstances by a qualified medical examiner. If granted, the exemptions would enable these individuals who have had one or more seizures and are taking anti-seizure medication to operate CMVs for 2 years in interstate commerce.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 31, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments bearing the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket ID FMCSA-2014-0216 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.

Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket ID for this Notice. Note that DOT posts all comments received without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information included in a comment. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

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: Anyone may search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or of the person signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review the DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on January 17, 2008 (73 FR 3316; January 17, 2008). This information is also available at <http://Docketinfo.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elaine Papp, Chief, Medical Programs Division, (202) 366-4001, or via email at fmcsamedical@dot.gov, or by letter FMCSA, Room W64-113, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Under 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), 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 statutes also allow the Agency to renew exemptions at the end of the 2-year period. The 7 individuals listed in this notice have recently requested an exemption from the epilepsy prohibition in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(8), which applies to drivers who operate CMVs as defined in 49 CFR 390.5, in interstate commerce. Section 391.41(b)(8) states that a person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if that person has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition which is likely to cause the loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a CMV.

FMCSA provides medical advisory criteria for use by medical examiners in determining whether drivers with certain medical conditions should be certified to operate CMVs in interstate commerce. The advisory criteria indicate that if an individual has had a sudden episode of a non-epileptic seizure or loss of consciousness of unknown cause which did not require anti-seizure medication, the decision whether that person's condition is likely to cause the loss of consciousness or loss of ability to control a CMV should be made on an individual basis by the medical examiner in consultation with the treating physician. Before certification is considered, it is suggested that a 6-month waiting period elapse from the time of the episode. Following the waiting period, it is suggested that the individual have a complete neurological examination. If the results of the examination are negative and anti-seizure medication is not required, then the driver may be qualified.

In those individual cases where a driver had a seizure or an episode of loss of consciousness that resulted from a known medical condition (e.g., drug reaction, high temperature, acute infectious disease, dehydration, or acute metabolic disturbance), certification should be deferred until the driver has fully recovered from that condition, has no existing residual complications, and is not taking anti-seizure medication. Drivers who have a history of epilepsy/seizures, off anti-seizure medication and seizure-free for 10 years, may be qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce. Interstate drivers with a