

otherwise effective August 9, 2024, through February 15, 2029, 11:59 p.m. local time, unless revoked.

B. Applicability of Exemption

During the temporary exemption period, motor carriers operating stinger-steered automobile transporter equipment are exempt from the requirements of § 393.87 to place warning flags on loads of new or used motor vehicles that project up to 6 feet from the rear of the stinger-steered automobile transporter. The Agency encourages drivers to keep an electronic or hard copy of the renewal exemption with them or in the CMV.

C. Terms and Conditions

1. This exemption is limited to stinger-steered automobile transporter equipment and the transport of new or used motor vehicles. It does not apply to any other type of transporter equipment or other types of projecting or oversized loads.

2. Motor carriers operating under this exemption involved in any crash to the rear end of the stinger-steered automobile transporter equipment during the transport of new or used motor vehicles must notify FMCSA within 7 business days of the crash by email at MCPSV@DOT.GOV, even if such crash is not a reportable crash as defined in § 390.5T.

3. New and used motor vehicles transported on Stinger-steered automobile transporters that overhang from the transporter must be equipped with all other lights and reflective devices required by the applicable FMVSS or FMCSRs.

4. Motor carriers and CMVs operating under this exemption must comply with all other applicable FMCSRs (49 CFR parts 350–399), unless specifically exempted from a requirement.

D. Preemption

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(d), as implemented by 49 CFR 381.600, during the period this 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. States may, but are not required to, adopt the same exemption with respect to operations in intrastate commerce.

E. Termination

The exemption will be valid for as provided in section V.A. above, unless revoked earlier by FMCSA. FMCSA does not believe that motor carriers and CMVs covered by the exemption will experience any deterioration of their

safety record. However, should this occur, FMCSA will take all steps necessary to protect the public interest, including revocation of the exemption without prior notice. The exemption may be immediately rescinded if: (1) motor carriers and/or CMVs fail to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption; (2) the exemption has resulted in a lower level of safety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 or chapter 313.

Interested parties possessing information that would demonstrate that this exemption or motor carriers operating stinger-steered automobile transporter equipment without warning flags and with loads of new or used motor vehicles projecting up to 6 feet beyond the rear of the automobile transporter are not achieving the requisite statutory level of safety should immediately notify FMCSA by email at MCPSV@DOT.GOV. The Agency will evaluate any such information and, if safety is being compromised or if the continuation of the exemption is not consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136 or chapter 313, may take immediate steps to revoke the exemption or impose additional requirements as part of the exemption.

VI. Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), FMCSA requests public comment from all interested persons on ACC and AHAA's application for renewal of the exemption from § 393.87.

All comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated at the beginning of this notice will be considered and will be available for examination in the docket at the location listed under the Addresses section of this notice. Comments received after the comment closing date will be filed in the public docket and will be considered to the extent practicable. In addition to late comments, FMCSA will also continue to file, in the public docket, relevant information that becomes available after the comment closing date. Interested persons should continue to examine the public docket for new material.

Vincent G. White,

Deputy Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2024–24326 Filed 10–21–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2010–0027]

Hours of Service of Drivers: WestRock Application for Renewal of Exemption

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition; renewal of exemption.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its final decision to renew the exemption granted to WestRock from the hours-of-service (HOS) regulations that prohibit drivers from operating property-carrying commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) after 14 hours on duty and require 10 hours off duty before resuming driving. The exemption allows WestRock's drivers to transport paper mill products short distances on a public road between its shipping and receiving locations without complying with those HOS limits.

DATES: This renewed exemption is effective from April 17, 2024, and expires on April 16, 2029.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pearlie Robinson, Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards; FMCSA; 202–366–4225; pearlie.robinson@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, go to www.regulations.gov, insert the docket number “FMCSA–2010–0027” in the keyword box, and click “Search.” Next, sort the results by “Posted (Newer-Older),” choose the first notice listed, and click “Browse Comments.”

To view documents mentioned in this notice as being available in the docket, go to www.regulations.gov, insert the docket number “FMCSA–2010–0027” in the keyword box, click “Search,” and choose the document to review.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may view the docket online by visiting Dockets Operations 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., ET, 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(b) to grant exemptions from 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 the applicant's safety analysis. The Agency must 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(a)). The Agency must publish its decision in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(b)). If granted, the notice will identify the regulatory provision from which the applicant will be exempt, the effective period, and all terms and conditions of the exemption (49 CFR 381.315(c)(1)). If the exemption is denied, the notice will explain the reason for the denial (49 CFR 381.315(c)(2)). The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.300(b)).

III. Background

Current Regulatory Requirements

Under 49 CFR 395.3(a)(2), non-short haul drivers may not drive after having been on duty for a period of 14 consecutive hours until they have been off duty for a minimum of 10 consecutive hours, or the equivalent of at least 10 consecutive hours off duty. However, certain short-haul drivers are allowed a 16-hour driving window once a week (49 CFR 395.1(o)), and other short-haul drivers not requiring a commercial driver's license are allowed two 16-hour duty periods per week provided specified conditions are met (49 CFR 395.1(e)(2)).

IV. Application for Renewal of Exemption

The renewal application from WestRock was described in detail in a **Federal Register** notice of January 19, 2024 (89 FR 3704), and will not be repeated here as the facts have not changed since then.

V. Public Comments

On January 19, 2024, FMCSA published its decision to provisionally grant WestRock a five-year renewal through April 24, 2029 (89 FR 3704).

Two comments were submitted to the docket, one supporting and the other opposing the exemption renewal. MWS Cartage LLC supports granting the renewal and said, "this should be a simple yes." Trevor Bartz opposed the renewal and said, "WestRock is understaffed and its employees overworked." Neither commenter provided information in support of their assertions.

VI. Agency Decision

Since 2012, FMCSA has determined that the operations of WestRock's drivers, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the exemption, would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety achieved without the exemption. The Agency has reviewed the comments to the docket and believes that WestRock's overall safety performance, as reflected in its "satisfactory" safety rating, and the short distance drivers will operate a CMV under the exemption, will likely enable it to achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety achieved without the exemption (49 CFR 381.305(a)). FMCSA is unaware of any evidence of a degradation of safety attributable to the prior exemptions for WestRock's drivers. Further, WestRock asserted that, since the initial approval of its waiver, it has operated safely without incident. There is no indication of an adverse impact on safety while WestRock drivers have operated under the terms and conditions specified in the initial exemption or the renewals.

FMCSA therefore concludes that renewing the exemption granted on July 29, 2019, for another five years, under the terms and conditions listed below, will likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety achieved without the exemption.

VII. Exemption Decision

A. Grant of Provisional Renewal of Exemption

FMCSA reaffirms its provisional decision to renew the WestRock exemption for a period of five years, subject to the terms and conditions of this decision. The exemption from the requirements of 49 CFR 395.3(a)(1) (the 10-hour off-duty rule) and (a)(2) (the "14-hour rule") is effective beginning April 17, 2024, through April 16, 2029, 11:59 p.m. local time, unless revoked earlier.

B. Applicability of Exemption

During the exemption period, WestRock's shipping department employees and occasional substitute commercial driver's license (CDL) holders who transport paper mill products between the shipping and receiving locations along the designated route on Compress Street in Chattanooga, TN, may work up to 16 consecutive hours in a duty period and return to work with a minimum of at least 8 hours off duty when necessary.

C. Terms and Conditions

Applicability

The exemption is restricted to shipping department employees and occasional substitute CDL holders employed by WestRock who are exclusively assigned to a specific route. This specific route is entirely on Compress Street, between WestRock's shipping and receiving departments, measuring approximately 275 feet in one direction.

Notification to FMCSA

WestRock must notify FMCSA within 5 business days of any accident (as defined in 49 CFR 390.5), involving any of the motor carrier's CMVs operating under the terms of this exemption. The notification must include the following information:

- (a) Name of the exemption: "WestRock";
- (b) Date of the accident;
- (c) City or town, and State, in which the accident occurred, or which is closest to the accident scene;
- (d) Driver's name and license number;
- (e) Vehicle number and State license number;
- (f) Number of individuals suffering physical injury;
- (g) Number of fatalities;
- (h) The police-reported cause of the accident;
- (i) Whether the driver was cited for violation of any traffic laws, motor carrier safety regulations; and
- (j) The driver's total driving time and total on-duty time prior to the accident. Reports filed under this provision shall be emailed to MCPSD@DOT.GOV.

D. Preemption

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(d), as implemented by 49 CFR 381.600, during the period this 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 firm or person operating under the exemption.

E. Termination

FMCSA does not believe the drivers covered by this exemption will experience any deterioration of their safety record. The exemption will be rescinded if: (1) WestRock and drivers operating under the exemption fail 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 objects of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b).

Vincent G. White,

Deputy Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2024–24327 Filed 10–21–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA–2024–0097]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by letter dated August 5, 2024, SMS Rail Service (SLRS) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a special approval pursuant to 49 CFR part 215 (Railroad Freight Car Safety Standards), and a waiver of compliance from both 49 CFR part 215 and 49 CFR part 223 (Safety Glazing Standards—Locomotives, Passenger Cars and Caboose). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2024–0097.

Specifically, SLRS requests a special approval pursuant to § 215.203, *Restricted cars*, for 3 cars (SLRS 51651, SLRS 17695, and SLRS 10301) that are more than 50 years from the dates of original construction. SLRS also seeks relief from § 215.303, *Stenciling of restricted cars*, and 49 CFR part 223 for safety glazing, on the 3 cars. The cars will operate on SLRS trackage in differing capacities in tourist excursion service. SLRS 51651 will primarily be used to store seasonal supplies and SLRS 17695 will primarily be used in maintenance-of-way service.

In its petition, SLRS stated that “the cars have been restored to their original, as-built appearance for tourist excursion and educational purposes” and that the adding the stenciling and safety glazing required by the regulations would “detract from the historical and educational impression [the] cars are intended to preserve.”

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted at www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Communications received by December 23, 2024 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable. Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, 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 <https://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. 2024–24455 Filed 10–21–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA–2024–0100]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that on August 26, 2024, Metro-North

Railroad (Metro-North) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 229 (Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2024–0100.

Specifically, Metro-North requests relief from § 229.136(f)(3), *Locomotive image and audio recording devices—Recording uses*, which states the situations in which image and audio recordings from a locomotive “in commuter or intercity passenger service” can be used. Metro-North seeks to use the recordings for training and safety videos.

In support of its request, Metro-North states that it has used the recordings from “outward facing video and inward facing video and audio systems” “in manners that provide significant safety benefits to the railroad, and its passengers” since 2017. Further, Metro-North intends that the recordings will be “provided for enhanced training presentations, more meaningful and impactful safety messaging regarding incidents and near[–]misses, and individual employee training opportunities.”

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted at www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Communications received by December 23, 2024 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

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 association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better