

II. Legal Basis

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 to grant exemptions from certain parts of 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 5 years), and explain the terms and conditions of the exemption. The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.300(b)).

III. Background

The Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) final rule was adopted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 31305(c). The rule is based in part on consensus recommendations from the Agency's ELDT Advisory Committee, a negotiated rulemaking committee. The rule enhances the safety of CMV operations on our Nation's highways by establishing a minimum standard for ELDT and increasing the number of drivers who receive ELDT. The rule revises 49 CFR part 380, Special Training Requirements, to include, among other things, driver training instructor qualifications. Under 49 CFR 380.713 a driver training instructor must have two years' experience and have held a commercial driver's license (CDL) for two years, as set forth in the definitions of behind-the-wheel (BTW) instructor and theory instructor in 49 CFR 380.605.

On June 19, 2019, FMCSA published a UPS application for exemption from two provisions of the ELDT final rule and requested public comment [84 FR 28623]. UPS requested an exemption from (1) the requirement in 49 CFR 380.713 that a driver training instructor hold a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and have two years' experience driving a commercial motor vehicle

(CMV), as set forth in the definitions of "behind-the-wheel (BTW) instructor" and "theory instructor;" and (2) the requirement in 49 CFR 380.703(a)(7) to register each training location in order to obtain a unique Training Provider Registry (TPR) number applicable to that location.

The Agency received 112 comments, including 58 supporting the requested exemptions and 51 opposing them. Three other commenters had no position either for or against the application and provided no substantive comments.

On December 9, 2019, the Agency denied the UPS exemption request because the application did not provide an analysis of the safety impacts the requested exemptions may cause, as required by 49 CFR 381.310(c)(4), and did not explain how the exemptions would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved by complying with the current regulations, as required by 49 CFR 381.310(c)(5).

IV. Request for Reconsideration of Agency Decision

On July 1, 2020, UPS requested that FMCSA reconsider its denial of the exemption from 49 CFR 380.713. UPS believes that its current process of preparing driver trainers exceeds any skill set gained merely by operating a tractor-trailer for two years. The company also believes that a two-year experience requirement doesn't automatically equate to success as a CMV driver trainer. UPS has provided the Agency with updated information since the original denial illustrating that many of their locations have experienced turnover issues with driver trainers. UPS stated that it has had to hire 100 candidates to attempt to net the 50 trainer positions necessary across the U.S. Of the 100 hired, UPS has been able to retain only 38 trainers for the reasons explained in the request for reconsideration. A copy of the UPS application is in the docket listed at the beginning of this notice.

V. Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(6), FMCSA requests public comment from all interested persons on UPS' request for reconsideration of its application for an exemption. 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.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2020–21025 Filed 9–22–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2020–0027]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Hearing

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

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

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces receipt of applications from 21 individuals for an exemption from the hearing requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) to operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) in interstate commerce. If granted, the exemptions would enable these hard of hearing and deaf individuals to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 23, 2020.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket No. FMCSA–2020–0027 using any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2020-0027>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- **Mail:** Docket Operations; 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., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

- **Fax:** (202) 493–2251.

To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. See the "Public Participation" portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Christine A. Hydock, Chief, Medical Programs Division, (202) 366-4001, fmcsamedical@dot.gov, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W64-224, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you have questions regarding viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Docket Operations, (202) 366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Participation

A. Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (Docket No. FMCSA-2020-0027), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. You may submit your comments and material online or by fax, mail, or hand delivery, but please use only one of these means. FMCSA recommends that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so that FMCSA can contact you if there are questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2020-0027>. Click on the "Comment Now!" button and type your comment into the text box on the following screen. Choose whether you are submitting your comment as an individual or on behalf of a third party and then submit.

If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit comments by mail and would like to know that they reached the facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

B. Viewing Documents and Comments

To view comments, as well as any documents mentioned in this notice as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2020-0027> and choose the document to review. If you do not have access to the internet, you may view the docket online by visiting Docket Operations 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., 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 Docket Operations.

C. 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.transportation.gov/privacy.

II. Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA may grant an exemption from the FMCSRs for no longer than a 5-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 5-year period. FMCSA grants medical exemptions from the FMCSRs for a 2-year period to align with the maximum duration of a driver's medical certification.

The 21 individuals listed in this notice have requested an exemption from the hearing requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(11). Accordingly, the Agency will evaluate the qualifications of each applicant to determine whether granting the exemption will achieve the required level of safety mandated by statute.

The physical qualification standard for drivers regarding hearing found in § 391.41(b)(11) states that a person is physically qualified to drive a CMV if that person first perceives a forced whispered voice in the better ear at not less than 5 feet with or without the use of a hearing aid or, if tested by use of an audiometric device, does not have an average hearing loss in the better ear greater than 40 decibels at 500 Hz, 1,000 Hz, and 2,000 Hz with or without a hearing aid when the audiometric device is calibrated to American National Standard (formerly ASA Standard) Z24.5-1951.

This standard was adopted in 1970 and was revised in 1971 to allow drivers to be qualified under this standard while wearing a hearing aid, 35 FR 6458, 6463 (April 22, 1970) and 36 FR 12857 (July 3, 1971).

On February 1, 2013, FMCSA announced in a Notice of Final Disposition titled, "Qualification of Drivers; Application for Exemptions;

National Association of the Deaf," (78 FR 7479), its decision to grant requests from 40 individuals for exemptions from the Agency's physical qualification standard concerning hearing for interstate CMV drivers. Since that time the Agency has published additional notices granting requests from hard of hearing and deaf individuals for exemptions from the Agency's physical qualification standard concerning hearing for interstate CMV drivers.

III. Qualifications of Applicants

Joel Alfaro

Mr. Alfaro, 53, holds a class E license in Florida.

Adrian Almanza

Mr. Almanza, 26, holds a class D license in Illinois.

Jimmy Benavides

Mr. Benavides, 65, holds a class B CDL in Texas.

James Bryan

Mr. Bryan, 37, holds a class D license in Arkansas.

Richard Clark

Mr. Clark, 27, holds a class D license in Idaho.

Jules Garcia

Mr. Garcia, 47, holds a class D license in Illinois.

Calvin Gousby

Mr. Gousby, 54, holds a class C license in Nevada.

Nicholas Gramarossa

Mr. Gramarossa, 30, holds an operator license in Indiana.

William Heath

Mr. Heath, 45, holds a class C license in North Carolina.

Ryan King

Mr. King, 24, holds a class C license in North Carolina.

Alexander Lowe

Mr. Lowe, 31, holds a class A license in Washington.

Kenneth Morrison

Mr. Morrison, 64, holds a class A license in New York.

Darren Norton

Mr. Norton, 36, holds a class F license in Missouri.

Raphael Pittenger

Mr. Pittenger, 54, holds a class A license in Washington.

Marty Posey

Mr. Posey, 47, holds an operator license in Indiana.

David Sanders

Mr. Sanders, 42, holds a class D license in Illinois.

Muhammad Shafi

Mr. Shafi, 36, holds a class D license in Illinois.

Nolen Soler

Mr. Soler, 43, holds a class F license in Nebraska.

Donald Taylor

Mr. Taylor, 58, holds a class C license in North Carolina.

Anthony Vasquez

Mr. Vasquez, 27, holds a class C license in Texas.

Daniel Zeolla

Mr. Zeolla, 33, holds a class CM license in Pennsylvania.

IV. Request for Comments

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA requests public comment from all interested persons on the exemption petitions described in this notice. We will consider all comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated under the **DATES** section of the notice.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2020–20961 Filed 9–22–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Community Development Financial Institutions Fund****Funding Opportunity Title: Notice of Allocation Availability (NOAA) Inviting Applications for the Calendar Year (CY) 2020 Allocation Round of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program**

Announcement Type: Announcement of NMTC Allocation availability.

Dates:

TABLE 1—CY 2020 ALLOCATION ROUND NMTC PROGRAM CRITICAL DEADLINES FOR APPLICANTS

Description	Deadline/date	Time (eastern time—ET)	Submission method
Community Development Entity (CDE) Certification Application.	October 6, 2020	11:59 p.m. ET	Electronically via the Awards Management Information System (AMIS).
Request to modify CDE certification service area.	October 6, 2020	11:59 p.m. ET	Electronically via AMIS.
Subsidiary CDE Certification Application for meeting Qualified Equity Investment (QEI) issuance thresholds.	October 6, 2020	11:59 p.m. ET	Electronically via AMIS.
CY 2020 Application Registration	October 9, 2020	5:00 p.m. ET	Electronically via AMIS.
Last date to contact CDFI Fund staff	November 12, 2020	5:00 p.m. ET	Electronically via AMIS.
CY 2020 Allocation Application (including required Attachments).	November 16, 2020	5:00 p.m. ET	Electronically via AMIS.
Amendment request to add Subsidiary CDEs to Allocation Agreements for meeting QEI issuance thresholds.	December 4, 2020	11:59 p.m. ET	Electronically via AMIS.
QEI Issuance and making Qualified Low Income Community Investments (QLICs) by:.	January 15, 2021	11:59 p.m. ET	Not Applicable.
Reporting QEIs and QLICs closed as of January 15, 2021.	January 29, 2021	11:59 p.m. ET	Electronically via AMIS.

Executive Summary: This NOAA is issued in connection with the CY 2020 allocation round (Allocation Round) of the New Markets Tax Credit Program (NMTC Program), as authorized by Title I, subtitle C, section 121 of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–554) as amended. (26 U.S.C. 45D). Through the NMTC Program, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) provides authority to certified CDEs to offer an incentive to investors in the form of tax credits over seven years, which is expected to stimulate the provision of private investment capital that, in turn, will facilitate economic and community development in Low-Income Communities. Through this NOAA, the CDFI Fund announces the availability of \$5 billion of NMTC Allocation authority in this Allocation

Round. In this NOAA, the CDFI Fund specifically addresses how a CDE may apply to receive an allocation of NMTCs, the competitive procedure through which NMTC Allocations will be made, and the actions that will be taken to ensure that proper allocations are made to appropriate entities.

I. Allocation Availability Description

A. Programmatic changes from the CY 2019 allocation round:

1. Prior QEI Issuance Requirements: Prior-year NMTC Allocatees will be subject to minimum thresholds for QEI issuance and closing of QLICs with respect to their prior-year NMTC Allocations. These thresholds and deadlines have been revised in comparison to the CY 2019 NOAA. See Section III.3 of this NOAA for additional details.

2. NMTC Application Registration (Application Registration): CY 2020 Allocation Round Applicants are first required to complete and save the Application Registration section of the NMTC Allocation Application in AMIS by the Application Registration deadline in order to be able to submit the remaining sections of CY 2020 Allocation Application by the Application deadline. Applicants that do not complete and save the Application Registration by the Application Registration deadline, will not be able to subsequently submit a CY 2020 Allocation Application in AMIS.

II. Allocation Information

A. Allocation amounts: Pursuant to the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2019, the CDFI Fund expects that it may allocate to CDEs the