

Issued on: May 8, 2014.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA-2014-0012]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Diabetes Mellitus

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its decision to exempt 50 individuals from its rule prohibiting persons with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus (ITDM) from operating commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce. The exemptions will enable these individuals to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

DATES: The exemptions are effective May 14, 2014. The exemptions expire on May 16, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elaine M. Papp, Chief, Medical Programs Division, (202) 366-4001, fmcsamedical@dot.gov, FMCSA, Room W64-224, 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:

Electronic Access

You may see all the comments online through the Federal Document Management System (FDMS) at: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and/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.

Privacy Act: Anyone may search the electronic form of all comments received into any of DOT's 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, or other entity). You may review DOT's Privacy Act Statement for the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS)

published in the **Federal Register** on January 17, 2008 (73 FR 3316).

Background

On February 25, 2013, FMCSA published a notice of receipt of Federal diabetes exemption applications from 50 individuals and requested comments from the public (79 FR 10612). The public comment period closed on March 27, 2014 and two comments were received.

FMCSA has evaluated the eligibility of the 50 applicants and determined that granting the exemptions to these individuals would achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved by complying with the current regulation 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3).

Diabetes Mellitus and Driving Experience of the Applicants

The Agency established the current requirement for diabetes in 1970 because several risk studies indicated that drivers with diabetes had a higher rate of crash involvement than the general population. The diabetes rule provides that "A person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if that person has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus currently requiring insulin for control" (49 CFR 391.41(b)(3)).

FMCSA established its diabetes exemption program, based on the Agency's July 2000 study entitled "A Report to Congress on the Feasibility of a Program to Qualify Individuals with Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus to Operate in Interstate Commerce as Directed by the Transportation Act for the 21st Century." The report concluded that a safe and practicable protocol to allow some drivers with ITDM to operate CMVs is feasible. The September 3, 2003 (68 FR 52441), **Federal Register** notice in conjunction with the November 8, 2005 (70 FR 67777), **Federal Register** notice provides the current protocol for allowing such drivers to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

These 50 applicants have had ITDM over a range of 1 to 36 years. These applicants report no severe hypoglycemic reactions resulting in loss of consciousness or seizure, requiring the assistance of another person, or resulting in impaired cognitive function that occurred without warning symptoms, in the past 12 months and no recurrent (2 or more) severe hypoglycemic episodes in the past 5 years. In each case, an endocrinologist verified that the driver has demonstrated a willingness to properly

monitor and manage his/her diabetes mellitus, received education related to diabetes management, and is on a stable insulin regimen. These drivers report no other disqualifying conditions, including diabetes-related complications. Each meets the vision requirement at 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10).

The qualifications and medical condition of each applicant were stated and discussed in detail in the February 25, 2014, **Federal Register** notice and they will not be repeated in this notice.

Discussion of Comments

FMCSA received two comments in this proceeding. The comments are discussed below.

John Navarro is in favor of granting all drivers exemptions.

Jason Runyon corrected the spelling of his name from "James", as it appeared in FMCSA-2014-0012-0001 (79 FR 10612). The spelling has been corrected below.

Basis for Exemption Determination

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA may grant an exemption from the diabetes requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3) if the exemption is likely to achieve an equivalent or greater level of safety than would be achieved without the exemption. The exemption allows the applicants to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

To evaluate the effect of these exemptions on safety, FMCSA considered medical reports about the applicants' ITDM and vision, and reviewed the treating endocrinologists' medical opinion related to the ability of the driver to safely operate a CMV while using insulin.

Consequently, FMCSA finds that in each case exempting these applicants from the diabetes requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3) is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

Conditions and Requirements

The terms and conditions of the exemption will be provided to the applicants in the exemption document and they include the following: (1) That each individual submit a quarterly monitoring checklist completed by the treating endocrinologist as well as an annual checklist with a comprehensive medical evaluation; (2) that each individual reports within 2 business days of occurrence, all episodes of severe hypoglycemia, significant complications, or inability to manage diabetes; also, any involvement in an accident or any other adverse event in a CMV or personal vehicle, whether or not it is related to an episode of

hypoglycemia; (3) that each individual provide a copy of the ophthalmologist's or optometrist's report to the medical examiner at the time of the annual medical examination; and (4) that each individual provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver's qualification file, or keep a copy in his/her driver's qualification file if he/she is self-employed. The driver must also have a copy of the certification when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official.

Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the 50 exemption applications, FMCSA exempts Franklin D. Bailey (GA), Tony T. Bakkala (WA), RobRoy Barney (MT), Aaron C. Bogle (OH), Todd L. Brandt (IL), Dean G. Brekhus (ND), Kenneth L. Brooks, Jr. (NC), Angie M. Carrington (MO), David A. Cavan (MA), David A. Charles (OH), Philip M. Clardy (MI), James A. David (IL), Samuel J. Desmond (RI), David A. Doeling (ND), Mark C. Durler (KS), Nathaniel Edwards, Sr. (TN), John F. Fedorchak, Jr. (PA), Roger A. Felix (IN), Derek W. Frazier (IA), Harry M. Gallagher (WA), Michael G. Haugen (WI), Richard E. Hazek (OH), Timothy S. Hinkhouse (NE), Gregg W. Isherwood (ME), William L. Ivey (WA), Chad D. Johansen (UT), Kevin Krummenacker (NY), James A. Lagunas (AZ), Douglas R. Lane (NY), Jonathon W. Luebke (WI), Brion T. Maguire (PA), Christopher P. Martin (NH), Jacob R. Martin (MO), John C. May (NE), Daryl J. Millard (WA), Angel F. Morales (CO), Neil J. Morrison (IL), Peter Odo (IL), Slobodan Pavlovich (WA), Darryl W. Peppers (IN), Bradley S. Pletcher (PA), Michael G. Pollard (IA), Hank D. Rose, Jr. (NC), Jason M. Runyon (OK), Michael J. Schroeder (WI), Mary E. Schultz (WI), David H. Sopko (UT), David G. Stookey (WA), Thomas P. Verdon (PA), and Joshua R. Wiery (OH) from the ITDM requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3), subject to the conditions listed under "Conditions and Requirements" above.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 each exemption will be valid for two years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked if the following occurs: (1) The person fails 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(e) and 31315. If the exemption is still effective at the end of the 2-year period, the person may apply to FMCSA

for a renewal under procedures in effect at that time.

Issued on: April 28, 2014.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

May 8, 2014.

The Department of the Treasury will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13, on or after the date of publication of this notice.

DATES: Comments should be received on or before June 13, 2014 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the burden estimate, or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestion for reducing the burden, to (1) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Treasury, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, or email at OIRA_Submission@OMB.EOP.GOV and (2) Treasury PRA Clearance Officer, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Suite 8140, Washington, DC 20220, or email at PRA@treasury.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 927-5331, email at PRA@treasury.gov, or the entire information collection request maybe found at www.reginfo.gov.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

OMB Number: 1545-2212.

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: IRS Taxpayer Burden Surveys

Abstract: The IRS is developing improved methods for measuring, estimating, and modeling taxpayer burden. The data collected from this survey of individual taxpayers will be used as an input to a micro-simulation model that estimates taxpayer burden. The IRS will also publish the relevant updated burden estimates in tax form instructions to inform taxpayers. Three types of questions will be asked: questions framing the activities to be measured, burden measurement questions, and questions to better inform taxpayer needs related to their compliance burden.

Each year, individual taxpayers in the United States submit more than 140 million tax returns to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The IRS uses the information in these returns, recorded on roughly one hundred distinct forms and supporting schedules, to administer a tax system whose rules span thousands of pages. Managing such a complex and broad-based tax system is costly but represents only a fraction of the total burden of the tax system. Equally, if not more burdensome, is the time and out-of-pocket expenses that citizens spend in order to comply with tax laws and regulations.

The IRS has conducted prior surveys of individual taxpayers in 1984, 1999, 2000, 2007. Changes in tax regulations, tax administration, tax preparation methods, and taxpayer behavior continue to alter the amount and distribution of taxpayer burden. To update our understanding of this burden, the IRS contracted Westat to survey individual taxpayers regarding the time and money taxpayers spend in response to their federal income tax obligations. We intend to conduct an updated survey to better reflect the current tax rules and regulations, the increased usage of tax preparation software, increased efficiency of such software, changes in tax preparation regulations, the increased use of electronic filing, the behavioral response of taxpayers to the tax system, the changing use of services, both IRS and external, and related information collection needs.

The purpose of the IRS entity surveys is to provide Congress and the President with accurate estimates of the costs incurred by corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, tax-exempt organizations, and government entities in complying with federal rules and regulations.

The critical items on the survey concern respondents' time and cost burden estimates for complying with tax filing regulations. Additional items on the survey will serve as contextualizing variables for interpretation of the burden items. These items include information regarding tax preparation methods and activities, tax-related recordkeeping, gathering materials, learning about tax law, using IRS and/or non-IRS taxpayer services, and tax form completion.

The creation of these new surveys will result in a total estimated burden increase of 6,871 hours and 36,810 annual responses.