

Dated: April 6, 2012.

Brian Robinson,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2012-8830 Filed 4-11-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-2012-0033]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Request for Comments for a New Information Collection

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FHWA invites public comments about our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval for a new information collection, which is summarized below under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. We are required to publish this notice in the **Federal Register** by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Please submit comments by June 11, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket ID 2012-0033 by any of the following methods:

Web Site: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Fax: 1-202-493-2251.

Mail: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

Hand Delivery or Courier: U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Ferroni, 202-366-9237, Office of Natural Environment, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Possible Inclusion of Specific Pavement Types in the FHWA Traffic Noise Model: Regulatory and Procedural Changes.

Background: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has been actively involved in what today the highway noise industry refers to as "quieter pavements." In 2003, the FHWA entered into the Quiet Pavement Pilot Program with the Arizona Department of Transportation, co-sponsored the 2004 International Scan on "Quieter Pavement Systems in Europe," and funded several national workshops, trainings and informational outreach pieces on this topic. In 2005, the FHWA began funding the "Pavement Effects Implementation Study" (PEI) to see how more specific pavement types could be incorporated into the FHWA Traffic Noise Model (FHWA TNM). The incorporation of specific pavement types into TNM would require State Departments of Transportation to use these more specific pavement types in TNM and would result in additional regulatory and procedural changes.

The PEI currently is out of funding but an interim report will soon be released. Before additional time, effort and funding are put into completing the PEI, it is important to conduct a user-need analysis to determine whether our stakeholders, primarily State Departments of Transportation, still want us to complete this research, knowing that it would result in regulatory and procedural changes. The information would cover the topics of being required to use a more specific pavement type(s), being required to maintain the specific pavement type selected, and being required to call a project, a Type I project, if the original pavement is replaced or overlaid with a louder pavement.

Respondents: Approximately 60 entities.

Frequency: Once.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: Approximately 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: Approximately 30 hours.

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burdens; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, 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.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: April 2, 2012.

Juli Huynh,

Chief, Management Programs and Analysis Division.

[FR Doc. 2012-8847 Filed 4-11-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2012-0091]

Notice of Fiscal Year 2012 Cooperative Agreement Solicitation for Applications; Specialized Heavy Vehicle Inspection (SHVI) Study

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

ACTION: Notice; request for applications.

SUMMARY: This notice is to inform the public of a FY 2012 cooperative agreement opportunity being offered by the FMCSA in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to State agencies responsible for large truck roadside safety inspections. The FMCSA announces this cooperative agreement opportunity based on authorities provided for in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy of Users (Pub. L. 109-59). The cooperative agreement opportunity is to support the FMCSA and the FHWA to collect data for a Specialized Heavy Vehicle Inspection (SHVI) Study.

DATES: Applications are due by May 4, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please contact the following FMCSA staff with questions or information on this cooperative agreement opportunity: Luke Loy, luke.loy@dot.gov, 202-366-0676. FMCSA staff may be reached at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose

In an effort to better understand the safety performance of heavier vehicles, the FMCSA and the FHWA are partnering to implement the Specialized Heavy Vehicle Inspection (SHVI) Study Cooperative Agreement. The SHVI Study Cooperative Agreement will provide funding to State agencies responsible for large truck roadside safety inspections. The purpose of the

Study is to collect safety data from roadside inspections on vehicles exceeding certain weight levels to determine if there are any associations between higher vehicle weights and motor carrier safety violations, particularly those with out-of-service conditions.

Detailed information on applicant expectations and the application process for these cooperative agreements will be provided in a Notice of Funding Availability to be released April 16, 2012 or soon thereafter. The FMCSA intends to enter into these cooperative agreements by June 1, 2012 or as soon thereafter as administratively practicable.

The FMCSA uses the standard grant application form and quarterly reporting process. The FMCSA requires the Standard Form 424 (Application for Federal Assistance). Applicants for this cooperative agreement will be expected to also complete a Project Narrative and Budget Narrative to support their application. FMCSA uses GrantSolutions, a grants management information technology system, to provide all cooperative agreement documents electronically to its financial processing office. GrantSolutions is a comprehensive grants management system provided by the Grants Center of Excellence (COE). The Grants COE serves as one of three consortia leads under the Grants Management Line of Business E-Gov initiative offering government-wide grants management system support services. Electronic signature of grant documents in GrantSolutions is the Agency's preferred method for executing grant agreement. Additional information will be provided to grantees during the grant award process. Grantees will, however, be required to submit the completed Automated Clearing House (ACH) Vendor Payment Form (SF-3881) directly to FMCSA's financial processing office by U.S. Postal Service, courier service or secure fax. All SHVI Study cooperative agreement applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov.

Application Information for FY 2012 Grants

Eligible Entities: State agencies with the responsibility to conduct large truck roadside safety inspections.

Evaluation Factors: The following evaluation factors will be used in reviewing the applications for all FMCSA discretionary grants:

(1) Prior performance—Completion of identified programs and goals per the project plan.

(2) Effective Use of Prior Grants—Demonstrated timely use and expensing of available funds.

(3) Ability of the applicant to support the strategies and activities in the proposal for the entire project period of performance.

(4) Use of innovative approaches in executing a project plan to address identified safety issues.

(5) Feasibility of overall program coordination and implementation based upon the project plan.

Application Due Date: May 4, 2012.

Applications submitted after due dates may be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to availability of funds.

Issued on: April 5, 2012.

Kelly Leone,

Associate Administrator, Research and Information Technology.

[FR Doc. 2012-8772 Filed 4-11-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2011-0324]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its decision to exempt eleven individuals from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). The exemptions will enable these individuals to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce without meeting the prescribed vision requirement. The Agency has concluded that granting these exemptions will provide a level of safety that is equivalent to or greater than the level of safety maintained without the exemptions for these CMV drivers.

DATES: The exemptions are effective April 12, 2012. The exemptions expire on April 12, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elaine M. Papp, 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 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> 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 acknowledgement 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 DOT's Privacy Act Statement for the FDMS published in the **Federal Register** on January 17, 2008 (73 FR 3316), or you may visit <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-785.pdf>.

Background

On February 13, 2012, FMCSA published a notice of receipt of exemption applications from certain individuals, and requested comments from the public (77 FR 7657). That notice listed eleven applicants' case histories. The eleven individuals applied for exemptions from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), for drivers who operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, 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 statute also allows the Agency to renew exemptions at the end of the 2-year period. Accordingly, FMCSA has evaluated the eleven applications on their merits and made a determination to grant exemptions to each of them.

Vision and Driving Experience of the Applicants

The vision requirement in the FMCSRs provides:

A person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if that