

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4781]

Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Leadership and Management Notice of Meeting

The Department of State announces the meeting of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Leadership and Management on Wednesday, September 8 in Room 1107 of the U.S. Department of State at 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will take place from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This will be the inaugural meeting of the Committee. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage will chair the meeting. Secretary Powell invited a bipartisan group of prominent Americans to be members of the Committee earlier this year. With their participation and advice, the Department seeks to enhance the ability to carry out U.S. foreign policy today and into the future.

Members of the press and general public may attend the meeting, though attendance will be limited to the seating available. Access to the building is controlled, and photographic identification and individual building passes are required for all attendees.

To attend the meeting, please contact Carlene Roy (royc@state.gov) or Lori Porter (porterl@state.gov) in the Office of Management Policy at (202) 647-0093 and provide date of birth and Social Security number.

Dated: August 23, 2004.

Marguerite Coffey,

Office of Management Policy, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 04-19749 Filed 8-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-35-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Aviation Administration****RTCA Special Committee 200: Integrated Modular Avionics (IMA)/ EUROCAE WG-60**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of RTCA Special Committee 200 meeting.

SUMMARY: The FAA is issuing this notice to advise the public of a meeting of RTCA Special Committee 200: Integrated Modular Avionics.

DATES: The meeting will be held on September 14-17, 2004 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at RTCA, 1828 L Street, NW., Suite 805, Washington, DC 20036-5133.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: (1) RTCA Secretariat, 1828 L Street, NW., Suite 805, Washington, DC 20036-5133; telephone (202) 833-9339; fax (202) 833-9434; Web site <http://www.rtca.org>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2), notice is hereby given for a Special Committee 200 meeting. The agenda will include:

- September 14:
 - Editorial Committee Meeting
 - Subgroup Meetings: Edit document
- September 15:
 - Opening Session (Welcome, Introductory and Administrative Remarks, Review Agenda, Review Summary of Previous Meeting)
 - Review Action Items
 - Reports on Related Committee Activities
 - Subgroup Reports
 - Review Status of Document
 - Assignment of Action Items
 - Subgroup Meetings: Edit Document
- September 16:
 - Subgroup Meetings: Edit Document
 - Inter-Subgroup Meetings: Work Mutual Action Items
- September 17:
 - Subgroup Reports
 - Review Status of Document
 - Review/Assignment of Action Items
 - Closing Session (Make Assignments, Date and Place of Next Meeting, Closing Remarks, Adjourn)

Attendance is open to the interested public but limited to space availability. With the approval of the Chairmen, members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting. Persons wishing to present statements or obtain information should contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Members of the public may present a written statement to the committee at any time.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 17, 2004.

Robert Zoldos,

FAA Systems Engineer, RTCA Advisory Committee.

[FR Doc. 04-19625 Filed 8-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

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

[Docket Nos. FMCSA-99-6156, FMCSA-2000-7006, FMCSA-2000-7165]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Vision

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

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

SUMMARY: This notice publishes the FMCSA decision to renew the exemptions from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for 48 individuals. The FMCSA has statutory authority to exempt individuals from vision standards if the exemptions granted will not compromise safety. The agency has concluded that granting these exemptions will provide a level of safety that will be equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety maintained without the exemptions for these commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers.

DATES: This decision is effective September 21, 2004. Comments from interested persons should be submitted by September 27, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT DMS Docket Numbers FMCSA-99-6156, FMCSA-2000-7006, and FMCSA-2000-7165 by any of the following methods:

- Web Site: <http://dms.dot.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

- Fax: 1-202-493-2251.
- Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket numbers for this notice. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the Public Participation heading of the Supplementary Information section of this document. Note that all comments

received will be posted without change to <http://dms.dot.gov>, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading under Regulatory Notices.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time or to Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Teresa Doggett, Office of Bus and Truck Standards and Operations, (202) 366-2990, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., e.s.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Public Participation: The DMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. You can get electronic submission and retrieval help guidelines under the "help" section of the DMS 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 on-line.

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 the Department of Transportation's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Exemption Decision

Under 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the FMCSA may renew an exemption from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), which applies to drivers of CMVs in interstate commerce, for a two 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 procedures for requesting an exemption (including renewals) are set out in 49 CFR part 381. This notice addresses 48 individuals who have requested renewal of their exemptions in a timely manner. The FMCSA has evaluated these 48 applications for renewal on their merits

and decided to extend each exemption for a renewable two year period. They are:

Elijah A. Allen, Jr.
John W. Arnold
James H. Bailey
Victor F. Brast, Jr.
Derric D. Burrell
Monty G. Calderon
Anthony J. Cesternino
Eric L. Dawson, III
Richard L. Derick
Craig E. Dorrance
Joseph A. Dunlap
John C. Edwards, Jr.
Calvin J. Eldridge
Shawn B. Gaston
James F. Gereau
Ronald E. Goad
Esteban G. Gonzalez
Thanh Van Ha
Reginald I. Hall
James O. Hancock
Paul A. Harrison
Sherman W. Hawk, Jr.
Gordon W. Howell
Robert C. Jeffres
Alfred C. Jewell, Jr.
Larry D. Johnson
David R. Lambert
Ronnie L. LeMasters
Lewis V. McNeice
Duane D. Mims
Kevin J. O'Donnell
Gregory M. Preves
James M. Rafferty
Paul C. Reagle, Sr.
Daniel Salinas
Wayne R. Sears
Lee R. Sidwell
David L. Slack
James C. Smith
Daniel A. Sohn
Roger R. Strehlow
John T. Thomas
Ralph A. Thompson
Brian W. Whitmer
Jeffrey D. Wilson
Larry M. Wink
Joseph F. Wood
William E. Woodhouse

These exemptions are extended subject to the following conditions: (1) That each individual have a physical exam every year (a) by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who attests that the vision in the better eye continues to meet the standard in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), and (b) by a medical examiner who attests that the individual is otherwise physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41; (2) 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 (3) that each individual provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for

retention in the driver's qualification file and retain a copy of the certification on his/her person while driving for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official. Each exemption will be valid for two years unless rescinded earlier by the FMCSA. The exemption will be rescinded if: (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. 31315 and 31136(e).

Basis for Renewing Exemptions

Under 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(1), an exemption may be granted for no longer than two years from its approval date and may be renewed upon application for additional two year periods. In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), each of the 48 applicants has satisfied the entry conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirements (64 FR 54948, 65 FR 159, 67 FR 57266, 65 FR 20245, 65 FR 57230, 65 FR 33406, 65 FR 57234). Each of these 48 applicants has requested timely renewal of the exemption and has submitted evidence showing that the vision in the better eye continues to meet the standard specified at 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) and that the vision impairment is stable. In addition, a review of each record of safety while driving with the respective vision deficiencies over the past two years indicates each applicant continues to meet the vision exemption standards. These factors provide an adequate basis for predicting each driver's ability to continue to drive safely in interstate commerce. Therefore, the FMCSA concludes that extending the exemption for each renewal applicant for a period of two years is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

Comments

The FMCSA will review comments received at any time concerning a particular driver's safety record and determine if the continuation of the exemption is consistent with the requirements at 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e). However, the FMCSA requests that interested parties with specific data concerning the safety records of these drivers submit comments by September 27, 2004.

In the past the FMCSA has received comments from Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates) expressing continued opposition to the FMCSA's

procedures for renewing exemptions from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10). Specifically, Advocates objects to the agency's extension of the exemptions without any opportunity for public comment prior to the decision to renew, and reliance on a summary statement of evidence to make its decision to extend the exemption of each driver.

The issues raised by Advocates were addressed at length in 69 FR 51346 (August 18, 2004). The FMCSA continues to find its exemption process appropriate to the statutory and regulatory requirements.

Issued on: August 19, 2004.

Rose A. McMurray,

Associate Administrator, Policy and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 04-19567 Filed 8-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

[FTA Docket No. FTA-2004-18959]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for extension of the currently approved information collection. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments was published on June 1, 2004.

DATES: Comments must be submitted before September 27, 2004. A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sylvia L. Marion, Office of Administration, Office of Management Planning, (202) 366-6680.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Reporting of Technical Activities by FTA Grant Recipients (*OMB Number: 2132-0549*).

Abstract: 49 U.S.C. Sections 5303 and 5313(a) and (b) authorize the use of federal funds to assist metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), states, and local public bodies in developing transportation plans and programs to serve future transportation needs of

urbanized areas and nonurbanized areas throughout the nation. As part of this effort, MPOs are required to consider a wide range of goals and objectives and to analyze alternative transportation system management and investment strategies. These objectives are measured by definable activities such as planning certification reviews and other related activities.

The information collected is used to report annually to Congress, the Secretary, and to the Federal Transit Administrator on how grantees are responding to national emphasis areas and congressional direction, and allows FTA to trace grantees' use of federal planning and research funds.

Estimated Annual Burden: 156 hours.

ADDRESSES: All written comments must refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and be submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: FTA Desk Officer.

Comments Are Invited On: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued: August 24, 2004.

Ann M. Linnertz,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-19633 Filed 8-26-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-57-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Denial of Motor Vehicle Recall Petition

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Denial of petition for an investigation into the adequacy of a safety recall.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the reasons for the denial of a petition submitted to NHTSA under 49 U.S.C. 30120(e) by Ms. Angelique Trowbridge, requesting that the agency commence a

proceeding to determine the adequacy of the remedy utilized by Ford Motor Company (Ford) to address a safety-related defect in Ford Safety Recall 04S13 (NHTSA 04V-165). After a review of the petition and other information, NHTSA has concluded that further expenditure of the agency's investigative resources on the issues raised by the petition does not appear warranted. The agency accordingly has denied the petition. The petition is hereinafter identified as RP04-002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thomas Z. Cooper, Chief, Vehicle Integrity Division, Office of Defects Investigation (ODI), NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-5218.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 22, 2004, NHTSA received a letter from Ms. Trowbridge requesting that the agency investigate the adequacy of the remedy used by Ford in Safety Recall 04S13 (NHTSA 04V-165). The petitioner alleges that the recall remedy is inadequate and, as evidence, states that after having the recall remedy performed on her model year (MY) 2001 Ford Escape, it did not resolve the stalling condition.

On April 5, 2004, Ford filed a Defect Information Report concerning intermittent closed throttle engine stalling in 321,903 MY 2001-2003 Ford Escape vehicles equipped with 3.0L V6 engines, manufactured between January 31, 2000 and September 11, 2002. Ford reported that an intermittent engine stalling condition is prevalent in these vehicles when the vehicle is in a closed throttle deceleration at speeds of 40 mph and below. The recall remedy involved reprogramming the calibration of the vehicle's Powertrain Control Module (PCM) to correct a rich air/fuel mixture, thereby allowing the engine to operate without experiencing a closed throttle, deceleration-stalling event.

Following receipt of the petition, on July 1, 2004, the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) sent an information request to Ford to obtain relevant information. Ford's July 23, 2004 response indicates that less than 0.1 percent of vehicle owners who have had the recall remedy performed have reported additional deceleration stalling issues. Ford also states that the PCM has to "learn" the new program and that any subsequent stalling would be temporary. To verify Ford's claim, ODI conducted a random survey of 20 complainants who had the remedy performed on their vehicles and who experienced a subsequent stalling event. ODI found that most of them had isolated stalling problems, supporting Ford's allegation