

to be sold for use on U.S. highways. The drivers are experienced CMV operators with valid Japanese-issued CDLs. Because each of the drivers was required to satisfy strict CDL testing standards in Japan to obtain a CDL, and has extensive training and experience operating CMVs, Isuzu believes that the exemption will maintain a level of safety equivalent to the level of safety that would be obtained absent the exemption.

#### *Method To Ensure an Equivalent or Greater Level of Safety*

Drivers in Japan must hold a conventional driver's license for at least three years before applying to obtain a Japanese-issued CDL. At that point, they must take and pass both a knowledge test and a skills test in order to obtain a license to operate CMVs. These tests thoroughly assess the driver's ability to operate a CMV, and are comparable to the tests administered to CDL applicants in the United States. Once a driver is granted a Japanese CDL, he or she is allowed to drive any CMV currently allowed on Japanese roads. There are no limits to types or weights of vehicles that may be operated by the drivers.

Therefore, the process for obtaining a Japanese-issued CDL is considered to be comparable to, or as effective as, the requirements of 49 CFR part 383.

#### **Comments**

The Agency received one comment in response to its request for public comments (71 FR 42170, July 25, 2006). The commenter recommended that Isuzu use U.S. drivers for this testing. The commenter did not provide a substantive basis for this opinion. The docket number of this matter is referenced at the beginning of this notice.

#### **FMCSA Decision**

The FMCSA decision to grant these drivers an exemption from section 383.23 is based on the merits of the application for exemption, the rigorous knowledge and skills testing of Japanese drivers concerning the safe operation of CMVs, and consideration of the comment submitted in response to the public notice.

#### **Terms and Conditions for the Exemption**

After considering the comment to the docket and based upon evaluation of the application for an exemption, FMCSA grants Isuzu an exemption from the Federal commercial driver's license requirement in 49 CFR 383.23 for 76 drivers, identified under the "Japanese

Drivers" heading above, to test-drive CMVs within the United States, subject to the following terms and conditions: (1) That these drivers will be subject to drug and alcohol regulations, including testing, as provided in 49 CFR part 382, (2) that these drivers are subject to the same driver disqualification rules under 49 CFR parts 383 and 391 that apply to other CMV drivers in the U.S., (3) that these drivers keep a copy of the exemption on the vehicle at all times, (4) that Isuzu notify FMCSA in writing of any accident, as defined in 49 CFR 390.5, involving one of the exempted drivers, and (5) that Isuzu notify FMCSA in writing if any driver is convicted of a disqualifying offense described in section 383.51 or 391.15 of the FMCSRs.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the exemption will be valid for 2 years unless revoked earlier by the FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked if: (1) The drivers for Isuzu 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. 31315 and 31136.

Issued on: March 30, 2007.

**John H. Hill,**

*Administrator.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Maritime Administration**

#### **Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the information collection abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The nature of the information collection is described as well as its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on January 3, 2007. No comments were received.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before May 7, 2007.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Thomas Christensen, Maritime Administration, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. *Telephone:* (202) 366-5900, *FAX:* (202) 488-0941 or *E-Mail:* tom.christensen@dot.gov. Copies of this collection also can be obtained from that office.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Maritime Administration (MARAD).

*Title:* Voluntary Tanker Agreement.

*OMB Control Number:* 2133-0505.

*Type of Request:* Extension of currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Owners of tanker companies who operate in international trade and who have agreed to participate in this agreement.

*Forms:* None.

*Abstract:* The collection consists of a request from MARAD that each participant in the Voluntary Tanker Agreement submit a list of the names of ships owned, chartered, or contracted for by the participant, and their size and flags of registry. There is no prescribed format for this information.

*Annual Estimated Burden Hours:* Fifteen hours (one hour per respondent).

*Addressee:* Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, *Attention:* MARAD Desk Officer.

*Comments Are Invited On:* Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency'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. A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC on March 21, 2007.

**Daron T. Threet,**

*Secretary, Maritime Administration.*

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