

exemption is consistent with the requirements at 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315. However, FMCSA requests that interested parties with specific data concerning the safety records of these drivers submit comments by October 25, 2006.

FMCSA believes that the requirements for a renewal of an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 can be satisfied by initially granting the renewal and then requesting and evaluating, if needed, subsequent comments submitted by interested parties. As indicated above, the Agency previously published Notices of final disposition announcing its decision to exempt these 17 individuals from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10). That final decision to grant the exemption to each of these individuals was based on the merits of each case and only after careful consideration of the comments received to its Notices of applications. Those Notices of applications stated in detail the qualifications, experience, and medical condition of each applicant for an exemption from the vision requirements. That information is available by consulting the above cited **Federal Register** publications.

Interested parties or organizations possessing information that would otherwise show that any, or all of these drivers, are not currently achieving the statutory level of safety should immediately notify FMCSA. The Agency will evaluate any adverse evidence submitted and, if safety is being compromised or if continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption of a driver.

Issued on: September 13, 2006.

Rose A. McMurray,

Associate Administrator, Policy and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 06-8119 Filed 9-22-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2005-24231]

Hours of Service of Drivers: Withdrawal of Application for Exemption; FedEx Ground Package System, Inc.

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

ACTION: Notice of application for exemption; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: The FMCSA announces that it is withdrawing its notice of an application for exemption upon the request of the applicant, FedEx Ground Package System, Inc. (FedEx).

DATES: The notice of application with request for comments published on July 31, 2006 is withdrawn, effective immediately.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thomas Yager, Chief, Driver and Carrier Operations Division, Office of Bus and Truck Standards and Operations, MC-PSD, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-4009. E-mail: MCPSD@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 31, 2006, FMCSA published a notice requesting public comment on FedEx's application for an exemption from certain hours-of-service requirements for truck drivers (71 FR 43277). FedEx sought a limited exemption from the definition of "on duty" under FMCSA's hours-of-service regulations governing drivers who operate commercial motor vehicles. FedEx subsequently withdrew its exemption application. The FedEx letter requesting withdrawal of this matter has been placed in the docket identified in the caption of this notice.

Issued on: September 15, 2006.

John H. Hill,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 06-8123 Filed 9-22-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2006-24065]

Compliance with Interstate Motor Carrier Noise Emission Standards: Exhaust Systems

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

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA requests public comment on the merits of a petition for rulemaking filed by the Truck Manufacturers Association. This trade association, whose members include all of the major North American manufacturers of medium and heavy-duty trucks, has petitioned FMCSA to amend the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to eliminate turbochargers from the list of equipment considered to be noise dissipative devices. The Truck

Manufacturers Association contends that virtually all trucks are now equipped with turbochargers. Hence, these trucks cannot be cited for failure to meet the visual exhaust system inspection requirements of FMCSA's safety regulations if they have no muffler.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 25, 2006.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments [identified by DOT DMS Docket No. FMCSA-2006-24065] 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 online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the Agency name and docket number for this notice. Note that all comments received will be posted without change (including any personal information provided) to <http://dms.dot.gov>. See the Privacy Act heading for further information.

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. The Docket Management System (DMS) is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. If you want to be notified that we received your comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard or print the acknowledgement page that appears after submitting comments online.

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 complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11,

2000 (65 FR 19476). This statement is also available at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Huntley, Division Chief, Vehicle and Roadside Operations Division (MC-PSV), Office of Bus and Truck Standards and Operations, phone (202) 366-4001, e-mail MCPSV@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On October 21, 1974, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final regulations establishing the Interstate Motor Carrier Noise Emission Standards for maximum external noise emissions of motor vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of more than 10,000 pounds that are operated by commercial motor carriers engaged in interstate commerce (39 FR 38208). These regulations were issued under the authority of section 18 of the Noise Control Act of 1972, which also directed the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations to ensure compliance with the EPA standards.

On February 28, 1975, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published in the **Federal Register** (40 FR 8658) a text of proposed regulations establishing measurement methodologies for determining whether commercial motor vehicles (CMV) conform to the Interstate Motor Carrier Noise Emission Standards published by the EPA at 40 CFR part 202. FHWA published final regulations on September 12, 1975 (40 FR 42432). The new requirements, found at 29 CFR 325.91, became effective on October 15, 1975.

The current requirements of § 325.91—unchanged since their adoption in 1975—were established to support enforcement of EPA's Interstate Motor Carrier Noise Emission Standards. While the corresponding section of the EPA regulation requires CMVs with a GVWR or GCWR of more than 10,000 pounds which are operated by interstate motor carriers to be “ * * * equipped with a muffler or other noise dissipative device; * * *”, the language adopted by FHWA in § 325.91 requires the same vehicles to be “ * * * equipped with either a muffler or other noise dissipative device, such as a turbocharger (supercharger driven by exhaust gases) * * *.”

It is not clear why the language that was adopted in § 325.91 is largely identical to that established by EPA except that it additionally considers a turbocharger to be a noise dissipative device under § 325.91(b). There is no

discussion in the preambles to either the February 1975 notice of proposed rulemaking or in the September 1975 final rule explaining why turbochargers were specifically included in the list of noise dissipative devices. In its petition, the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) noted:

At the time these regulations were written, many diesel engines were naturally aspirated, and coincidentally much louder than then-comparable turbocharged equipped engines/trucks. In that context, it made sense to include turbochargers with mufflers as acceptable noise dissipative devices, since both devices quieted trucks appreciably compared to trucks with naturally aspirated engines and totally unmuffled exhaust systems.

All newly manufactured trucks are currently equipped and certified to meet EPA's Transportation Equipment Noise Emission Controls requirement of 80 dB(A) (40 CFR part 205) when they are placed into initial service. Section 325.91 provides a simple inspection protocol to assist Federal and State safety inspectors in confirming compliance with the EPA exhaust system requirements of the Interstate Motor Carrier Noise Emission Standards (40 CFR 202.22).

While FMCSA believes that the vast majority of CMV operators currently comply with § 325.91, the TMA petition notes that the regulatory language of § 325.91, as currently written, conceivably permits vehicle operators to remove mufflers or other noise dissipative devices and still meet the Federal inspection requirements merely because the CMV engine is equipped with a turbocharger.

In its petition, TMA noted that

* * * removing the muffler can cause the truck to be 10–20 dB(A) louder; a 10 to 100 fold increase in the emitted sound power level of the vehicle.

Additionally, TMA stated that it is * * * not aware of any other credible, satisfactorily performing, and commercially available exhaust noise dissipative device other than mufflers.

Petition for Rulemaking

In its June 17, 2005 petition for rulemaking, TMA requested that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) be amended to eliminate turbochargers from the list of equipment considered to be noise dissipative devices. TMA proposes that the phrase “, such as a turbocharger (supercharger driven by exhaust gases)” be removed from 49 CFR 325.91(b).

Request for Comments

FMCSA requests public comment on TMA's petition for rulemaking to amend

49 CFR 325.91(b). Specifically, FMCSA requests that commenters indicate whether they believe the FMCSRs should be amended as requested by the petitioner and whether there is any data or other relevant information to suggest the need for such a change. FMCSA also requests information concerning the impact of the requested change on motor carriers' ability to achieve compliance with the requirements of section 325.91.

FMCSA will consider all comments received by close of business on October 25, 2006. Comments will be available for examination in the docket at the location listed under the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice. FMCSA will file comments received after the comment closing date in the public docket and will consider them 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 monitor the public docket for new material.

Issued on: September 8, 2006.

John H. Hill,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 06–8156 Filed 9–22–06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Docket No. [FRA–2000–7257; Notice No. 37]

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC); Working Group Activity Update

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Announcement of Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) Working Group Activities.

SUMMARY: The FRA is updating its announcement of RSAC's Working Group activities to reflect its current status.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Butera or Lydia Leeds, RSAC Coordinator, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Mailstop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493–6212/6213 or Grady Cothen, Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety, FRA, 1120 Vermont Avenue, NW., Mailstop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493–6302.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice serves to update FRA's last announcement of working group activities and status reports of May 12,