

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. The comment period ended on July 30, 2008.

Discussion of Comments

FMCSA received no comments in this proceeding.

Conclusion

The Agency has not received any adverse evidence on any of these drivers that indicates that safety is being compromised. Based upon its evaluation of the 58 renewal applications, FMCSA renews the Federal vision exemptions for Jawad K. Al-Shaibani, Harold J. Bartley, Jr., Kenneth J. Bernard, Allen G. Bors, Brad T. Braegger, Michael C. Branham, John E. Breslin, Trixie L. Brown, Raymond L. Brush, Marcus S. Burkholder, Scott F. Chalfant, Leroy A. Chambers, Harvis P. Cosby, Rodney D. Curtis, Norman J. Day, Michael D. DeBerry, Francisco Espinal, William L. Foote, Spencer N. Haugen, Victor B. Hawks, Edward J. Hess, Jr., William G. Hix, Ralph Holmes, Bruce A. Homan, Timothy B. Hummel, Fredrick C. Ingles, Larry L. Jarvis, Michael S. Johannsen, Charles Johnston, Harry L. Jones, Mearl C. Kennedy, Patrick E. Martin, Bennet G. Maruska, Leland K. McAlhaney, Bobby G. Minton, William C. Mohr, Sr., Charles J. Morman, Charles R. Murphy, Larry A. Nienhuis, Corey L. Paraf, Kenneth R. Piechnik, John J. Pribanic, Ronald M. Price, John P. Raftis, Bruce G. Robinson, Scott D. Russell, Alton M. Rutherford, Richard A. Schneider, Charles L. Schnell, Andrew W. Schollett, Joseph B. Shaw, Jr., Wolfgang V. Spekis, Sandra J. Sperling, Ryan K. Steelman, Robert L. Swartz, Jr., Charles V. Tracey, Duane L. Tysseling, and Leonard R. Wilson.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, each renewal exemption will be valid for 2 years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked 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. 31136 and 31315.

Issued on: August 12, 2008.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy and Program Development.

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BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-99-5578, FMCSA-99-6156, FMCSA-99-6480, FMCSA-00-7006, FMCSA-00-7165, FMCSA-04-17195, FMCSA-06-23773, FMCSA-06-24015]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Renewals; Vision

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition.

SUMMARY: FMCSA previously announced its decision to renew the exemptions from the vision requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for 25 individuals. FMCSA has statutory authority to exempt individuals from the vision requirement if the exemptions granted will not compromise safety. The Agency has reviewed the comments submitted in response to the previous announcement and 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Mary D. Gunnels, Director, Medical Programs, (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>.

Background

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. The comment period ended on June 16, 2008.

Discussion of Comments

FMCSA received no comments in this proceeding.

Conclusion

The Agency has not received any adverse evidence on any of these drivers that indicates that safety is being compromised. Based upon its evaluation of the 25 renewal applications, FMCSA renews the Federal vision exemptions for James C. Askin, Paul J. Bannon, Ernie E. Black, Ronnie F. Bowman, Gary O. Brady, Richard J. Cummings, Stephen H. Goldcamp, Steven F. Grass, Wai F. King, Dennis E. Krone, Christopher P. Lefler, William F. Mack, Richard J. McKenzie, Jr., Christopher J. Meerten, Craig W. Miller, William J. Miller, Robert J. Mohorter, James A. Mohr, Roderick F. Peterson, Tommy L. Ray, Jr., Ricky L. Shepler, Donald W. Sidwell, Elmer K. Thomas, Raul R. Torres, and Richard G. Wendt.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, each renewal exemption will be valid for 2 years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked 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. 31136 and 31315.

Issued on: August 12, 2008.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 211.41, and 49 U.S.C. 20103, this notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has received a request for a waiver of compliance from certain requirements of its safety regulations. The individual petition is described below, including the parties seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being sought, and the petitioners' argument in favor of relief.

Association of American Railroads and The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association

[FRA Docket No. FRA-2008-0092]

On August 6, 2008, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) and The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) jointly

filed a waiver request seeking to delay the August 25, 2008 implementation date of amendments to Title 49, CFR, § 40.67, which was issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT) on June 25, 2008 (73 FR 35961). Part 40 is incorporated by reference in § 219.701 of Title 49, CFR, Part 219, *Control of Drug and Alcohol Use in Railroad Operations*. The amendments to § 40.67 apply to drug tests where a direct observation of the urine collection is required (e.g., the employee presented a cold specimen at the collection site; had an invalid test result without a legitimate medical reason; had a positive or adulterated test result which had to be cancelled because the required test of the employee's split specimen could not be performed; or had a prior positive or refusal to test and was subject to return-to-duty and follow-up testing).

As amended, § 40.67 will require an employee to raise his/her shirt and lower his/her pants and undergarments to show an observer that he or she does not have a prosthetic device which could be used to affect the validity of the test; the direct observer must be of the same gender as the employee because of privacy concerns. In their petition, the AAR and ASLRRRA state that the railroad industry is comprised mainly of male employees, while the majority of their current contract collectors are female, and that they need additional time to arrange for more male contract collectors and to complete training on the new direct observation procedures.

For the reasons stated above, the petitioners ask FRA to waive until November 1, 2008, § 219.701's incorporation by reference of Part 40 to the extent that it incorporates § 40.67's new requirements for directly observed collections. Although the specific relief requested is a waiver of Part 219's incorporation of the August 25, 2008 effective date of § 40.67 as applied to return-to-duty and follow-up tests, the petitioners elsewhere state that their purpose is to seek "a delay in the effective date until November 1, 2008, for amendments to 49 CFR 40.67 issued by the Department of Transportation on June 25, 2008." FRA therefore infers that petitioners are also seeking to defer the effective date of Part 219's incorporation of § 40.67 as applied to mandatory direct observations triggered by employee behavior at the collection site. The petitioner also requests that DOT and the FRA reassess whether the new direct observation requirements are necessary, by monitoring observed drug tests over the next two years.

The petitioners have sent a very similar petition to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST). Both petitions focus on portions of the direct observation provisions of 49 CFR Part 40, an OST regulation applicable to all DOT agencies having drug testing programs, making parallel arguments concerning these provisions. FRA will fully coordinate its response to the petition sent to FRA with OST's response to the petitions sent to OST, and FRA's response will be consistent with that of OST with respect to the issues involved.

Comments should reference Docket No. FRA 2008-0092, and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *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*: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- *Fax*: (202) 493-2251.

All documents in the public docket, including the AAR/ASLRRRA joint waiver request and all comments received, will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. Because of the necessity for expedited processing of this petition, FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with this request for a waiver of certain regulatory provisions. Communications received by Aug. 21, 2008 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

For access to the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> anytime, or to the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets, where you may also review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78).

Issued in Washington, DC on August 12, 2008.

Michael J. Logue,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Compliance and Program Implementation.
[FR Doc. E8-19037 Filed 8-15-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 35151]

GNP Rly Inc.—Modified Rail Certificate—In Snohomish County, WA

On July 14, 2008, GNP Rly Inc. (GNP)¹ filed an application for a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity under 49 CFR Part 1150, Subpart C, *Modified Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity* (modified certificate), to lease and operate a segment of a line of railroad in the City of Snohomish, Snohomish County (County), WA. The segment is owned by the County and extends from milepost 39.1 to milepost 39.3, a distance of approximately 0.2 miles. On August 7, 2008, Mayor Randy Hamlin, on behalf of the City of Snohomish (City), filed a letter in response to GNP's application.

The segment is part of a line of railroad authorized to be abandoned pursuant to a decision issued by the Board's predecessor agency, the Interstate Commerce Commission, in *Burlington Northern Railroad Company—Exemption—Abandonment in Snohomish County, WA*, Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 280X) (ICC served Mar. 12, 1986).² GNP states that the County acquired the segment on October 20, 1992.³

The County leased the segment to GNP by agreement dated May 23, 2008. GNP states that it will lease the segment for an initial term beginning January 1, 2008, and ending December 31, 2039, with a 31-year renewal term. GNP states that the segment will be used for the reconstruction of 350 yards of sidings and service tracks for storage and maintenance of locomotives and cars and as a base of operations for trains, motive power, and rolling stock to be

¹ GNP was previously known as Altac Terminals Washington, Inc. GNP changed its corporate name through an amendment to its articles of incorporation filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Washington on September 10, 2007.

² The line of railroad approved for abandonment pursuant to that decision extended from milepost 39.00 to milepost 47.11, a distance of approximately 8.11 miles.

³ We note that the County does not appear to own the segment covering milepost 39.0 to milepost 39.1 of the line.