

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

[FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA–2016–0037]

**Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Diabetes Mellitus****AGENCY:** Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.**ACTION:** Notice of final disposition.

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA confirms its decision to exempt 47 individuals from its rule prohibiting persons with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus (ITDM) from operating commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce. The exemptions enable these individuals to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

**DATES:** The exemptions were effective on May 31, 2016. The exemptions expire on May 31, 2018.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Christine A. Hydock, Chief, Medical Programs Division, (202) 366–4001, [fmcsamedical@dot.gov](mailto:fmcsamedical@dot.gov), FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W64–113, Washington, DC 20590–0001. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. 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> and/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.

**Privacy Act:** In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy).

**II. Background**

On April 28, 2016, FMCSA published a notice of receipt of Federal diabetes exemption applications from 47 individuals and requested comments from the public (81 FR 25486). The public comment period closed on May

31, 2016, and two comments were received.

FMCSA has evaluated the eligibility of the 47 applicants and determined that granting the exemptions to these individuals would achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved by complying with the current regulation 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3).

**Diabetes Mellitus and Driving Experience of the Applicants**

The Agency established the current requirement for diabetes in 1970 because several risk studies indicated that drivers with diabetes had a higher rate of crash involvement than the general population. The diabetes rule provides that “A person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if that person has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus currently requiring insulin for control” (49 CFR 391.41(b)(3)).

FMCSA established its diabetes exemption program, based on the Agency’s July 2000 study entitled “A Report to Congress on the Feasibility of a Program to Qualify Individuals with Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus to Operate in Interstate Commerce as Directed by the Transportation Act for the 21st Century.” The report concluded that a safe and practicable protocol to allow some drivers with ITDM to operate CMVs is feasible. The September 3, 2003 (68 FR 52441), **Federal Register** notice in conjunction with the November 8, 2005 (70 FR 67777), **Federal Register** notice provides the current protocol for allowing such drivers to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

These 47 applicants have had ITDM over a range of 1 to 39 years. These applicants report no severe hypoglycemic reactions resulting in loss of consciousness or seizure, requiring the assistance of another person, or resulting in impaired cognitive function that occurred without warning symptoms, in the past 12 months and no recurrent (2 or more) severe hypoglycemic episodes in the past 5 years. In each case, an endocrinologist verified that the driver has demonstrated a willingness to properly monitor and manage his/her diabetes mellitus, received education related to diabetes management, and is on a stable insulin regimen. These drivers report no other disqualifying conditions, including diabetes-related complications. Each meets the vision requirement at 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10).

The qualifications and medical condition of each applicant were stated

and discussed in detail in the April 28, 2016, **Federal Register** notice and they will not be repeated in this notice.

**III. Discussion of Comments**

FMCSA received two comments in this proceeding. Moses Nater stated that he believes the exemptions should be granted to the drivers as, throughout his career, he has seen drivers with ITDM who have taken care of their conditions and safely operated CMVs. James Randall is not certain the exemptions should be granted based on his experience with crane operators who suffered from ITDM. He also believes the Federal government is requiring employers to assume the risk of hiring employees with ITDM and that it puts employers at odds with the ADA. The basis for granting the exemptions is discussed thoroughly in sections III and V of this document.

**IV. Basis for Exemption Determination**

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA may grant an exemption from the diabetes requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3) if the exemption is likely to achieve an equivalent or greater level of safety than would be achieved without the exemption. The exemption allows the applicants to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

To evaluate the effect of these exemptions on safety, FMCSA considered medical reports about the applicants’ ITDM and vision, and reviewed the treating endocrinologists’ medical opinion related to the ability of the driver to safely operate a CMV while using insulin.

Consequently, FMCSA finds that in each case exempting these applicants from the diabetes requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3) is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

**V. Conditions and Requirements**

The terms and conditions of the exemption will be provided to the applicants in the exemption document and they include the following: (1) That each individual submit a quarterly monitoring checklist completed by the treating endocrinologist as well as an annual checklist with a comprehensive medical evaluation; (2) that each individual reports within 2 business days of occurrence, all episodes of severe hypoglycemia, significant complications, or inability to manage diabetes; also, any involvement in an accident or any other adverse event in a CMV or personal vehicle, whether or not it is related to an episode of hypoglycemia; (3) 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 (4) that each individual provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver's qualification file, or keep a copy in his/her driver's qualification file if he/she is self-employed. The driver must also have a copy of the certification when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official.

## VI. Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the 47 exemption applications, FMCSA exempts the following drivers from the diabetes requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), subject to the requirements cited above (49 CFR 391.64(b)):

Richard B. Aungier (MT)  
 Christopher R. Barwick (NC)  
 Richard D. Bentley (IN)  
 Jeffrey C. Bergen (MA)  
 Stephen G. Bowen (IL)  
 Christopher J. Burgess (ID)  
 Edward D. Burman (MA)  
 Lynn J. Clark (UT)  
 Jamie A. Davidson (MN)  
 Kenneth W. Day (TN)  
 Horace Dickinson (GA)  
 Roy A. Duering (MN)  
 Howard J. Easter III (VA)  
 James R. Fifield (MI)  
 Scott A. Figert (OH)  
 Christopher E. Francklyn (CO)  
 Larry D. Funk (KS)  
 Mitchell P. Gibson (MI)  
 Steven S. Gray (CT)  
 Donald F. Greel, Jr. (MA)  
 Rosemary M. Holland (TX)  
 John A. Jung (OH)  
 Jerry H. Kahn (MN)  
 James J. Kramer (PA)  
 Sean T. Lewis (NJ)  
 Edwin Lozada (FL)  
 Kevin S. Martin (MN)  
 Allysa B. Meirowith (NY)  
 Darren D. Mish (WI)  
 Brian L. Murray (WA)  
 Thomas V. Noyes (MA)  
 Benny M. Perez (PA)  
 Gregory S. Pethtel (OH)  
 Thomas J. Price (WY)  
 Theodore D. Reagle (PA)  
 Eric A. Richie (AZ)  
 Joseph Romano (NY)  
 Keith E. Shumake (CO)  
 William G. Simpson (CO)  
 Joseph A. Sisk (MS)  
 Elmer L. Sprouse (NV)  
 Stirling H. C. Sowerby (PA)  
 John J. Steele (AL)  
 Ryan M. Stumbaugh (PA)  
 David J. Walker (IA)  
 Shawn D. Weigel (KS)  
 William H. Yocum (MO)

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 each exemption is valid for two years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked if the following occurs: (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(e) and 31315. If the exemption is still effective at the end of the 2-year period, the person may apply to FMCSA for a renewal under procedures in effect at that time.

Issued on: September 19, 2016.

**Larry W. Minor,**

*Associate Administrator for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2016-23356 Filed 9-27-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2016-0244]

#### Hours of Service of Drivers: Transco, Inc.; Application for Exemption

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

**ACTION:** Notice of application for exemption; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA announces that it has received an application from Transco, Inc. (Transco) for an exemption from the 30-minute rest break provision of the Agency's hours-of-service (HOS) regulations for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers. Transco requests that its drivers be permitted to comply with the 30-minute rest break requirement while performing on-duty, not-driving tasks. The requested exemption would apply to all Transco drivers in its grocery and foodservice divisions who provide driving and delivery services to their customers. Due to the nature of their operation, Transco believes that compliance with the 30-minute rest break rule negatively impacts the overall safety and general health of its CMV drivers, and therefore requests this exemption for all of its company drivers. FMCSA requests public comment on Transco's application for exemption.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before October 28, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by Federal Docket Management System Number FMCSA-

2016-0244 by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). See the *Public Participation and Request for Comments* section below for further information.

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

- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket number for this notice. Note that DOT posts all comments received without change to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including any personal information included in a comment. Please see the *Privacy Act* heading below.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) at any time or visit 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., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The on-line FDMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information concerning this notice, contact Mr. Thomas Yager, Chief, FMCSA Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards; Telephone: (614) 942-6477. Email: [MCPSD@dot.gov](mailto:MCPSD@dot.gov). If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Docket Services, telephone (202) 366-9826.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Public Participation and Request for Comments

FMCSA encourages you to participate by submitting comments and related materials.

##### Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (FMCSA-2016-0244), indicate