

request, the military's training and licensing programs could be accepted as SDLA programs; *i.e.*, military licenses could be treated as equivalent to a CDL.

The Advocates pointed out that the current skills test exemption in § 383.77 requires applicants to provide evidence that they were regularly employed within the last 90 days in a military position requiring the operation of a CMV. Advocates expressed concern that the Missouri DOR application did not include a similar experience requirement for ex-military personnel seeking a knowledge test exemption. Such a requirement should be included if the Agency grants the application to ensure that the knowledge obtained in the military has not diminished over an extended period of time. However, Advocates argues that making this exemption available to all 50 States and the District of Columbia is a permanent and material revision of Federal regulations that must be done through formal rulemaking allowing for review and comment by the public, including SDLAs.

V. FMCSA Response

FMCSA disagrees with the North Dakota Department of Transportation comments that this exemption should not be granted until there are assurances that military training in lieu of the State knowledge tests meets the requirements in 49 CFR 383.111. The training provided by these specialized military programs includes many hours of classroom training (typically based on FMCSA's own regulations, including all of the elements of § 383.111), practical skills training, and on-the-road training, followed by actual driving in support of the military mission. There is no reason to believe that military training is deficient compared to the requirements of § 383.111. FMCSA further disagrees with the Minnesota Department of Motor Vehicle Safety's suggestion that in lieu of granting this exemption request, the military's licensing and training program should be accepted as an SDLA program. Such an action would first require extensive legal analysis and would be very complex in any case.

The limited exemption approved today allows the States to waive the CDL knowledge test but does not require them to do so. The Agency expects few SDLAs to participate due to a lack of demand in their geographical areas and the administrative burden involved. However, because FMCSA cannot predict which State SDLAs may want to use this exemption, the Agency has made it available to all States. SDLAs that choose to participate will be able to

establish their own administrative procedures to implement the exemption, *e.g.*, policies for acceptable documentation showing that the applicant has received the required military heavy-vehicle operation training, and has been employed in the past year in a position requiring such duties.

Although Missouri used the term "veterans" in its application, to add clarity and be consistent with similar programs, we have expanded the eligibility to include "current or former members of the military services (including Reserve and National Guard units), who have been regularly employed within the last year in a military position that requires operation of large trucks, and have received formal military training for that duty." This is consistent with comments filed by Advocates.

VI. FMCSA Decision

FMCSA has evaluated Missouri DOR's application and the public comments and decided to grant the exemption. FMCSA agrees with the reasons for the request made by the Missouri DOR. The two primary reasons were that the training provided by these specialized military programs includes many hours of classroom training, practical skills training, and on-the-road training that are essential for safe driving. In addition, the hours of training in these programs is in excess of the training proposed in FMCSA's own entry-level driver training rule (81 FR 11944, March 7, 2016), and is comparable to the skills needed to pass the AAMVA CDL test model. FMCSA has concluded that the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved absent such exemption, in accordance with § 381.305(a).

VII. Terms and Conditions

The following are the Terms and Conditions of this exemption:

(1) SDLAs may, at their discretion, issue CLP/CDLs to qualifying applicants as described below, without these applicants being required to complete the knowledge test required by 49 CFR 383.71(a)(2)(ii).

(2) "Qualifying applicants" must:

(a) Be current or former members of the military services (including Reserve and National Guard units),

(b) Have been regularly employed within the year prior to application in a military position that requires operation of large trucks, and

(c) Have received formal military training for that duty.

(3) Participating SDLAs may establish their own requirements and administrative procedures for verifying the eligibility of applicants.

Issued on: October 20, 2016.

T.F. Scott Darling, III,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2016-25965 Filed 10-26-16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2016-0325]

Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program Multiyear Plans

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

ACTION: Notice: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requires the Secretary to prescribe procedures for a State to submit multiple-year plans for the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) grants. FMCSA seeks information to improve development and implementation of multiple-year plans.

DATES: Responses to these questions must be received on or before November 28, 2016.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments bearing the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket ID FMCSA-2016-0325 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.

- *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., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, 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, 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 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. If you want acknowledgment 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: 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, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at www.dot.gov/privacy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thomas Liberatore, Chief, State Programs Division, FMCSA, (202) 366-3030 or by email at Thomas.Liberatore@dot.gov. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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-2016-0325), indicate the specific section of this document to which each comment applies, and provide a reason for each suggestion or recommendation. You may submit your comments and material online or by fax, mail, or hand delivery, but please use only one of these means. FMCSA recommends that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a phone number in the body of your document so the Agency can contact you if it has questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and put the docket number, "FMCSA-2016-0325" in the "Keyword" box, and click "Search." When the new screen appears, click on "Comment Now!" button and type your comment into the text box in the following screen. Choose whether you are submitting your comment as an individual or on behalf of a third party and then submit. If you submit your comments by mail or hand delivery, submit them in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches,

suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you submit comments by mail and would like to know that they reached the facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period and may change this notice based on your comments.

Viewing Comments and Documents

To view comments, as well as documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and insert the docket number, "FMCSA-2016-0325" in the "Keyword" box and click "Search." Next, click "Open Docket Folder" button and choose the document listed to review. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may view the docket online by visiting the Docket Management Facility in Room W12-140 on the ground floor of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Background

As prescribed in the FAST Act, the goal of the MCSAP is to ensure that there is a partnership to establish programs to improve motor carrier, commercial motor vehicle (CMV), and driver safety to support a safe and efficient surface transportation system. MCSAP makes targeted investments to promote CMV safety, including the transportation of passengers and hazardous materials. FMCSA encourages the States and Territories to invest in activities likely to maximize reductions in the number and severity of CMV crashes and fatalities resulting from such crashes. This is accomplished by adopting and enforcing effective motor carrier, CMV, and driver safety regulations and practices consistent with Federal requirements, assessing and improving statewide performance by setting program goals, and meeting performance standards, measures, and benchmarks.

Since Fiscal Year (FY) 1983, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), FMCSA's predecessor agency, or FMCSA have awarded MCSAP funds annually to the States after submission of a satisfactory Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP). Pursuant to FMCSA regulation, CVSPs are due to the Agency on August 1 of the fiscal year preceding the requested funds.

Often safety initiatives can only be properly evaluated after lengthy implementation periods. The removal of the annual CVSP requirement is

intended to provide States/Territories with additional flexibility to continue these initiatives for a longer period, such that funding can be appropriate requested and CMV crash reduction benefits can be documented. In addition, the use of multiple-year plans will reduce the States'/Territories' administrative burdens associated with submitting the plan each year. With implementation of multi-year plans, an annual, full submission of the CVSP will no longer be required. Only annual data and budget updates might be needed, depending on changes in the States'/Territories' operations and/or annual MCSAP funding allocation.

It is noted that the period of performance for MCSAP grants did not change under the FAST Act, so MCSAP funding will continue to be available to the State/Territory for the fiscal year of award and for the next fiscal year.

FMCSA codified the FAST Act changes to remove the annual requirements for the plan in the final rule titled, "Amendments to Implement Grants Provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act." This rule was published in the **Federal Register** on October 14, 2016 [81 FR 71002].

Additionally, the FAST Act requires that FMCSA publish each approved State/Territory multiple-year plan, and each annual update thereto, on a publically accessible Internet Web site of the Department of Transportation not later than 30 days after the date the Secretary approves the plan or update. 49 U.S.C. 311029(c)(3).

Questions

To assist FMCSA in developing the information technology system, form, and procedures for submission of a multiple-year plan, FMCSA requests information primarily from the MCSAP agencies responsible for developing and submitting the plan in response to the following questions:

1. How many years should a multi-year plan cover (*i.e.*, 2 years, 3 years, 5 years, etc.)? Please explain and provide a rationale for the specific length of time between full plans.
2. Should the length (*e.g.*, 2 years, 3 years, etc.) of a multi-year plan be fixed for all States/Territories or should States/Territories be able to vary the length? Please explain.
3. How many years long is the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)? Should the CVSP be aligned with length of the SHSP? Please explain.
4. Can your State/Territory provide complete and accurate data to support a performance-based, multi-year plan? If so, how many years?

5. What data elements, certifications, and documents required under 49 CFR part 350 should be revised from or added to the current CVSP format to capture multiple years (e.g., State certification, etc.)? Please explain how they should be revised.

6. Would your State/Territory be confident submitting a multi-year plan knowing that FMCSA's program authorizations (i.e., U.S. Congressional legislation that continues one or more programs) are expiring in the next year? Two Years? If so or if not, please explain.

7. Should a State/Territory be required to submit a full application on *Grants.gov* only once for a multi-year plan or annually? Please explain.

8. Should FMCSA institute the multi-year CVSP at one time for all States/Territories, or is a phased-in approach, with a proportionate number of States submitting such plans over the time period of the multi-year plan (e.g., half of States over a two-year plan, a third of States for a three-year plan, etc.), be a more advantageous implementation method? Please explain.

9. Are there other factors, concerns and/or elements that FMCSA should consider in the implementation of multi-year plans? Please provide specifics regarding these additional considerations.

10. In moving to a multi-year CVSP with annual updates, in order to enhance usability of the electronic CVSP (eCVSP) application, what additional features should FMCSA add? Please be specific in providing recommendations for additional features.

11. FMCSA is considering requiring certain CVSP data fields to be validated or updated annually. Examples of such data fields include prior-year activity objectives, current-year activity goals, current-year spending plans, etc. What additional data fields do you believe should be updated annually and why?

12. Should the annual update be a mechanism within the eCVSP tool's multi-year CVSP or a completely separate module with the eCVSP tool? Please explain.

13. What data elements and documents should be revised from, or added to, the current CVSP format to capture the annual update? Please explain how they should be revised.

14. Should the FMCSA require States/Territories to provide detailed spending plans or only require grantees to estimate their costs utilizing the SF-424A budget categories for the multi-year plan and annual update in the eCVSP tool? Please explain how your

preference would enhance the CVSP planning process.

After consideration of the information received in response to this notice, FMCSA will prescribe the procedures required by the FAST Act through a future **Federal Register** notice.

Issued on: October 20, 2016.

T.F. Scott Darling, III,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2016-25980 Filed 10-26-16; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2016-0098]

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System

In accordance with part 235 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated October 3, 2016, CSX Transportation (CSX) petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval for the discontinuance or modification of a signal system. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2016-0098.

Applicant: CSX Transportation, Mr. Jody Cox, Chief Engineer, Communications & Signals, 500 Water Street, Speed Code J-350, Jacksonville, FL 32202

CSX proposes to retire CSX rules for Control Point (CP) 511, Traffic Control (TC) 510, and Yard Limit (YL-S) 508 on all tracks and operate under Rule 502, Other Than Main Track, between Milepost (MP) CA-664.9 and RH West MP BB-4.7, on the Cincinnati Terminal Subdivision, Louisville Division, Cincinnati, OH.

All existing power switches would remain in place, controlled by the yard master, and all existing signals would be retired and replaced with switch position indicators. In support of its request, CSX indicates the signal system, CSX rules TC-510 and YL-S 508, is no longer needed for present-day operation.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Fax: 202-493-2251.
- Mail: Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.
- Hand Delivery: 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by December 12, 2016 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at www.dot.gov/privacy. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Robert C. Lauby,
Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.

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