DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 571
[Docket No. NHTSA–2016–0087]
RIN 2127–AK92
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 393
[Docket No. FMCSA–2014–0083]
RIN 2126–AB63
Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Speed Limiting Devices

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: NHTSA and FMCSA have received requests to extend the comment period for their proposal that would require vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 11,793.4 kilograms (26,000 pounds) to be equipped with a speed limiting device and that such device be maintained for the service life of the vehicle. In the proposal, NHTSA and FMCSA established a deadline for the submission of written comments of November 7, 2016. The Agencies have also received a letter opposing any extension of the comment period. To ensure that all interested parties have a sufficient amount of time to fully develop their comments, the Agencies are extending the deadline for the submission of written comments on the proposal, including comments on the Preliminary Regulatory Impact Analysis and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis and Draft Environmental Assessment accompanying the proposal, by 30 days.

DATES: Written comments must be received by December 7, 2016.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by one or both of the docket numbers in the heading of this document, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Fax: (202) 493–2251.
- Hand Delivery or Courier: West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- Fax: (202) 493–2251.

Instructions: For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the rulemaking process, see the discussion under the Public Participation heading of the September 7, 2016 notice of proposed rulemaking (81 FR 61942). Note that all comments received will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided.

Privacy Act: Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477–78) or you may visit http://dms.dot.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 7, 2016, NHTSA and FMCSA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) proposing regulations that would require vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 11,793.4 kilograms (26,000 pounds) to be equipped with a speed limiting device initially set to a speed no greater than a speed to be specified in a final rule and would require motor carriers operating such vehicles in interstate commerce to maintain functional speed limiting devices set to a speed no greater than a speed to be specified in the final rule for the service life of the vehicle.

The American Trucking Associations (ATA) (with the support of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance), the EMA Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA) and the Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) have requested that NHTSA and FMCSA extend the public comment period beyond the November 7, 2016 date specified in the NPRM. The ATA and EMA requested a 30-day extension. In support of its request, ATA states that the proposal differs significantly from its initial petition for rulemaking in a number of areas, and additional time is needed to confer with its membership on these issues. EMA states that at least 30 additional days is needed to more thoroughly analyze the issues in order to develop detailed and complete comments.

The OOIDA requested a 60-day extension of the comment period. In support of its request, OOIDA states that it will take a considerable amount of time and resources to develop meaningful comments from its members, many of which are on the road and away from home upwards of 250 days a year.

NHTSA and FMCSA have also received a letter signed by a number of safety advocacy groups and individuals opposing any extension of the comment period. The letter states that in the 10 years since the petitions for rulemaking were initially filed, truck crashes and fatalities have increased at rates faster than overall crashes and fatalities, and that additional time for comment is not
necessary and would further delay issuance of a final rule implementing the proposal.

In considering the requests to extend the public comment period and the letter opposing any extension, NHTSA and FMCSA weighed the complexity and importance of this rulemaking and the rationale provided in support of each position. We have determined that there is good cause to grant the requests to extend the comment period, and have decided to extend the comment period for an additional 30 days. The extension is in the public interest since it will provide the public additional time to prepare and submit useful technical information and comments that should benefit Agency decision-making in this rulemaking action. Accordingly, NHTSA and FMCSA will extend the period for the submission of written comments in this proceeding to December 7, 2016. In addition, NHTSA and FMCSA are extending the comment period for the Preliminary Regulatory Impact Analysis and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis and the Draft Environmental Assessment, which have been placed in the rulemaking docket, until December 7, 2016 as well.\footnote{A notice of availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment specifically seeking comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment was published in the Federal Register on September 29, 2016. See 81 FR 67056.}

Issued pursuant to authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.81 and 1.95 on: November 2, 2016.

Raymond R. Posten,
Associate Administrator for Rulemaking, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Issued pursuant to authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.81 and 1.87.

Larry W. Minor,
Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

\footnote{\textsuperscript{1}}

Written statements and supporting information submitted during the comment period will be considered with the same weight as oral comments presented at the public meeting. Please submit all written comments no later than November 22, 2016, by any of the following methods:

- Hand Delivery or Courier: 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.
- Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and associated docket number. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act discussion below.

Docket: For access to the docket go to http://www.regulations.gov at any time or to 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Privacy Act: Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477–78), you may visit http://www.dot.gov/privacy.html.

Confidential Business Information: If you wish to submit any information under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information to the Chief Counsel, NHTSA, at the address given under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. In addition, you should submit two copies, from which you have deleted the claimed confidential business information, to Docket Management at the address given above. When you send a comment containing information claimed to be confidential business information, you should submit a cover letter setting forth the information specified in our confidential business information regulation (49 CFR part 512).

For Further Information Contact: If you have questions about the public meeting, please contact Ms. Yvonne Clarke, Program Assistant, Office of Vehicle Safety Research at (202) 366–1845 or by email at av_info_nhtsa@dot.gov.

Supplementary Information:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
49 CFR Chapter V
[Docket No. NHTSA–2016–0090], Notice 2
Federal Automated Vehicles Policy

Agency: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NHTSA is announcing a public meeting to seek input on the recently released Federal Automated Vehicles Policy (the Policy). The Policy is guidance that seeks to speed the delivery of an initial regulatory framework for highly automated vehicles (HAVs) as well as encourage conformance with best practices to guide manufacturers and other entities in the safe design, development, testing, and deployment of HAVs.

The public meeting will be an open listening session to provide as great an opportunity for comment as possible. All comments will be oral and any presentations should be submitted to the docket for inclusion. Additionally, all interested parties, either not in attendance or who are unable to speak, are invited to share any views or information they would like considered through the docket as well.

DATES: NHTSA will hold the public meeting on November 10, 2016, in Washington, DC. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. local time. Check-in (through security) will begin at 8 a.m. Attendees should arrive early enough to enable them to go through security by 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the United States General Services Administration, Regional Office Building located at 301 7th Street (7th & D Streets) SW., Washington, DC 20407. This facility is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Written Comments: Written statements and supporting information submitted during the comment period will be considered with the same weight as oral comments presented at the public meeting. Please submit all written comments no later than November 22, 2016, by any of the following methods:

- Hand Delivery or Courier: 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about the public meeting, please contact Ms. Yvonne Clarke, Program Assistant, Office of Vehicle Safety Research at (202) 366–1845 or by email at av_info_nhtsa@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: