

DATES: The modification announced in this notice extends the COVID exclusions through February 28, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general questions about this notice, contact Associate General Counsel Philip Butler or Assistant General Counsel Edward Marcus at (202) 395-5725. For specific questions on customs classification or implementation of the product exclusions, contact traderemedy@cbp.dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

On December 29, 2020, USTR announced the extension of 80 product exclusions on medical-care and/or COVID response products; further modifications in the form of 19 product exclusions to remove Section 301 duties from additional medical-care and/or COVID response products; and that USTR might consider further extensions and/or modifications as appropriate. See 85 FR 85831.

These 99 exclusions were later extended until September 30, 2021. 86 FR 13785. On August 27, 2021, USTR published a notice requesting public comments on whether any of these exclusions should be further extended for up to six months. 86 FR 48280. To provide time for USTR to review the comments it received in response to the August 27 notice, USTR announced the interim extension of these 99 exclusions through November 14, 2021, (86 FR 54011) and a subsequent extension, through November 30, 2021. 86 FR 63438.

On November 16, 2021, USTR announced the extension of 81 of the COVID exclusions for an additional 6 months (until May 31, 2022) and that USTR might consider further extensions and/or modifications as appropriate. 86 FR 63438. On June 3, USTR announced a subsequent extension of 81 of the COVID exclusions for an additional 6 months (until November 30, 2022). 87 FR 33871.

B. Determination To Extend COVID Exclusions

In light of the continuing efforts to combat COVID, the U.S. Trade Representative has determined that a 3 month extension of the 81 COVID related product exclusions is warranted. The U.S. Trade Representative's decision to extend the 81 product exclusions takes into account public comments previously provided, the advice of advisory committees and the interagency Section 301 Committee, and the advice of the White House COVID-19 Response Team.

As provided in the November 16 notice, the exclusion extensions in the annex to this notice are available for any product that meets the description in the product exclusion. Further, the scope of each exclusion is governed by the scope of the ten-digit Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings and product descriptions set forth in U.S. note 20(sss) to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTSUS. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will issue instructions on entry guidance and implementation.

The U.S. Trade Representative may continue to consider further extensions and/or additional modifications as appropriate.

Annex

The U.S. Trade Representative has determined to extend all exclusions previously extended under heading 9903.88.66 and U.S. notes 20(sss)(i), 20(sss)(ii), 20(sss)(iii), and 20(sss)(iv) to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). See 87 FR 33871 (June 3, 2022). The extension is effective with respect to goods entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m. eastern standard time on December 1, 2022, and before 11:59 p.m. eastern standard time on February 28, 2023. Effective on December 1, 2022, the article description of heading 9903.88.66 of the HTSUS is modified by deleting "December 1, 2022," and by inserting "February 28, 2023" in lieu thereof.

Greta Peisch,

General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2014-0104; FMCSA-2017-0058; FMCSA-2017-0060; FMCSA-2018-0135; FMCSA-2019-0109]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Hearing

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

ACTION: Notice of renewal of exemptions; request for comments.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its decision to renew exemptions for nine individuals from the hearing requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) for interstate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers. The exemptions enable

these hard of hearing and deaf individuals to continue to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

DATES: The exemptions are applicable on November 30, 2022. The exemptions expire on November 30, 2024. Comments must be received on or before December 29, 2022.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by the Federal Docket Management System Docket No. FMCSA-2014-0104, FMCSA-2017-0058, FMCSA-2017-0060, FMCSA-2018-0135, or Docket No. FMCSA-2019-0109 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov, insert the docket number, FMCSA-2014-0104, FMCSA-2017-0058, FMCSA-2017-0060, FMCSA-2018-0135, or FMCSA-2019-0109 in the keyword box, and click "Search." Next, sort the results by "Posted (Newer-Older)," choose the first notice listed, and click on the "Comment" button. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

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

- *Hand Delivery:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

- *Fax:* (202) 493-2251.

To avoid duplication, please use only one of these four methods. See the "Public Participation" portion of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for instructions on submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Christine A. Hydock, Chief, Medical Programs Division, FMCSA, DOT, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W64-224, Washington, DC 20590-0001, (202) 366-4001, fmcsamedical@dot.gov. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. If you have questions regarding viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Dockets Operations, (202) 366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Public Participation

A. Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (Docket No. FMCSA-2014-0104, Docket No. FMCSA-2017-0058, Docket No. FMCSA-2017-0060, Docket No. FMCSA-2018-0135, or Docket No. FMCSA-2019-0109), 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 that FMCSA can contact you if there are questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to www.regulations.gov, insert the docket number, FMCSA–2014–0104, FMCSA–2017–0058, FMCSA–2017–0060, FMCSA–2018–0135, or FMCSA–2019–0109 in the keyword box, and click “Search.” Next, sort the results by “Posted (Newer-Older),” choose the first notice listed, click the “Comment” button, and type your comment into the text box on 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.

B. Viewing Comments

To view comments go to www.regulations.gov. Insert the docket number, FMCSA–2014–0104, FMCSA–2017–0058, FMCSA–2017–0060, FMCSA–2018–0135, or FMCSA–2019–0109 in the keyword box and click “Search.” Next, sort the results by “Posted (Newer-Older),” choose the first notice listed, and click “Browse Comments.” If you do not have access to the internet, you may view the docket online by visiting Dockets Operations in Room W12–140 on the ground floor of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 366–9317 or (202) 366–9826 before visiting Dockets Operations.

C. Privacy Act

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(6), DOT solicits comments from the public on the exemption request. 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 (Federal Docket Management System (FDMS)), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/privacy/privacy-act-system-records-notices>, the comments are searchable by the name of the submitter.

II. Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA may grant an exemption from the FMCSRs for no longer than a 5-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 5-year period. FMCSA grants medical exemptions from the FMCSRs for a 2-year period to align with the maximum duration of a driver’s medical certification.

The physical qualification standard for drivers regarding hearing found in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(11) states that a person is physically qualified to drive a CMV if that person first perceives a forced whispered voice in the better ear at not less than 5 feet with or without the use of a hearing aid or, if tested by use of an audiometric device, does not have an average hearing loss in the better ear greater than 40 decibels at 500 Hz, 1,000 Hz, and 2,000 Hz with or without a hearing aid when the audiometric device is calibrated to American National Standard (formerly ASA Standard) Z24.5–1951.

This standard was adopted in 1970 and was revised in 1971 to allow drivers to be qualified under this standard while wearing a hearing aid (35 FR 6458, 6463 (Apr. 22, 1970) and 36 FR 12857 (July 3, 1971), respectively).

The nine individuals listed in this notice have requested renewal of their exemptions from the hearing standard in § 391.41(b)(11), in accordance with FMCSA procedures. Accordingly, FMCSA has evaluated these applications for renewal on their merits and decided to extend each exemption for a renewable 2-year period.

III. Request for Comments

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(b), FMCSA will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption of a driver.

IV. Basis for Renewing Exemptions

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), each of the nine applicants has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the hearing requirement. The nine drivers in this notice remain in good standing with the Agency. In addition, for commercial driver’s license (CDL) holders, the Commercial Driver’s License Information System and the Motor Carrier Management Information System are searched for crash and violation data. For non-CDL holders, the Agency reviews the driving records from the State Driver’s Licensing Agency. These factors provide an adequate basis for predicting each driver’s ability to continue to safely operate a CMV in interstate commerce. Therefore, FMCSA concludes that extending the exemption for each of these drivers for a period of 2 years is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

As of November 30, 2022, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), the following nine individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the hearing requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers:

Deonte Blanks (TX)
 Alan Bridgeford (AZ)
 Michael Dohanish (OH)
 Ralph Domel (TX)
 Bruce Dunn (LA)
 Teela Gilmore (GA)
 Gregory Hale (CA)
 Scott Perdue (GA)
 Adalberto Rodriguez (NY)

The drivers were included in docket numbers FMCSA–2014–0104, FMCSA–2017–0058, FMCSA–2017–0060, FMCSA–2018–0135, or FMCSA–2019–0109. Their exemptions are applicable as of November 30, 2022, and will expire on November 30, 2024.

V. Conditions and Requirements

The exemptions are extended subject to the following conditions: (1) each driver must report any crashes or accidents as defined in § 390.5; and (2) report all citations and convictions for disqualifying offenses under 49 CFR 383 and 49 CFR 391 to FMCSA; and (3) each driver prohibited from operating a motorcoach or bus with passengers in interstate commerce. The driver must also have a copy of the exemption when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local

enforcement official. In addition, the exemption does not exempt the individual from meeting the applicable CDL testing requirements. Each exemption will be valid for 2 years unless rescinded earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be rescinded 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(e) and 31315(b).

VI. Preemption

During the period the exemption is in effect, no State shall enforce any law or regulation that conflicts with this exemption with respect to a person operating under the exemption.

VII. Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the nine exemption applications, FMCSA renews the exemptions of the aforementioned drivers from the hearing requirement in § 391.41(b)(11). In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), each exemption will be valid for two years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2021-0186]

Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Rosco Vision, Inc.; Application for an Exemption

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition; grant of exemption.

SUMMARY: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announces its decision to grant a limited 5-year exemption to Rosco Vision, Inc. (Rosco) to allow motor carriers to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) with the company's CV (Commercial Vehicle) Digital Camera Monitor System (CMS) (CV Digital CMS) installed as an alternative to the two rear-vision mirrors required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). The Agency has determined that granting the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety

equivalent to or greater than the level of safety provided by the regulation.

DATES: This exemption is applicable December 4, 2022 and ending December 4, 2027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: José R. Cestero, Vehicle and Roadside Operations Division, Office of Carrier, Driver, and Vehicle Safety, MC-PSV, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001; (202) 366-5541; jose.cestero@dot.gov.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments submitted in response to the notice requesting public comments on the exemption application, 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. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 366-9317 or (202) 366-9826 before visiting Docket Operations. The on-line Federal document management system is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. The docket number is listed at the beginning of this notice.

I. Background

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b) to grant exemptions from certain parts of the FMCSRs. FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(a)). The Agency must provide the public an opportunity to inspect the information relevant to the application, including any safety analyses that have been conducted. The Agency must also provide an opportunity for public comment on the request.

The Agency reviews safety analyses and public comments submitted and determines whether granting the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved by the current regulation (49 CFR 381.305). The decision of the Agency must be published in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(b)) with the reasons for denying or granting the application and, if granted, the name of the person or class of persons receiving the exemption, and the regulatory provision from which the exemption is granted. The notice must also specify the effective period (up to 5 years) and explain the terms and conditions of the exemption. The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.300(b)).

II. Rosco's Application for Exemption

Rosco applied for an exemption from 49 CFR 393.80(a) to allow its CV Digital CMS to be installed as an alternative to the two rear-vision mirrors required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) on CMVs. A copy of the application is included in the docket referenced at the beginning of this notice.

Section 393.80(a) of the FMCSRs requires that each bus, truck, and truck-tractor be equipped with two rear-vision mirrors, one at each side. The mirrors must be positioned to reflect to the driver a view of the highway to the rear and the area along both sides of the CMV. Section 393.80(a) cross-references the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) standards for mirrors on motor vehicles (49 CFR 571.111, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard [FMVSS] No. 111, "Rear Visibility"). Paragraph S7.1 of FMVSS No. 111 provides requirements for mirrors on multipurpose passenger vehicles and trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 4,536 kg and less than 11,340 kg and each bus, other than a school bus, with a GVWR of more than 4,536 kg. Paragraph S8.1 provides requirements for mirrors on multipurpose passenger vehicles and trucks with a GVWR of 11,340 kg or more.

The CV Digital CMS consists of three cameras, each with a specific field of view (FOV), firmly mounted to the top of the vehicle's external A-pillar location, enclosed in an aerodynamic package that provides environmental protection for the cameras. Each camera presents a clear image to the driver by means of an internal monitor firmly mounted to the left and right A-pillar of the CMV, *i.e.*, the structural member between the windshield and door of the cab. The installation of the monitors on the A-pillars creates no additional visual obstruction, while eliminating the substantial blind spots created by conventional mirrors. Rosco states that its CV Digital CMS meets and/or exceeds the visibility requirements provided in FMVSS No. 111 based on the following factors:

- The CMS provides the driver with an enhanced FOV when compared to conventional mirrors.
- The interior viewing monitors feature an ambient light sensor which will allow the system to dynamically adjust the screen brightness to the optimal level based on the amount of ambient light. This prevents driver eye strain when viewing the monitors at night.