

**DATES:** The exemptions were applicable on September 6, 2022. The exemptions expire on September 6, 2024.

**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](mailto:fmcsamedical@dot.gov). Office hours are 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. Viewing Comments*

To view comments go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Insert the docket number (FMCSA–2014–0106, FMCSA–2015–0326, FMCSA–2016–0002, or FMCSA–2020–0026) 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.

*B. Privacy Act*

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(6), DOT solicits comments from the public on the exemption requests. 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 (Federal Docket Management System), 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**

On August 24, 2022, FMCSA published a notice announcing its decision to renew exemptions for seven individuals from the hearing standard in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(11) to operate a CMV in interstate commerce and requested comments from the public (87 FR 52107). The public comment period ended on September 23, 2022, and three comments were received.

FMCSA has evaluated the eligibility of these applicants and determined that renewing these exemptions would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved by complying with § 391.41(b)(11).

The physical qualification standard for drivers regarding hearing found in § 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 8, 1971), respectively).

**III. Discussion of Comments**

FMCSA received three comments in this proceeding. Jeff Daniels’ comment regarding drug testing was outside the scope of this notice. The Commercial Vehicle Training Association’s (CVTA’s) comment was found identical to the comment they submitted to the August 17, 2022, **Federal Register** notice (87 FR 50690). FMCSA provided a response to this comment in the December 29, 2022, **Federal Register** notice (87 FR 80254) that will not be repeated in this notice. Lastly, an anonymous individual opposed the same comment by CVTA.

**IV. Conclusion**

Based upon its evaluation of the seven renewal exemption applications and comments received, FMCSA announces its decision to exempt the following drivers from the hearing requirement in § 391.41(b)(11).

As of September 6, 2022, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), the following four individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the hearing requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (87 FR 52107):

Weston Arthurs (CA)  
Charles DePriest (TX)  
Richard Hoots (AR),  
D’Nielle Smith (OH)

The drivers were included in docket number FMCSA–2014–0106, FMCSA–2015–0326, or FMCSA–2016–0002. Their exemptions were applicable as of

September 6, 2022 and will expire on September 6, 2024.

As of September 14, 2022, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), the following three individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the hearing requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers:

Jonathan Kelly (TX)  
Eddie Martinez (TX)  
Willie Miller (IA)

The drivers were included in docket number FMCSA–2020–0026. Their exemptions were applicable as of September 14, 2022 and will expire on September 14, 2024.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), each exemption will be valid for 2 years from the effective date 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 prior to being 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).

**Larry W. Minor,**

*Associate Administrator for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2023–03020 Filed 2–10–23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration**

[Docket No. FMCSA–2023–0041]

**Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICDs)**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA announces receipt of applications from four individuals for an exemption from the prohibition in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) against operation of a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) by persons with a current clinical diagnosis of myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary insufficiency, thrombosis, or any other cardiovascular disease of a variety known to be accompanied by syncope (transient loss of consciousness), dyspnea (shortness of breath), collapse, or congestive heart failure. If granted, the exemptions

would enable these individuals with ICDs to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before March 15, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by the Federal Docket Management System Docket No. FMCSA–2023–0041 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to [www.regulations.gov/](http://www.regulations.gov/), insert the docket number (FMCSA–2023–0041) 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, 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](mailto: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–2023–0041), 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/docket?D=FMCSA-2023-0041](http://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FMCSA-2023-0041). 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.

FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period.

#### *B. Viewing Comments*

To view comments, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Insert the docket number (FMCSA–2023–0041) 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 requests. 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 (Federal Docket Management System), 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 statutes also allow 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 four individuals listed in this notice have requested an exemption from § 391.41(b)(4). Accordingly, the Agency will evaluate the qualifications of each applicant to determine whether granting the exemption will achieve the required level of safety mandated by statute.

The physical qualification standard found in § 391.41(b)(4) states that a person is physically qualified to drive a CMV if that person has no current clinical diagnosis of myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary insufficiency, thrombosis, or any other cardiovascular disease of a variety known to be accompanied by syncope, dyspnea, collapse, or congestive cardiac failure.

In addition to the regulations, FMCSA has published advisory criteria<sup>1</sup> to assist medical examiners in determining whether drivers with certain medical conditions are qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce. The advisory criteria states that ICDs are disqualifying due to risk of syncope.

### **III. Qualifications of Applicants**

#### *Kevin Coughlin*

Kevin Coughlin is a class A driver’s license holder in Massachusetts. A letter dated January 12, 2023, from Kevin Coughlin’s cardiologist reports that the ICD was implanted 25 years ago due to a diagnosis of long QT syndrome. Kevin Coughlin’s cardiologist reports that in 2003, they received one defibrillation but for the last 20 years, they have not experienced any dangerous arrhythmias or defibrillator shock therapies and that their condition is stable.

#### *Charles Halepakis*

Charles Halepakis is a class A driver’s license holder in Massachusetts. Charles Halepakis’ ICD was implanted on January 11, 2022. Their cardiologist reports diagnoses of cardiomyopathy, coronary artery disease, and heart failure. Since the implantation of the device, the cardiologist reports that Charles Halepakis has experienced no overt heart failure symptoms and that they maintain a high functional capacity on a limited medical regimen.

<sup>1</sup> These criteria may be found in 49 CFR part 391, Appendix A to Part 391—Medical Advisory Criteria, Section D. Cardiovascular: § 391.41(b)(4), paragraph 4, which is available on the internet at <https://www.gpo.gov/jdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title49-vol5/pdf/CFR-2015-title49-vol5-part391-appA.pdf>.

*Antonio Maceroni*

Antonio Maceroni is a class B driver's license holder in Michigan. A letter dated November 9, 2022, from Antonio Maceroni's health care provider reports that their ICD was implanted on January 5, 2021, due to a diagnosis of ventricular tachycardia. Since being implanted, Antonio Maceroni has experienced six episodes of cardiac arrhythmias which received pace terminated therapy. The healthcare provider reports that Antonio Maceroni denies symptoms of ventricular tachycardia related arrhythmia since the implantation.

*Michael Wilson*

Michael Wilson is a class A driver's license holder in Florida. Michael Wilson's ICD was implanted on February 12, 2015. The cardiologist reports that the ICD was implanted due to diagnoses of cardiomyopathy and cardiac sarcoidosis with high-risk features. Since implantation, Michael Wilson had a single episode of syncope in 2015, with no subsequent reports of shocks or cardiac complaints.

**IV. Request for Comments**

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), FMCSA requests public comment from all interested persons on the exemption petitions described in this notice. We will consider all comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated under the **DATES** section of the notice.

**Larry W. Minor,**

*Associate Administrator for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2023-03019 Filed 2-10-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Federal Railroad Administration**

[Docket No. FRA-2010-0061]

**Union Pacific Railroad's Request To Amend Its Positive Train Control Safety Plan and Positive Train Control System**

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides the public with notice that, on February 3, 2023, Union Pacific Railroad (UP) submitted a request for amendment (RFA) to its FRA-approved Positive Train Control Safety Plan (PTCSP). FRA is publishing this notice and inviting

public comment on the railroad's RFA to its PTCSP.

**DATES:** FRA will consider comments received by March 6, 2023. FRA may consider comments received after that date to the extent practicable and without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to a PTC system.

**ADDRESSES:** *Comments:* Comments may be submitted by going to <https://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name and the applicable docket number. The relevant PTC docket number for this host railroad is Docket No. FRA-2010-0061. For convenience, all active PTC dockets are hyperlinked on FRA's website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/train-control/ptc/ptc-annual-and-quarterly-reports>. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Gabe Neal, Staff Director, Signal, Train Control, and Crossings Division, telephone: 816-516-7168, email: [Gabe.Neal@dot.gov](mailto:Gabe.Neal@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In general, Title 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 20157(h) requires FRA to certify that a host railroad's PTC system complies with Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 236, subpart I, before the technology may be operated in revenue service. Before making certain changes to an FRA-certified PTC system or the associated FRA-approved PTCSP, a host railroad must submit, and obtain FRA's approval of, an RFA to its PTCSP under 49 CFR 236.1021.

Under 49 CFR 236.1021(e), FRA's regulations provide that FRA will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** and invite public comment in accordance with 49 CFR part 211, if an RFA includes a request for approval of a material modification of a signal and train control system. Accordingly, this notice informs the public that, on February 3, 2023, UP submitted an RFA to its PTCSP for its Interoperable Electronic Train Management System (I-ETMS), and that RFA is available in Docket No. FRA-2010-0061.

Interested parties are invited to comment on UP's RFA to its PTCSP by submitting written comments or data. During FRA's review of this railroad's RFA, FRA will consider any comments or data submitted within the timeline specified in this notice and to the extent practicable, without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary

modifications to a PTC system. See 49 CFR 236.1021; see also 49 CFR 236.1011(e). Under 49 CFR 236.1021, FRA maintains the authority to approve, approve with conditions, or deny a railroad's RFA to its PTCSP at FRA's sole discretion.

**Privacy Act Notice**

In accordance with 49 CFR 211.3, FRA solicits comments from the public to better inform its decisions. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <https://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov. To facilitate comment tracking, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact FRA for alternate submission instructions.

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Carolyn R. Hayward-Williams,**

*Director, Office of Railroad Systems and Technology.*

[FR Doc. 2023-02995 Filed 2-10-23; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-06-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Maritime Administration**

[Docket No. MARAD-2023-0031]

**Coastwise Endorsement Eligibility Determination for a Foreign-Built Vessel: PALADIN (Motor); Invitation for Public Comments**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to issue coastwise endorsement eligibility determinations for foreign-built vessels which will carry no more than twelve passengers for hire. A request for such a determination has been received by MARAD. By this notice, MARAD seeks comments from interested parties as to any effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. Information about the requestor's vessel, including a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.