

investment programs, and projects to prevent unlawful discrimination, and empower communities, including limited English proficient communities, in transportation decision-making (49 CFR 21.5, 21.7, 21.9 and 28 CFR part 406). DOT is also emphasizing the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (28 CFR 35.104) and of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*) for ensuring that transportation plans and investment programs do not discriminate on the basis of disability and provide equal opportunity and access for persons with disabilities.

In August of 2022, FHWA conducted a survey of all State departments of transportation (State DOTs) and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to better understand how these agencies consider equity and comply with Title VI in transportation planning and programming activities (OMB Control Number 2125–0665). This survey included questions about how each State DOT or MPO uses quantitative data or tools to analyze equity factors for transportation plans and investment programs, as well as how each agency provides a meaningful and representative role to members of all communities, including underserved and limited English proficient communities, in shaping these plans and programs (28 CFR part 407). Information from the survey was used to help the Department form an understanding of the state of the practice related to equity and civil rights compliance and meaningful public involvement in transportation planning and programming, and to inform research products and capacity-building activities for State DOTs and MPOs, to help them improve practices.

FHWA plans to conduct follow-up annual surveys, beginning in 2024, to monitor the progress of State DOTs and MPOs in advancing their transportation planning equity and meaningful public involvement practices, and to identify ongoing research, training, and technical assistance needs. These surveys will cover similar topics as the 2022 survey, with reworded questions to reduce respondent burden and to align with updates to the Department's Equity Action Plan and other policies or guidance.

Survey responses may also inform future revisions to existing guidance, or the development of new guidance, to DOT funding recipients on meeting the requirements of title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, transportation planning

and programming, or other legal or regulatory requirements that relate to transportation equity and public involvement.

FHWA plans to conduct the survey on a voluntary-response basis, utilizing an electronic survey platform. This is planned as an annual information collection, and FHWA estimates that the survey will take approximately one hour to complete. The survey will consist of both multiple-choice and short-answer question formats.

Respondents: 52 State DOTs and approximately 420 MPOs.

Frequency: Annually, beginning in 2024.

Estimated Average Burden per Response: Approximately 60 minutes per respondent.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: Approximately 472 hours.

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) Whether the proposed collection is necessary for the FHWA's performance; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burdens; (3) ways for the FHWA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized, including the use of electronic technology, without reducing the quality of the collected information. The agency will summarize and/or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued On: October 23, 2023.

Jazmyne Lewis,

Information Collection Officer.

[FR Doc. 2023–23694 Filed 10–26–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2023–0182]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Renewal of a Currently Approved Information Collection: Generic Clearance of Customer Satisfaction Surveys

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

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,

FMCSA announces its plan to submit the Information Collection Request (ICR) described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for its review and approval and invites public comment. In order to work continuously to ensure that our programs are effective and meet our customers' needs, FMCSA requests approval to renew an ICR titled, "Generic Clearance of Customer Satisfaction Surveys." This ICR allows FMCSA to continue collecting feedback on our service delivery. By feedback, we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received on or before December 26, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Docket Number FMCSA–2023–0182 using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

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

- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* Dockets Operations, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Ground Floor, 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.

- *Fax:* 1–202–493–2251.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Roxane Oliver, FMCSA, Office of Analysis, Department of Transportation, FMCSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 385–2324, Roxane.Oliver@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Instructions

All submissions must include the Agency name and docket number. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, see the Public Participation heading below. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information

provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

Public Participation and Request for Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (FMCSA–2023–0182), indicate the specific section of this document to which your 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 FMCSA can contact you if there are questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FMCSA-2023-0182/document>, click on this notice, click “Comment,” and type your comment into the text box on the following screen.

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.

Comments received after the comment closing date will be included in the docket and will be considered to the extent practicable.

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.

Background

Executive Order 12862, Setting Customer Service Standards, and most recently updated E.O. 13571, requires the Federal Government to provide the “highest quality service possible to the American people.” Under the order, the “standard of quality for services provided to the public shall be: Customer service equal to the best in business.” In order to work continuously to ensure that our programs are effective and meet our customers’ needs, FMCSA seeks to renew OMB’s approval of a generic clearance to collect qualitative feedback from our customers on our service delivery. The surveys covered in this generic clearance provide a means for FMCSA to collect this data directly from

our customers. By qualitative feedback, we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback provides insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provides an early warning of issues with service, or focuses attention on areas of communication, training or changes in operations that might improve delivery of products or services. These collections allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders. They also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

The solicitation of feedback targets areas such as: timeliness, appropriateness, accuracy of information, courtesy, efficiency of service delivery, and resolution of issues with service delivery. Responses are assessed to plan and inform efforts to improve or maintain the quality of service offered to the public. If this information is not collected, vital feedback from customers and stakeholders on the Agency’s services will be unavailable.

The Agency will submit a planned collection for approval under this generic clearance only if it meets the conditions that such collections are:

- voluntary;
- low-burden for respondents (based on considerations of total burden hours, total number of respondents, or burden hours per respondent) and are low-cost for both the respondents and the Federal Government;
- noncontroversial and do not raise issues of concern to other Federal agencies;
- targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the near future;
- only collecting personally identifiable information (PII) to the extent necessary and not retaining it;
- only collecting information intended to be used only internally for general service improvement and program management, and any release outside the agency must indicate the qualitative nature of the information;
- not to be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions; and
- intended to yield only qualitative information.

This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used

for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: the target population to which generalizations will be made; the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size; and the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential nonresponse bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior to fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results. As a general matter, information collections will not result in any new system of records containing privacy information and will not ask questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

Title: Generic Clearance of Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 2126–0061.

Type of Request: Renewal of currently approved collection.

Respondents: State and local agencies, general public and stakeholders; original equipment manufacturers and suppliers to the commercial motor vehicle (CMV) industry; fleets, owner-operators, state CMV safety agencies, research organizations and contractors; news organizations and safety advocacy groups.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,900 (5,000 customer satisfaction survey respondents + 100 listening sessions/stakeholder feedback forums respondents + 300 focus group respondents + 500 strategic planning customer satisfaction survey respondents).

Estimated Time per Response: Range from 10 to 120 minutes.

Expiration Date: July 31, 2024.

Frequency of Response: Generally, on an annual basis.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 1,758 hours (833 hours for customer satisfaction surveys + 200 hours for listening sessions/stakeholder feedback forums + 600 hours for focus groups + 125 hours for strategic planning customer satisfaction surveys).

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspect of this information collection, including: (1) whether the proposed collection is necessary for the performance of

FMCSA's functions; (2) the accuracy of the estimated burden; (3) ways for FMCSA to enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the collected information; and (4) ways that the burden could be minimized without reducing the quality of the collected information. The Agency will summarize or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this ICR.

Issued under the authority of 49 CFR 1.87.

Thomas P. Keane,

Associate Administrator, Office of Research and Registration.

[FR Doc. 2023-23744 Filed 10-26-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2014-0107; FMCSA-2014-0385; FMCSA-2014-0386; FMCSA-2018-0135; FMCSA-2018-0138; FMCSA-2021-0014]

Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Hearing

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces its decision to renew exemptions for eight 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 were applicable on September 12, 2023. The exemptions expire on September 12, 2025.

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 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. Insert the docket

number (FMCSA-2014-0107, FMCSA-2014-0385, FMCSA-2014-0386, FMCSA-2021-0014, FMCSA-2018-0135, or FMCSA-2018-0138) 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 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. 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 September 6, 2023, FMCSA published a notice announcing its decision to renew exemptions for eight 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 (88 FR 60732). The public comment period ended on October 5, 2023, and no comments were received.

FMCSA has evaluated the eligibility of these applicants and determined that renewing these exemptions would likely achieve a level of safety that is 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 no comments in this proceeding.

IV. Conclusion

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

As of September 12, 2023, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), the following eight individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the hearing requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (88 FR 60734):

Daniel Alcozer (IL)
Alex Courtney Bertling (OR)
Mark Howard (NY)
David Jakubowski (CA)
Jay Larson (TX)
Tia Matthews (TX)
Eduwin Pineiro (TX)
Jason Swearington (TX)

The drivers were included in docket numbers FMCSA-2014-0107, FMCSA-2014-0385, FMCSA-2014-0386, FMCSA-2021-0014, FMCSA-2018-0135, or FMCSA-2018-0138. Their exemptions were applicable as of September 12, 2023 and will expire on September 12, 2025.

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, 49 U.S.C. chapter 313, or the FMCSRs.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2023-23742 Filed 10-26-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P