

Rashawn L. Morris (VA)  
 Charles D. Oestreich (MN)  
 Carols A. Osollo (NM)  
 Robert L. Peason (GA)  
 Robert M. Pickett, II (MI)  
 Johnny L. Powell (MD)  
 Branden J. Ramos (CA)  
 Andres Regalado (CA)  
 Thenon D. Ridley (TX)  
 Christopher M. Rivera (NM)  
 Richard S. Robb (NM)  
 Angelo D. Rogers (AL)  
 David J. Rothermal (RI)  
 Sonny Scott (OH)  
 James J. Slemmer (PA)  
 John T. Thor (MN)  
 Donald L. Urmston (OH)  
 Paul J. Vines (AL)  
 Jackie G. Wells (VA)  
 Joseph A. Wells (IL)  
 James D. Zimmer (OH)

The drivers were included in docket numbers FMCSA-1999-5748; FMCSA-2003-15268; FMCSA-2003-15892; FMCSA-2005-21711; FMCSA-2005-22194; FMCSA-2005-22727; FMCSA-2006-26653; FMCSA-2007-0017; FMCSA-2007-27897; FMCSA-2007-29019; FMCSA-2009-0154; FMCSA-2009-0303; FMCSA-2011-0140; FMCSA-2011-0275; FMCSA-2011-0298; FMCSA-2013-0028; FMCSA-2013-0029; FMCSA-2013-0165; FMCSA-2013-0166; FMCSA-2013-0167; FMCSA-2013-0168; FMCSA-2013-0169; FMCSA-2013-0170; FMCSA-2014-0304; FMCSA-2015-0053; FMCSA-2015-0056; FMCSA-2015-0070; FMCSA-2015-0071; FMCSA-2015-0072; FMCSA-2015-0344. Their exemptions are applicable as of February 9, 2018, and will expire on February 9, 2020.

As of February 12, 2018, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, the following six individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (81 FR 1474; 81 FR 48493):

Charles H. Baim (PA)  
 Dana L. Colberg (OR)  
 Joseph T. Saba (MN)  
 LeRoy W. Scharkey (MN)  
 Walton W. Smith (VA)  
 Aaron D. Tillman (DE)

The drivers were included in docket number FMCSA-2015-0347. Their exemptions are applicable as of February 12, 2018, and will expire on February 12, 2020.

As of February 22, 2018, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, the following two individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for

interstate CMV drivers (77 FR 539; 77 FR 10608; 79 FR 6993; 81 FR 15401):

Brian K. Cline (NC)  
 Mickey Lawson (NC)

The drivers were included in docket number FMCSA-2011-0325. Their exemptions are applicable as of February 22, 2018, and will expire on February 22, 2020.

As of February 27, 2018, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, Danielle Wilkins (CA) has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirement in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers (79 FR 1908; 79 FR 14333; 81 FR 15401).

The driver was included in docket number FMCSA-2013-0174. The exemption is applicable as of February 27, 2018, and will expire on February 27, 2020.

#### IV. Conditions and Requirements

The exemptions are extended subject to the following conditions: (1) Each driver must undergo an annual physical examination (a) by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who attests that the vision in the better eye continues to meet the requirements in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), and (b) by a certified Medical Examiner, as defined by 49 CFR 390.5, who attests that the driver is otherwise physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41; (2) each driver must provide a copy of the ophthalmologist's or optometrist's report to the Medical Examiner at the time of the annual medical examination; and (3) each driver must provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver's qualification file or keep a copy of his/her driver's qualification if he/she is self-employed. The driver must also have a copy of the exemption when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official. 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.

#### V. 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.

#### VI. Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the 64 exemption applications, FMCSA renews the exemptions of the aforementioned drivers from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), subject to the requirements cited above. In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, each exemption will be valid for two years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA.

Issued on: February 7, 2018.

**Larry W. Minor.**

*Associate Administrator for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2018-03036 Filed 2-14-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2006-25854; FMCSA-2013-0108; FMCSA-2014-0382]

#### Qualification of Drivers; Exemption Applications; Epilepsy and Seizure Disorders

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

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

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA announces its decision to renew exemptions for five individuals from the requirement in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) that interstate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers have "no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition which is likely to cause loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a CMV." The exemptions enable these individuals who have had one or more seizures and are taking anti-seizure medication to continue to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

**DATES:** The exemptions were applicable on December 23, 2017. The exemptions expire on December 23, 2019. Comments must be received on or before March 19, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments bearing the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket No. FMCSA-2006-25854; FMCSA-2013-0108; FMCSA-2014-0382; using any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online 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:* 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.

*Instructions:* Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket number(s) for this notice. 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 heading below for further information.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or 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 FDMS is available 24 hours each day ET, 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 online.

*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 <http://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <http://www.dot.gov/privacy>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Christine A. Hydock, Chief, Medical Programs Division, 202-366-4001, [fmcsamedical@dot.gov](mailto:fmcsamedical@dot.gov), FMCSA, Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W64-224, Washington, DC 20590-0001. 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 Docket Services, telephone (202) 366-9826.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **I. Background**

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA may grant an exemption for five years 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 five-year period. FMCSA grants exemptions from the FMCSRs for a two-year period to align with the maximum duration of a driver’s medical certification.

The physical qualification standard for drivers regarding epilepsy found in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(8) states that a person is physically qualified to drive a CMV if that person has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition which is likely to cause the loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a CMV.

In addition to the regulations, FMCSA has published advisory criteria to assist Medical Examiners in determining whether drivers with certain medical conditions are qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce. [49 CFR part 391, APPENDIX A TO PART 391—MEDICAL ADVISORY CRITERIA, section H. Epilepsy: § 391.41(b)(8), paragraphs 3, 4, and 5.]

The five individuals listed in this notice have requested renewal of their exemptions from the epilepsy and seizure disorders prohibition in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(8), 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 two-year period.

##### **II. 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, FMCSA will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption of a driver.

##### **III. Basis for Renewing Exemptions**

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, each of the five applicants has satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the epilepsy and seizure disorders prohibition. The five drivers in this notice remain in good standing with the Agency, have maintained their medical monitoring and have not exhibited any medical issues that would compromise their ability to safely operate a CMV during the previous two-year exemption period. In addition, for Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) holders, the

Commercial Driver’s License Information System (CDLIS) and the Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS) are searched for crash and violation data. For non-CDL holders, the Agency reviews the driving records from the State Driver’s Licensing Agency (SDLA). 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 renewal applicant for a period of two years is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

As of December 23, 2017, and in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, the following five individuals have satisfied the renewal conditions for obtaining an exemption from the epilepsy and seizure disorders prohibition in the FMCSRs for interstate CMV drivers:

Gary Freeman (AL)  
Aaron Gillette (SD)  
David L. Kestner (VA)  
Chad B. Smith (MA)  
Trevor A. Williams (MN)

The drivers were included in docket numbers FMCSA-2006-25854; FMCSA-2013-0108; FMCSA-2014-0382. Their exemptions are applicable as of December 23, 2017, and will expire on December 23, 2019.

##### **IV. Conditions and Requirements**

The exemptions are extended subject to the following conditions: (1) Each driver must remain seizure-free and maintain a stable treatment during the two-year exemption period; (2) each driver must submit annual reports from their treating physicians attesting to the stability of treatment and that the driver has remained seizure-free; (3) each driver must undergo an annual medical examination by a certified Medical Examiner, as defined by 49 CFR 390.5; and (4) each driver must provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver’s qualification file, or keep a copy of his/her driver’s qualification file if he/she is self-employed. The driver must also have a copy of the exemption when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official. 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.

**V. 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.

**VI. Conclusion**

Based upon its evaluation of the five exemption applications, FMCSA renews the exemptions of the aforementioned drivers from the epilepsy and seizure disorders prohibition in 49 CFR 391.41 (b)(8). In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, each exemption will be valid for two years unless revoked earlier by FMCSA.

Issued on: February 8, 2018.

**Larry W. Minor,**

*Associate Administrator for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2018-03043 Filed 2-14-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Cost of Living Adjustments for Service-Connected Benefits**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017, Public Law 115-75, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of adjustments in certain benefit rates. These adjustments affect the compensation program.

**DATES:** These adjustments became effective on December 1, 2017, the date provided by Public Law 115-75.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jonathan Hughes, Chief, Policy Staff (211A), Compensation Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9700 (this is not a toll-free telephone number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 2 of Public Law 115-175 provides for an increase in each of the rates in sections 1114, 1115(1), and 1162 of title 38, United States Code. VA is required to increase these benefit rates by the same percentage as increases in the benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act. The increased rates are required to be published in the **Federal Register**.

The Social Security Administration has announced that there will be a 2.0 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits for 2018. Therefore, applying the same percentage, the following rates for VA's compensation program became effective on December 1, 2017:

Disability evaluation percent	Monthly rate
<b>Disability Compensation [38 U.S.C. 1114]</b>	
10 .....	\$136.24
20 .....	269.30
30 .....	417.15
40 .....	600.90
50 .....	855.41
60 .....	1,083.52
70 .....	1,365.48
80 .....	1,587.25
90 .....	1,783.68
100 .....	2,973.86
(38 U.S.C. 1114(k) through (t)):	
38 U.S.C. 1114(k) .....	105.61
38 U.S.C. 1114(l) .....	3,700.43

Disability evaluation percent	Monthly rate
38 U.S.C. 1114(m) .....	4,083.79
38 U.S.C. 1114(n) .....	4,645.60
38 U.S.C. 1114(o) .....	5,192.65
38 U.S.C. 1114(p) .....	5,192.65
38 U.S.C. 1114(r) .....	2,227.23;
	3,318.14
38 U.S.C. 1114(s) .....	3,328.70
38 U.S.C. 1114(t) .....	3,318.14

<b>Additional Compensation for Dependents [38 U.S.C. 1115(1)]</b>	
38 U.S.C. 1115(1):	
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(A) .....	\$165.81
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(B) .....	287.24; 82.38
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(C) .....	110.89; 82.38
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(D) .....	133.06
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(E) .....	317.87
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(F) .....	266.13

<b>Clothing Allowance [38 U.S.C. 1162]</b>	
\$795.21 per year.	

**Signing Authority**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veteran Affairs. Gina S. Farrisee, Deputy Chief of Staff, approved this document on February 5, 2018, for publication.

Approved: February 5, 2018.

**Jeffrey Martin,**

*Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2018-03154 Filed 2-14-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**