

Andrew Lieb

Andrew Lieb, 22, holds a class D driver's license in Ohio.

Braden Williford

Braden Williford, 31, holds a class D driver's license in Utah.

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.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Transit Administration**

[Docket FTA-2025-0001]

Notice of Establishment of Emergency Relief Docket for Calendar Year 2025

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: By this notice, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is establishing an Emergency Relief Docket for calendar year 2025, so grantees and subgrantees affected by a national or regional emergency or disaster may request temporary relief from FTA administrative and statutory requirements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diane Alexander, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Transit Administration, phone: (202) 366-3101, or email, diane.alexander@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 49 CFR 601.42, FTA is establishing the Emergency Relief Docket for calendar year 2025. In the case of a national or regional emergency or disaster, or in anticipation of such an event, when FTA requirements impede a grantee or subgrantee's ability to respond to the emergency or disaster, a grantee or subgrantee may submit a request for relief from specific FTA requirements.

If FTA determines that a national or regional emergency or disaster has occurred, or in anticipation of such an event, FTA will place a message on its web page (<https://www.transit.dot.gov>) indicating the Emergency Relief Docket

has been opened and including the docket number.

All petitions for relief from FTA administrative or statutory requirements must be posted in the docket in order to receive consideration by FTA. The docket is publicly available and can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, via the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Any grantee or subgrantee submitting petitions for relief or comments to the docket must include the agency name (Federal Transit Administration) and docket number FTA-2025-0001.

Interested parties may consult 49 CFR part 601, subpart D for information on FTA's emergency procedures for public transportation systems. FTA strongly encourages grantees and subgrantees to contact their FTA regional office and notify FTA of the intent to submit a petition to the docket.

A grantee or subgrantee seeking relief has three avenues for submitting a petition. First, a grantee or subgrantee may submit a petition for waiver of FTA requirements to <https://www.regulations.gov/>, for posting in the docket (FTA-2025-0001). Alternatively, a grantee or subgrantee may submit a petition in duplicate (two copies) to the FTA Administrator, via U.S. mail or hand delivery to Federal Transit Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20590; via fax to (202) 366-3472; or via email to diane.alexander@dot.gov; or via U.S. mail or hand delivery to the DOT Docket Management Facility, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. Thirdly, in the event that a grantee or subgrantee needs to request immediate relief and does not have access to electronic means to request that relief, the grantee or subgrantee may contact any FTA regional office or FTA headquarters and request that FTA staff submit the petition on its behalf.

Federal public transportation law at 49 U.S.C. 5324(d) provides that a grant awarded under section 5324, or under 49 U.S.C. 5307 or 49 U.S.C. 5311, that is made to address an emergency shall be subject to the terms and conditions the Secretary determines are necessary. This language allows FTA to waive certain statutory, as well as administrative, requirements. An FTA grantee or subgrantee receiving financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. 5324, 5307, or 5311 that is affected by a national or regional emergency or disaster may request a waiver of provisions of chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code in connection with such financial assistance, when a grantee or subgrantee demonstrates that the requirement(s)

will limit a grantee's or subgrantee's ability to respond to a national or regional emergency or disaster.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 601.42, a grantee or subgrantee must include certain information when requesting a waiver of statutory or administrative requirements. A petition for relief shall:

(a) Include the agency name (Federal Transit Administration) and docket number FTA-2025-0001;

(b) Identify the grantee or subgrantee and its geographic location,

(c) Identify the section of chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code, or the portion of an FTA policy statement, circular, guidance document or rule, from which the grantee or subgrantee seeks relief;

(d) Specifically address how a requirement in chapter 53 of title 49 of the United States Code, or an FTA requirement in a policy statement, circular, agency guidance or rule, will limit a grantee's or subgrantee's ability to respond to a national or regional emergency or disaster; and

(e) Specify if the petition for relief is one-time or ongoing, and if ongoing identify the time period for which the relief is requested. The time period may not exceed three months; however, additional time may be requested through a second petition for relief.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 601.46, a petition for relief from administrative requirements will be conditionally granted for a period of three (3) business days from the date it is submitted to the Emergency Relief Docket. FTA will review the petition after the expiration of the three business days and review any comments submitted regarding the petition. FTA may contact the grantee or subgrantee that submitted the request for relief, or any party that submits comments to the docket, to obtain more information prior to making a decision. FTA shall then post a decision to the Emergency Relief Docket. FTA's decision will be based on whether the petition meets the criteria for use of these emergency procedures, the substance of the request, and any comments submitted regarding the petition. If FTA does not respond to the request for relief to the docket within three business days, the grantee or subgrantee may assume its petition is granted for a period not to exceed three months until and unless FTA states otherwise.

A petition for relief from statutory requirements will not be conditionally granted and requires a written decision from the FTA Administrator. Further, grantees seeking a waiver from Buy America requirements must follow the procedures in 49 CFR 661.7 and 661.9.

Buy America waivers will not be granted through the Emergency Relief Docket.

An FTA decision, either granting or denying a petition, shall be posted in the Emergency Relief Docket and shall reference the document number of the petition to which it relates. FTA reserves the right to reconsider any decision made pursuant to these emergency procedures based upon its own initiative, based upon information or comments received subsequent to the three business day comment period, or at the request of a grantee or subgrantee upon denial of a request for relief. FTA shall notify the grantee or subgrantee if FTA plans to reconsider a decision.

Pursuant to FTA's Charter Rule at 49 CFR 604.2(f), grantees and subgrantees may assist with evacuations or other movement of people that might otherwise be considered charter transportation when that transportation is in response to an emergency declared by the President, governor or mayor, or in an emergency requiring immediate action prior to a formal declaration, even if a formal declaration of an emergency is not eventually made by the President, governor or mayor. Therefore, a request for relief is not necessary in order to provide this service. However, if the emergency lasts more than 45 calendar days and the grantee will continue to provide service that would otherwise be considered charter service, the grantee or subgrantee shall follow the procedures set out in this notice.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Grantees and subgrantees should refer to FTA's regulations, including 49 CFR part 601, for requirements for submitting a request for emergency relief.

Veronica Vanterpool,

Deputy Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2025-0002]

Legacy Limousines and Luxury Coaches; Grant of Petition for Temporary Exemption From Shoulder Belt Requirement for Side-Facing Seats on Motorcoaches

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

ACTION: Notice of grant of a petition for temporary exemption.

SUMMARY: In accordance with our regulations, NHTSA is granting a petition from Legacy Limousines and Luxury Coaches for a temporary exemption from the requirement to install Type 2 seat belts (*i.e.*, shoulder belts) at side-facing locations in the company's motorcoaches. The petitioner is a final-stage manufacturer of entertainer-type motorcoaches, seeking temporary exemption from the shoulder belt requirement of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 208, "Occupant crash protection," for side-facing seats on motorcoaches. The granted exemption permits the petitioner to install Type 1 seat belts (lap belt only) at side-facing seating positions, instead of the Type 2 seat belts (lap and shoulder belts) required by FMVSS No. 208. After reviewing the petition and the comments received, the agency has determined that the requested exemption is warranted to enable the petitioner to sell a vehicle whose overall level of safety or impact protection is at least equal to that of a nonexempted vehicle.

DATES: This exemption applies to the petitioner's motorcoaches produced from January 21, 2025 until January 21, 2027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sara R. Bennett, Office of the Chief Counsel, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-2992; Fax: (202) 366-3820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background
- II. Authority and Procedures for Temporary Exemption
- III. FMVSS No. 208
- IV. Legacy Limousine and Luxury Coaches' Petition
- V. Public Participation

I. Background

This notice grants a petition submitted by Legacy Limousines and

Luxury Coaches from the shoulder belt requirement of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 208, "Occupant crash protection," for side-facing seats on motorcoaches.

As background, NHTSA is responsible for promulgating and enforcing Federal motor vehicle safety standards (FMVSS) designed to improve motor vehicle safety. Generally, a manufacturer may not manufacture for sale, sell, offer for sale, or introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce a vehicle that does not comply with all applicable FMVSS.¹ There are limited exceptions to this general prohibition.² One path permits manufacturers to petition NHTSA for an exemption for noncompliant vehicles under a specified set of statutory bases.³ The details of these bases, and under which basis Legacy Limousines and Luxury Coaches' petition is granted, are provided in the sections of this notice that follow.

II. Authority and Procedures for Temporary Exemption

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Safety Act), codified at 49 U.S.C. chapter 301, authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to exempt motor vehicles, on a temporary basis and under specified circumstances, and on terms the Secretary considers appropriate, from a FMVSS or bumper standard. This authority is set forth at 49 U.S.C. 30113. The Secretary has delegated the authority for implementing this section to NHTSA.⁴

The Safety Act authorizes the Secretary to grant, in whole or in part, a temporary exemption to a vehicle manufacturer if the Secretary makes one of four specified findings.⁵ The Secretary must also look comprehensively at the request for exemption and find that the exemption is consistent with the public interest and with the objectives of the Safety Act.⁶

The Secretary must evaluate the petition for exemption under at least one of the following bases:

(i) Compliance would cause substantial economic hardship, and the manufacturer tried to comply in good faith;

(ii) the exemption would make easier the development or field evaluation of a new motor vehicle safety feature, and

¹ 49 U.S.C. 30112(a)(1).

² 49 U.S.C. 30112(b); 49 U.S.C. 30113; 49 U.S.C. 30114.

³ 49 U.S.C. 30113.

⁴ 49 CFR 1.95.

⁵ 49 U.S.C. 30113(b)(3).

⁶ 49 U.S.C. 30113(b)(3)(A).