



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[4910-EX-P]

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 395

[Docket No. FMCSA-2012-0183]

Hours of Service of Drivers of Commercial Motor Vehicles; Regulatory Guidance for Oil Field Exceptions

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

ACTION: Notice of public listening sessions and extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: FMCSA extends the comment period for the Agency's June 5, 2012, notice concerning regulatory guidance on the applicability of the oilfield operations exceptions in the hours-of-service regulations, and announces that the Agency will hold three public listening sessions to receive comments on the issue. The Agency extends the deadline for public comments from August 6 to October 5, 2012. The listening sessions will be open to the public and webcast in their entirety.

DATES: The first two listening sessions will be held on August 17, 2012, in Denver, CO, and on August 21, 2012, in Pittsburgh, PA. Both will begin at 1:00 p.m., local time, and end at 5:30 p.m. local time, or earlier if all participants wishing to comment have expressed their views. The third listening session will be held in September 2012, in Dallas, TX on a date to be determined. FMCSA will provide details of the third session by means of a notice in the **Federal Register** and on its website at www.fmcsa.dot.gov. Written comments to the docket must be received on or before October 5, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The August 17, 2012, listening session will be held at the Embassy Suites Denver International Airport, 7001 Yampa Street, Denver, CO 80249. The August 21, 2012, session will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 550 Cherrington Parkway, Coraopolis, PA 15108. The Agency will provide details on the September 2012 listening session in Dallas, TX, in a subsequent **Federal Register** notice.

Internet Address for Alternative Media Broadcasts During and Immediately After the Listening Sessions. FMCSA will post specific information on how to participate via the Internet and telephone on the FMCSA website at www.fmcsa.dot.gov.

You may submit comments identified by Federal Docket Management System Number FMCSA-2012-0183 by any of the following methods:

- Website: www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the Federal electronic docket site.
- Fax: 1-202-493-2251.
- Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, Room W-12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001.
- Hand Delivery: Ground Floor, Room W12-140, DOT Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

All submissions must include the Agency name and docket number.

For detailed instruction on submitting comments and additional information, see the “Public Participation” heading below. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. Please see

the “Privacy Act” heading below.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to www.regulations.gov at any time or to Room W12-140, DOT Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Privacy Act: Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review the DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on December 29, 2010 (75 FR 82133), or you may visit www.regulations.gov.

Public Participation: The www.regulations.gov website is generally available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. You can obtain electronic submission and retrieval help and guidelines under the “help” section of that website, and at DOT’s <http://docketsinfo.dot.gov> website. If you want us to notify you 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For the regulatory guidance issued on June 5, 2012, concerning oilfield hours-of-service exceptions: Mr. Thomas Yager, Chief, Driver and Carrier Operations Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, phone (202) 366-4325, e-mail MCPSD@dot.gov. For the listening sessions: Ms. Shannon Watson, Senior Advisor to the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, phone (202)

385-2395, e-mail shannon.watson@dot.gov.

If you need sign language assistance to participate in a listening session, please contact Shannon Watson at (202) 385-2395, or e-mail shannon.watson@dot.gov, no later than 10 days prior to the listening session.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On June 5, 2012, FMCSA published a notice in the Federal Register concerning regulatory guidance about the “oilfield operations” exceptions in 49 CFR 395.1(d)(77 FR 33098). The regulatory guidance, effective June 5, 2012, was issued to ensure consistent understanding and application of the regulatory exceptions. Several groups or organizations have requested that the Agency extend the comment period and consider holding a listening session(s). The FMCSA announces (1) an extension of the comment period for the submission of written comments in response to the June 5, 2012, notice, and (2) listening sessions on the regulatory guidance.

Listening Sessions

The listening sessions are open to the public. Speakers are requested to limit their remarks to 5 minutes, but are not required to pre-register. The public may submit material to the FMCSA staff at the session for inclusion in the docket, FMCSA-2012-0183.

Alternative Media Broadcasts During and Immediately After the Listening Sessions

FMCSA will provide webcast information for each listening session. Prior to each session, the Agency will post the web address for the live webcast, and instructions on how

to participate at FMCSA's website, www.fmcsa.dot.gov. After each listening session, FMCSA will place a full transcript of the listening session in the docket referenced at the beginning of this notice.

Issued on: August 2, 2012

Larry W. Minor
Associate Administrator for Policy

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