



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2025-0101]

#### **Commercial Driver's License: Massachusetts Department of State Police; Application for Exemption**

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

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

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA requests public comment on the Massachusetts Department of State Police's request for an exemption to conduct modified commercial driver's license (CDL) skills test exams on the island of Martha's Vineyard. According to the applicant, the island of Martha's Vineyard does not have the infrastructure for applicant drivers to demonstrate the two sets of lane changes required by the CDL skills test.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**].

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by Docket Number FMCSA-2025-0101 by any of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). See the Public Participation and Request for Comments section below for further information.
- **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:** 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590-0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- **Fax:** (202) 493-2251.

Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket number (FMCSA-2025-0101) for this notice. Note that DOT posts all comments received without change to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including any personal information included in a comment. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

**Privacy Act:** In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its exemption process. DOT posts these comments, 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 FDMS (Federal Docket Management System (FDMS)), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/privacy/privacy-act-system-records-notices>. The comments are posted without edit and are searchable by the name of the submitter.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Richard Clemente, Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards, FMCSA; (202) 366-9220; or [richard.clemente@dot.gov](mailto:richard.clemente@dot.gov). If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Dockets Operations at (202) 366-9826.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Public Participation and Request for Comments**

FMCSA encourages you to participate by submitting comments and related materials.

**A. Submitting Comments**

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (FMCSA-2025-0101), indicate the specific section of this document to which the comment applies, and provide a reason for your suggestions or recommendations. 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 the Agency can contact you if it has questions regarding your submission.

To submit your comment online, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FMCSA-2025-0101/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.

FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period. Comments received after the comment closing date will be filed in the public docket and will be considered to the extent practicable.

**B. Confidential Business Information (CBI)**

CBI is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to the notice contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to the notice, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Please mark each page of your submission that constitutes CBI as “PROPIN” to indicate it contains proprietary information. FMCSA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under the Freedom of Information Act, and they will not be placed in the public docket of the notice. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Brian Dahlin, Chief, Regulatory Evaluation Division, Office of Policy, FMCSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590-0001 or via email at [brian.g.dahlin@dot.gov](mailto:brian.g.dahlin@dot.gov). At this time, you need not send a duplicate hardcopy of your electronic CBI submissions to FMCSA

headquarters. Any comments FMCSA receives not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this notice.

### **C. Viewing Comments and Documents**

To view comments, as well as any documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> insert FMCSA-2025-0101 in the keyword box, select the document tab and choose the document to review. To view comments, click this notice, then click “Browse Comments.” If you do not have access to the internet, you may view the docket by visiting Docket 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.

## **II. Legal Basis**

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b) to grant exemptions from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the Federal Register (49 CFR 381.315(a)). The Agency must provide the public an opportunity to inspect the information relevant to the application, including the applicant’s safety analysis. The Agency must provide an opportunity for public comment on the request.

The Agency reviews the application, safety analyses, and public comments submitted and determines whether granting the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption, pursuant to the standard set forth in 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(1). The Agency must publish its decision in the Federal Register (49 CFR 381.315(b)). If granted, the notice will identify the regulatory provision from which the applicant will be exempt, the effective period, and all terms and conditions of the exemption (49 CFR 381.315(c)(1)).

If the exemption is denied, the notice will explain the reason for the denial (49 CFR 381.315(c)(2)). The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.300(b)).

### **III. Applicant's Request**

#### *Current Regulatory Requirements*

Under 49 CFR 383.113(c)(2) and (4), concerning requirements for driving maneuvers that must be included in the CDL skills test, applicants must demonstrate the ability to signal appropriately when changing direction in traffic and to choose a safe gap for changing lanes, passing other vehicles, and crossing or entering traffic.

#### *Applicant's Request*

The Massachusetts Department of State Police administers CDL road tests in the State of Massachusetts. To service Registry of Motor Vehicles customers on the island of Martha's Vineyard, the Massachusetts Department of State Police requests authorization to conduct CDL road test exams on the island, using a test route that does not include the two sets of lane changes. According to the applicant, travel to and from the island with commercial motor vehicles is often difficult and expensive. The applicant states that the region does not have the infrastructure to support two sets of lane changes required by the CDL Examiner's Manual and that there are no reasonable substitutions for lane change maneuvers on the island. The exemption application includes the proposed route plan for the modified CDL exams and a satellite image of the area, as well as a support letter from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Registry of Motor Vehicles.

A copy of the Massachusetts Department of State Police's application for exemption is available for review in the docket for this notice.

### **IV. Request for Comments**

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), FMCSA requests public comment from all interested persons on the Massachusetts Department of State Police's application for

an exemption. All comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date will be considered and will be available for examination in the docket at the location listed under the Addresses section of this notice. Comments received after the comment closing date will be filed in the public docket and will be considered to the extent practicable. In addition to late comments, FMCSA will also continue to file, in the public docket, relevant information that becomes available after the comment closing date. Interested persons should continue to examine the public docket for new material.

**Larry W. Minor,**  
*Associate Administrator of Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2025-12202 Filed: 6/30/2025 8:45 am; Publication Date: 7/1/2025]