



This document is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on 01/09/2026 and available online at <https://federalregister.gov/d/2026-00268>, and on <https://govinfo.gov> [4910-EX-P]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 390

[Docket No. FMCSA-2025-0124]

RIN 2126-AC77

Clarification to the Applicability of Emergency Exemptions; Response to Petitions for Reconsideration

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

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM).

SUMMARY: In response to several petitions for reconsideration, FMCSA proposes to revise from 14 days to 30 days the length of the emergency relief automatically triggered subsequent to a regional declaration of emergency by a Governor of a State, their authorized representative, or FMCSA. This proposal would reverse one change made by a final rule published in October of 2023.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Docket Number FMCSA-2025-0124 using any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FMCSA-FMCSA-2025-0124/document>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: Dockets Operations, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E., West Building, Ground Floor, Washington, D.C. 20590-0001.

- Hand Delivery or Courier: Dockets Operations, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E., West Building, Ground Floor, Washington, D.C. 20590-0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., 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: (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, including information collection comments for the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kathryn Sinniger, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Division, Office of the Chief Counsel, FMCSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001, (202) 570-8062, Kathryn.sinniger@dot.gov. If you have questions on viewing material in the docket, call Dockets Operations at (202) 366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

A. Submitting Comments

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this NPRM (FMCSA-2025-0124), 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-2025-0124/document>, click on this NPRM, 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.

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 NPRM 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 NPRM, 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 NPRM. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Brian Dahlin, Chief, Regulatory Evaluation Division, Office of Policy, FMCSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001 or via email at brian.g.dahlin@dot.gov. 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 rulemaking.

B. Viewing Comments and Documents

To view any documents mentioned as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/ FMCSA-2025-0124/document> and choose the document to review. To view comments, click this NPRM, then 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 S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., 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.

C. Privacy

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its regulatory process. DOT posts these comments, 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 (FDMS)), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/privacy/privacy-act-system-records-notices>. The comments are posted without edits and are searchable by the name of the submitter.

II. ABBREVIATIONS

ANPRM	Advance notice of proposed rulemaking
CE	Categorical Exclusion
CMV	Commercial motor vehicle
CVSA	Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
DOT	Department of Transportation
FMCSA	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
FMCSRs	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations
FR	Federal Register
HOS	Hours of service
NPGA	National Propane Gas Association
NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
OOIDA	Owner Operator Independent Driver Association
PIA	Privacy Impact Analysis
PTA	Privacy Threshold Assessment
SCHTO	Subcommittee on Highway Transport
UMRA	The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995
U.S.C.	United States Code

III. LEGAL BASIS

This NPRM is issued under the authority of 49 U.S.C. §§ 31136(a) and 31133(a)(10). The Secretary of Transportation (the Secretary) has authority under 49 U.S.C. § 31136(a) to “prescribe regulations on commercial motor vehicle safety. The regulations shall prescribe minimum safety standards for commercial motor vehicles.”

Where appropriate, the Secretary may provide exceptions to the applicability and scope of such regulations.

Authority to “perform other acts the Secretary considers appropriate” is conferred by 49 U.S.C. § 31133(a)(10). The Secretary, acting through FMCSA, finds the use of emergency relief in the wake of an emergency to be appropriate and in the public interest.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 1.87, the Secretary has delegated this statutory authority to the FMCSA Administrator.

IV. REGULATORY HISTORY

On October 13, 2023, FMCSA published in the *Federal Register* (88 FR 70897) a final rule titled “Clarification to the Applicability of Emergency Exemptions.” That final rule revised the emergency exemption rules, found in 49 CFR 390.23 and 390.25. Among

other changes, the revisions narrowed the scope of the safety regulations from which relief is automatically provided when an emergency is declared by a Governor (or other authorized State-level official), FMCSA, or a local government official. The exemptions continue to apply only to motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance in response to the declared emergency.

Specifically, the final rule made changes to the definitions of *emergency* and *direct assistance* and removed the definition of the term *emergency relief*. It revised the scope of the regulatory relief that takes effect upon a regional declaration of emergency by a Governor, a Governor's authorized representative, or FMCSA, such that the automatic exemption would be limited to 14 days and exempt motor carriers and commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers from only the hours of service (HOS) regulations in sections 395.3 and 395.5. The previous regulation provided that the automatic exemption was limited to 30 days and covered all regulations in 49 CFR Parts 390 through 399. For local emergencies, which were already limited to a 5-day period of automatic relief, the final rule narrowed the exemption to cover only the HOS regulations in sections 395.3 and 395.5, rather than all regulations in 49 CFR Parts 390 through 399. Finally, the final rule simplified the process for requesting modifications and extensions of emergency exemptions, found in section 390.25.

V. PETITIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION

Following the publication of the final rule, FMCSA received seven petitions for reconsideration,¹ filed by the following entities: The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA); Doug Burgum, Governor of North Dakota; the Montana Department of Transportation; the Western Association of State Highway Transportation Officials Subcommittee on Highway Transport; the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA);

¹ Two of the petitions came in after the period for filing a petition for reconsideration had ended. However, FMCSA is treating them as properly submitted petitions for reconsideration, as the Agency had not issued responses to any of the petitions submitted prior to receiving the late-filed petitions.

Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc. (OOIDA);² Brad Little, Governor of Idaho; and Kristi Noem, Governor of South Dakota. Six of the seven petitions requested that FMCSA reconsider the 14-day automatic time limit placed on emergency exemptions when those exemptions are triggered by an emergency declaration issued by a Governor or a delegatee for a Governor. Each of these petitions noted that the 14-day limit was too short, cited specific examples of events where the emergency response surpassed 14 days, and argued that the various clearance procedures involved in requesting extensions for the emergency exemption, at both the State and Federal levels, made it necessary to request an extension before it was even known how much additional time would be needed. The seventh petition requested that FMCSA revoke the final rule in its entirety. All seven petitions may be found in the docket for this rulemaking.

In January 2025, FMCSA notified all petitioners that it would reconsider the final rule on the limited issue of the maximum time a regional emergency exemption would trigger relief from HOS regulations in sections 395.3 and 395.5. A copy of the letters to the petitioners are also included in the docket for this rulemaking.

VI. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED RULE

In response to the petitions listed above, FMCSA is reconsidering the 14-day time limit for the automatic relief triggered by a regional emergency declaration, found at section 390.23(b). This proposed rule, if adopted, would revert the automatic time limit for regional emergency exemptions back to the 30-day limit that existed prior to the issuance of the October 2023 final rule. The need for direct assistance requiring regulatory relief may extend beyond the 14-day limit currently found in section 390.23(b). FMCSA experienced several instances since the final rule was issued where decisions on extension requests could not be issued until very close to the expiration time

² NPGA and OOIDA jointly filed one petition for reconsideration.

of the automatic emergency exemption, which created uncertainty about whether the emergency exemption would be in place for a longer period of time. Instances where such regulatory relief extended beyond 14 days include: the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland in the spring of 2024; the wildfires in western United States; and the historic back-to-back hurricanes in North Carolina in the fall of 2024.³ Most petitioners reported that the time needed to draft and process exemption extensions, both at the State and Federal level, can be lengthy. In some scenarios, emergency responders are forced to justify an extension request before they know how much additional time will be required to respond to an emergency situation. In these cases, responders may need to delay their direct assistance in order to ensure the extension is completed, and CMV drivers engaged in direct assistance may delay operations, if their operation would extend past the 14 days, until they know an extension has been issued. FMCSA agrees with petitioners who pointed out that any delay in response in such situations, while rare, is unacceptable because it creates a risk of delays in the provision of emergency assistance.

Based on the foregoing, FMCSA is proposing to change the time limit placed on the automatic emergency exemption that is triggered by a regional emergency declaration, *i.e.*, a declaration by a Governor, their authorized representative, or FMCSA. If this proposed rule is adopted, the applicable time limit for an automatic emergency exemption would be 30 days, as it was prior to the effective date of the October 2023 final rule. However, the terms of the exemption would require that it not continue after the emergency period if that period is less than 30 days. This limitation existed prior to

³ All emergency exemptions are available here: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency-declarations>.

The first exemption granted related to the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse is available here: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency/maryland-executive-order-0101202409>. It was subsequently extended four times. The emergency exemptions related to the hurricanes in North Carolina were also extended several times. Emergency exemptions related to wildfires are granted on a regular basis in several States. Exemption extensions related to hurricanes and wildfires can both be found through a search of the first link in this footnote.

the October 2023 final rule and was maintained with that final rule. This means that should a Governor issue an emergency declaration for 14 days, the emergency exemption would also be limited to 14 days. Likewise, if a Governor cancels a 30-day emergency declaration after 20 days, the emergency exemption would also be cancelled. In addition, the limitation that the emergency relief from sections 395.3 and 395.5 during a declared emergency only applies to motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance during the emergency would remain in place. FMCSA believes that these limitations would continue to meet the goal of ensuring that the relief granted through emergency declarations is appropriate and tailored to the specifics of the circumstances and emergencies being addressed.

Issues on Which the Agency Seeks Further Comment

FMCSA invites comment on all aspects of the NPRM from all stakeholders, but we are particularly interested in comments from States that address the following issues. In addressing topics, FMCSA requests that commenters number their remarks to correspond with the list below:

1. How frequently have emergency declarations, issued by your State, required extensions beyond the current regulatory limit (14 days)?
2. To what extent would the proposed rule reduce the number of extensions requests that your State needs to submit annually?
3. What are the estimated administrative costs, incurred by your State, in preparing and submitting requests for extensions of emergency declarations?
4. Would the proposed rule lead to any changes in your State's resource allocation or staffing needs as it relates to emergency management and regulatory compliance?

VII. INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS

Motor carriers and drivers are subject to the laws and regulations of the countries they operate in, unless an international agreement states otherwise. Non-U.S. domiciled carriers and drivers would be able to provide direct assistance in some scenarios, under the terms of the emergency exemption provisions found in section 390.23.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

There is only one change that would be made in this proposed rulemaking. In section 390.23, in paragraph (b), the number “14” would be changed to “30,” thereby increasing the length of time for an emergency exemption based on a regional declaration of an emergency. This change would revert the length of time for a regional emergency exemption to the automatic time limit that existed prior to the October 2023 final rule.

IX. REGULATORY ANALYSES

A. Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) and DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

FMCSA has considered the impact of this proposed rule under E.O. 12866 (58 FR 51735, Oct. 4, 1993), Regulatory Planning and Review, and DOT Order 2100.6B, Policies and Procedures for Rulemakings.⁴

In the October 2023 final rule, FMCSA stated that it did not expect that final rule to result in substantive incremental impacts relative to the baseline established in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). *See* 88 FR 70987, 70903. The final rule included an analysis of the costs and benefits of the final rule. One cost cited was the increase in the number of extension requests from motor carriers and drivers, resulting from the reduction in the automatic exemption from 30 days to 14 days. FMCSA reported this extension request cost as part of its Paperwork Reduction Act compliance, where the Agency estimated a total annual cost of \$1,011 for the submission of the extension

⁴ DOT Order 2100.6B, available at <https://www.transportation.gov/regulations/dot-order-21006b-policies-and-procedures-rulemakings>.

requests and a total Federal government annual cost of \$1,589 to review and approve the requests. *See* 88 FR 70987, 70904. FMCSA assumed that 50 individuals would submit requests for extensions each year based on input from the FMCSA Crisis Management Center, and that extension requests would take 15 minutes to complete, for a total of 12.5 hours of labor (50 respondents \times 15 minutes). FMCSA also assumed that a motor carrier employee equivalent to General and Operations Managers with a loaded hourly wage of \$80.88 will submit the extension request.⁵ As such, there would have been an annual cost of \$1,011 ($\80.88×12.5 hours) to submit extension requests. For the estimate of government costs, FMCSA assumed that requests for extensions would take 15 minutes each to review by a GS-13, step 5 in the Washington, D.C. area with a loaded hourly wage of \$127.13.⁶ The annual cost to review these extension requests would have been \$1,589 ($\127.13×12.5 hours).

This proposed rule would revert one change from the October 2023 final rule in section 390.23, in paragraph (b), to what it was prior to that final rule—30 days. As a result, FMCSA does not expect that making the change in this proposed rule would result in substantive incremental impacts relative to the baseline established in the FMCSRs, nor would it result in substantive incremental impacts relative to the baseline established by the October 2023 final rule. Generally, emergency exemptions are issued and extended to cover whatever period needed for CMV operators to provide direct assistance to restore essential supplies and services. This was the case before the October 2023 final rule, has been the case since the October 2023 final rule came into effect, and would

⁵ The loaded hourly wage is a product of the median hourly wage of a General and Operations multiplied by the fringe benefits rate of 50.5 percent and overhead costs of 21 percent. The median hourly wage of a General and Operations Manager is \$47.16. A General Operations Manager falls under the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupation Code 11-1021. Data is from the BLS Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS), National, May 2022, available at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm> (accessed Nov. 17, 2025).

⁶ The hourly wage for a GS-13 Step 5 in the Washington, DC region was multiplied by the federal government fringe benefits rate of 45 percent and the federal government overhead rate of 64 percent to arrive at the loaded hourly wage. The hourly wage denoted in the OPM schedule for a GS-13 step 5 is \$60.83. Available at https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2023/DCB_h.pdf (accessed Nov. 17, 2025).

continue to be the case under this proposed rule should it become a final rule. The only impact this proposal would have would be to reduce the number of extension requests needed, as more emergencies would be covered under the 30-day time period than were covered by the 14-day time period. Consequently, FMCSA estimates that this rule could yield annual cost savings up to the 2023 final rule cost estimates: \$1,011 for motor carriers and up to \$1,589 for the Federal Government, depending on the reduction in emergency exemption requests.

FMCSA is not estimating how large that reduction might be at this time. Rather, the Agency will update the expected number of extension requests per year when completing the renewal process for the approved collection of information, OMB Control Number 2126-0077, “Emergency Declaration Exemption Reporting under 49 CFR 390.25.” That collection is scheduled to expire on January 31, 2027. This may result in FMCSA over-estimating the burden on both the public and the Agency for approximately one year.

B. E.O. 14192 (Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation)

E.O. 14192 (90 FR 9065, Jan. 31, 2025), Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation, requires that for “each new [E.O. 14192 regulatory action] issued, at least ten prior regulations be identified for elimination.”⁷

Implementation guidance for E.O. 14192 issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (Memorandum M-25-20, March 26, 2025) defines two different types of E.O. 14192 actions: an E.O. 14192 deregulatory action, and an E.O. 14192 regulatory action.⁸

An E.O. 14912 deregulatory action is defined as “an action that has been finalized and has total costs less than zero.” This proposed rulemaking is expected to have total costs less than zero, and therefore would be considered an E.O. 14192 deregulatory action upon issuance of a final rule. FMCSA seeks comment on how States, motor carriers, and individuals will be impacted by the decrease in extension requests filed and any other information that would aid the Agency in quantifying costs or savings associated with this proposed rule.

B. Congressional Review Act

This rulemaking is not a *major rule* as defined under the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 801–808).⁹

C. Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

⁷ Executive Office of the President. *Executive Order 14192 of January 31, 2025. Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*, 90 FR 9065-9067 (Feb. 6, 2025).

⁸ Executive Office of the President. Office of Management and Budget, *Guidance Implementing Section 3 of Executive Order 14192, Titled “Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation,”* Memorandum M-25-20 (Mar. 26, 2025).

⁹ A *major rule* means any rule that the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in (a) an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more; (b) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, geographic regions, Federal, State, or local government agencies; or (c) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets. See 5 U.S.C. § 804(2).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 31136(g), FMCSA is required to publish an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) or proceed with a negotiated rulemaking, if a proposed safety rule “under this part”¹⁰ is likely to lead to the promulgation of a major rule. As this proposed rule is not likely to result in the promulgation of a major rule, the Agency is not required to issue an ANPRM or to proceed with a negotiated rulemaking.

D. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. § 601 *et seq.*), as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996,¹¹ requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of the regulatory action on small business and other small entities and to minimize any significant economic impact. The term *small entities* comprises small businesses and not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000 (5 U.S.C. § 601(6)). Accordingly, DOT policy requires an analysis of the impact of all regulations on small entities, and mandates that agencies strive to lessen any adverse effects on these businesses.

E. Assistance for Small Entities

In accordance with section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104–121, 110 Stat. 857), codified at 5 U.S.C. § 601 note, FMCSA wants to assist small entities in understanding this proposed rule so they can better evaluate its effects on themselves and participate in the rulemaking initiative. If this rulemaking would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please consult the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

¹⁰ Part B of Subtitle VI of Title 49, United States Code, *i.e.*, 49 U.S.C. chapters 311–317.

¹¹ Pub. L. No. 104–121, 110 Stat. 857 (Mar. 29, 1996).

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce or otherwise determine compliance with Federal regulations to the Small Business Administration’s Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman (Office of the National Ombudsman, see <https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/oversight-advocacy/office-national-ombudsman>) and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency’s responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of FMCSA, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247). DOT has a policy regarding the rights of small entities to regulatory enforcement fairness and an explicit policy against retaliation for exercising these rights.

F. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. §§ 1531–1538) (UMRA) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. The Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or Tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$206 million (which is the value equivalent of \$100 million in 1995, adjusted for inflation to 2024 levels) or more in any 1 year. Though this proposal would not result in such an expenditure, and the analytical requirements of UMRA do not apply as a result, the Agency discusses the effects of this rulemaking elsewhere in this preamble.

G. Paperwork Reduction Act

This proposed rule contains no new information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. §§ 3501–3520). The existing collections of information contained in section 390.25 are covered by an approved collection, OMB Control Number 2126-0077, “Emergency Declaration Exemption Reporting under 49 CFR 390.25.”

H. E.O. 13132 (Federalism)

A rulemaking has implications for federalism under section 1(a) of E.O. 13132 if it has “substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.”

FMCSA has determined that this rulemaking would not have substantial direct costs on or for States, nor would it limit the policymaking discretion of States. Nothing in this document preempts any State law or regulation. Therefore, this rulemaking does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Impact Statement.

I. Privacy

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005,¹² requires the Agency to assess the privacy impact of a regulation that would affect the privacy of individuals. This rulemaking would not require the collection of personally identifiable information.

The Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a) applies only to Federal agencies and any non-Federal agency that receives records contained in a system of records from a Federal agency for use in a matching program.

The E-Government Act of 2002,¹³ requires Federal agencies to conduct a PIA for new or substantially changed technology that collects, maintains, or disseminates information in an identifiable form. No new or substantially changed technology would collect, maintain, or disseminate information as a result of this rulemaking. Accordingly, FMCSA has not conducted a PIA.

In addition, the Agency completed a Privacy Threshold Assessment (PTA) to evaluate the risks and effects the rulemaking might have on collecting, storing, and sharing personally identifiable information. The PTA has been submitted to FMCSA’s

¹² Pub. L. No. 108-447, 118 Stat. 2809, 3268, note following 5 U.S.C. § 552a (Dec. 4, 2014).

¹³ Pub. L. No. 107-347, sec. 208, 116 Stat. 2899, 2921 (Dec. 17, 2002).

Privacy Officer for review and preliminary adjudication and would be submitted to DOT's Privacy Officer for review and final adjudication.

J. E.O. 13175 (Indian Tribal Governments)

This rulemaking does not have Tribal implications under E.O. 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian Tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian Tribes.

K. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

FMCSA analyzed this NPRM pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq.*) and determined this action is categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under DOT Order 5610.1D,¹⁴ Subpart B, paragraph e(6)(y)(4). The categorical exclusion (CE) in paragraph e(6)(y)(4) is for relief during regional and local emergencies and therefore the proposed requirements in this rulemaking are covered by this CE.

L. Rulemaking Summary

As required by 5 U.S.C. § 553(b)(4), a summary of this rulemaking can be found in the Abstract section of the Department's Unified Agenda entry at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202504&RIN=2126-AC77>.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 390

Highway safety, Intermodal transportation, Motor carriers, Motor vehicle safety, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

¹⁴ Available at <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/dots-procedures-considering-environmental-impacts>.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, FMCSA proposes to amend 49 CFR Part 390 as follows:

**PART 390—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS:
GENERAL**

The authority citation would continue to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. §§ 113, 504, 508, 31132, 31133, 31134, 31136, 31137, 31144, 31149, 31151, 31502; sec. 114, Pub. L. No. 103-311, 108 Stat. 1673, 1677; secs. 212 and 217, Pub. L. No. 106-159, 113 Stat. 1748, 1766, 1767; sec. 229, Pub. L. No. 106-159 (as added and transferred by sec. 4115 and amended by secs. 4130-4132, Pub. L. No. 109-59, 119 Stat. 1144, 1726, 1743, 1744), 113 Stat. 1748, 1773; sec. 4136, Pub. L. No. 109-59, 119 Stat. 1144, 1745; secs. 32101(d) and 32934, Pub. L. No. 112-141, 126 Stat. 405, 778, 830; sec. 2, Pub. L. No. 113-125, 128 Stat. 1388; secs. 5403, 5518, and 5524, Pub. L. No. 114-94, 129 Stat. 1312, 1548, 1558, 1560; sec. 2, Pub. L. No. 115-105, 131 Stat. 2263; and 49 CFR 1.81, 1.81a, 1.87.

§ 390.23 Automatic relief from regulations. [Amended]

1. In § 390.23(b), remove the number “14” and add, in its place, the number “30.”

Issued under the authority of delegation in 49 CFR 1.87.

Derek D. Barrs,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2026-00268 Filed: 1/8/2026 8:45 am; Publication Date: 1/9/2026]