SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Release Nos. 33–10531; 34–83874; File No. 265–28]

Investor Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Securities and Exchange Commission.


SUMMARY: The Securities and Exchange Commission Investor Advisory Committee, established pursuant to Section 911 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, is providing notice that it will hold a public meeting. The public is invited to submit written statements to the Committee.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (ET). Written statements should be received on or before September 13, 2018.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in Multi-Purpose Room LL–006 at the Commission’s headquarters, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549. The meeting will be webcast on the Commission’s website at www.sec.gov. Written statements may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Electronic Statements
- Use the Commission’s internet submission form (http://www.sec.gov/rules/other.shtml); or
- Send an email message to rules-comments@sec.gov. Please include File No. 265–28 on the subject line; or

Paper Statements
- Send paper statements to Brent J. Fields, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, DC 20549–1090. All submissions should refer to File No. 265–28. This file number should be included on the subject line if email is used. To help us process and review your statement more efficiently, please use only one method.
- Statements also will be available for website viewing and printing in the Commission’s Public Reference Room, 100 F Street NE, Room 1503, Washington, DC 20549, on official business days between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. All statements received will be posted without change. Persons submitting comments are cautioned that we do not redact or edit personal identifying information from comment submissions. You should submit only information that you wish to make available publicly.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public, except during that portion of the meeting reserved for an administrative work session during lunch. Persons needing special accommodations to take part because of a disability should notify the contact person listed in the section above entitled FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

The agenda for the meeting includes:
- remarks from Commissioners; a discussion regarding the U.S. proxy voting infrastructure; a discussion regarding the Commission’s Proposed Transaction Fee Pilot in NMS stocks (which may include a recommendation of the Market Structure Subcommittee); a discussion regarding the implications of passive investing; subcommittee reports; and a nonpublic administrative work session during lunch.

Dated: August 17, 2018.

Eduardo A. Aleman, Assistant Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2018–18086 Filed 8–21–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8011–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2018–0098]

Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Application for an Exemption From Traditional Trucking Corporation

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

ACTION: Notice of final disposition.

SUMMARY: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announces its decision to grant Traditional Trucking Corporation’s (TTC) application for a limited 5-year exemption on behalf of motor carriers operating commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) to allow a Global Positioning System (GPS) device to be mounted on the interior of the windshield of a CMV within the areas allowed for “vehicle safety technology” devices. The Agency has determined that the placement of the GPS device in the windshield area would not have an adverse impact on safety, and that adherence to the terms and conditions of the exemption would achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level of safety provided by the regulation.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of State, including under section 7045(b)(6) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2018

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of State, including under section 7045(b)(6) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2018 (Div. K, Pub. L. 115–141) and Senate Report 115–152, I hereby certify and have authority to document “truth declarations” from perpetrators of gross violations of human rights and to sentence such perpetrators to meaningful sanctions, including guarantee of non-repetition and deprivation of liberty:

(2) the Government of Colombia is continuing to dismantle illegal armed groups, taking effective steps to protect the rights of human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, and other civil society activists, and protecting the rights and territory of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities; and

(3) military personnel responsible for ordering, committing, or covering up cases of false positives are being prosecuted and appropriately punished, including removal from positions of command.

This Certification shall be published in the Federal Register and, along with the accompanying Report and Memorandum of Justification, shall be transmitted to the appropriate committees of Congress.

Dated: August 11, 2018.

Michael R. Pompeo,
Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. 2018–18066 Filed 8–21–18; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4710–29–P
The exemption would be for any carrier who wishes to mount a GPS device on the windshield of a CMV within the area defined for "vehicle safety technology"—not more than 4 inches below the upper edge of the windshield wipers, and not more than 7 inches above the lower edge of the area swept by the windshield wipers and outside the driver’s sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals. This would yield an equivalent level of safety for GPS devices as compared to those "vehicle safety technologies," and it would be a potentially safer location than lower in the CMV where the driver must take his/her eyes off the road to look at the location of his CMV on the GPS device. Back in August 2016, in the BASIC SMS, our Unsafe-driving category was in the cautionary status. Only one of the violations was not due to speeding; all of those with violations said it was due to a speed limit change and they were not above the speed limit they thought was the speed limit. GPS systems display the posted speed limit and flash in red when they are traveling above the posted speed limit.

The exemption would apply to all CMV operators driving vehicles with GPS devices. TTC believes that the exemption will maintain a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety achieved without the exemption because the GPS device is approximately the same size as vehicle safety technologies, and the current compliant mounting location is much lower in the vehicle which causes the driver to look away from the road to view the GPS device.

TTC’s Application for Exemption

TTC applied for an exemption from 49 CFR 393.60(e)(1)(i) to allow a GPS device to be mounted on the interior of the windshield of a CMV within the areas allowed for devices with “vehicle safety technology” as defined in the FMCSR. A copy of the application is included in the docket referenced at the beginning of this notice.

Section 393.60(e)(1)(i) of the FMCSR prohibits the obstruction of the driver’s field of view by devices mounted on the interior of the windshield. Antennas and similar devices must not be mounted more than 152 mm (6 inches) below the upper edge of the windshield, and outside the driver’s sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals. Section 393.60(e)(1)(ii) does not apply to vehicle safety technologies, as defined in 49 CFR 390.5, including a “a fleet-related incident management system, performance or behavior management system, speed management system, lane departure warning system, forward collision warning or mitigation system, active cruise control system, and transponder.” Section 393.60(e)(1)(ii) requires devices with vehicle safety technologies to be mounted (1) not more than 100 mm (4 inches) below the upper edge of the area swept by the windshield wipers, or (2) not more than 175 mm (7 inches) above the lower edge of the area swept by the windshield wipers, and outside the driver’s sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals. GPS is not a “vehicle safety technology” under the definition in the regulation, and, as such, GPS devices are not permitted to be mounted on the interior of the windshield and within the area swept by the windshield wipers TTC’s application stated:

The exemption is necessary because the dash is not suitable for mounting the fixture to hold the GPS unit, and the location of the GPS unit (if mounted on the top of the dash) is in the current compliant location allowed for “vehicle safety technologies” mounted on the windshield. The GPS fixture cannot be mounted to the “face” of the control panel as that area is covered with controls and displays necessary for the operation of the commercial vehicle.

We do not believe that there will be any potential impacts to safety due to the requested temporary exemption. The size of GPS units is approximately the same size as the currently allowed “vehicle safety technologies” and the current location is much lower within the CMV which takes the driver’s eyes farther from the road to determine his/her vehicle’s correct lane, bridge height, speed, etc. The current allowed location is a more unsafe operating condition.

The exemption would be for any carrier who wishes to mount a GPS device on the windshield within the area defined for “vehicle safety technology”—not more than 4 inches below the upper edge of the windshield wipers, and not more than 7 inches above the lower edge of the area swept by the windshield wipers and outside the driver’s sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals. This would yield an equivalent level of safety for GPS devices as compared to those “vehicle safety technologies,” and it would be a potentially safer location than lower in the CMV where the driver must take his/her eyes off the road to look at the location of his CMV on the GPS device. Back in August 2016, in the BASIC SMS, our Unsafe-driving category was in the cautionary status. Only one of the violations was not due to speeding; all of those with violations said it was due to a speed limit change and they were not above the speed limit they thought was the speed limit. GPS systems display the posted speed limit and flash in red when they are traveling above the posted speed limit.
not more than 175 mm (7 inches) above the lower edge of the area swept by the windshield wipers; and (3) outside the driver’s sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals.” will provide a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety achieved without the exemption because (1) based on the technical information available, there is no indication that the GPS devices would obstruct drivers’ views of the roadway, highway signs and surrounding traffic; and (2) generally, trucks and buses have an elevated seating position that greatly improves the forward visual field of the driver, and there will be no impairment of available sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals. In addition, the Agency believes that the use of GPS devices by fleets is likely to improve the overall level of safety to the motoring public.

This action is consistent with previous Agency action permitting the placement of vehicle safety technologies on CMVs outside the driver’s sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals. FMCSA is not aware of any evidence showing that the installation of other vehicle safety technologies mounted on the interior of the windshield has resulted in any degradation in safety.

Section 392.80 of the FMCSRs prohibits (a) drivers from engaging in texting while driving, and (b) motor carriers from allowing or requiring its drivers to engage in texting while driving. The term “texting” is defined in section 390.5 of the FMCSRs as “manually entering alphanumeric text into, or reading text from an electronic device,” and includes, but is not limited to, “short message service, emailing, instant messaging, a command or request to access a World Wide web page, pressing more than a single button to initiate or terminate a voice communication using a mobile telephone, or engaging in any other form of electronic text retrieval or entry, for present or future communication.” While the definition of “texting” in section 390.5 of the FMCSRs expressly excludes “Inputting, selecting, or reading information on a global positioning system or navigation system,” FMCSA strongly encourages CMV drivers utilizing GPS devices under this temporary exemption to minimize/avoid possible distraction associated with using these devices by (1) programming the device before starting to drive, (2) stopping to reprogram the device if necessary, and (3) enabling the voice command on the device (instead of muting it) to help avoid glancing at the device display.

Terms and Conditions for the Exemption

The Agency hereby grants the exemption for a 5-year period, beginning August 22, 2018 and ending August 22, 2023. During the temporary exemption period, motor carriers will be allowed to operate CMVs equipped with GPS devices mounted (1) not more than 100 mm (4 inches) below the upper edge of the area swept by the windshield wipers; or (2) not more than 175 mm (7 inches) above the lower edge of the area swept by the windshield wipers; and (3) outside the driver’s sight lines to the road and highway signs and signals. The exemption will be valid for 5 years unless rescinded earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be rescinded if: (1) Motor carriers and/or commercial motor vehicles fail 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(b).

Interested parties possessing information that would demonstrate that motor carriers operating GPS devices mounted on the windshield in the same location as vehicle safety technologies are not achieving the requisite statutory level of safety should immediately notify FMCSA. The Agency will evaluate any such information and, if safety is being compromised or if the continuation of the exemption is not consistent with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315(b), will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption.

Preemption

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31313(d), as implemented by 49 CFR 381.600, during the period this exemption is in effect, no State shall enforce any law or regulation applicable to interstate commerce that conflicts with or is inconsistent with this exemption with respect to a firm or person operating under the exemption. States may, but are not required to, adopt the same exemption with respect to operations in intrastate commerce.

Issued on: August 15, 2018.

Raymond P. Martinez,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2018–17977 Filed 8–21–18; 8:45 am]