The drivers covered by the proposed exemption are Naoto Morimoto, Kenji Sugawara, Ryota Hisamatsu, Takehiro Oshima, Yasuhiro Sakai, Hiroaki Takahashi, Kazunori Aizawa, Atsushi Fujiwara, Kazuya Takahashi, Koichi Ueno, Takahisa Chiba, and Takamasu Ono. According to Isuzu, these drivers will not engage in driving CMVs for the purpose of transporting merchandise as a commercial activity.

Each driver holds a valid Japanese commercial license, and as explained by Isuzu in previous exemption requests, drivers applying for a Japanese-issued commercial license must undergo a training program and pass knowledge and skills tests. Isuzu also stated in prior exemption requests that the knowledge and skills tests and training program that Japanese drivers undergo to obtain a Japanese commercial license ensure the exemption provides a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety obtained by complying with the U.S. requirement for a CDL. A copy of Isuzu’s application for exemption is available for review in the docket for this notice.

FMCSA has previously determined the process for obtaining a Japanese commercial license is comparable to, or as effective as, the Federal CDL knowledge and skills requirements of 49 CFR part 383 as enforced by the States, and adequately assesses the driver’s ability to operate CMVs in the U.S. Since 2003, FMCSA has granted Isuzu drivers similar exemptions [October 16, 2003 (68 FR 59677); April 3, 2007 (72 FR 15933); April 5, 2007 (72 FR 16870); September 5, 2008 (73 FR 51876); January 5, 2009 (74 FR 334); July 24, 2009 (74 FR 36809)].

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Larry W. Minor,
Associate Administrator for Policy.

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