

interstate commerce. FMCSA grants exemptions from the FMCSRs for a two-year period to align with the maximum duration of a driver's medical certification.

The Agency's decision regarding these exemption applications is based on medical reports about the applicants' vision as well as their driving records and experience driving with the vision deficiency. The qualifications, experience, and medical condition of each applicant were stated and discussed in detail in the July 17, 2018, **Federal Register** notice (83 FR 33292) and will not be repeated in this notice.

FMCSA recognizes that some drivers do not meet the vision requirement but have adapted their driving to accommodate their limitation and demonstrated their ability to drive safely. The 13 exemption applicants listed in this notice are in this category. They are unable to meet the vision requirement in one eye for various reasons, including amblyopia, complete loss of vision, corneal scar, irregularly shaped pupil, macular myelinated nerve fibers, macular scar, optic nerve damage, posterior staphyloma, prosthetic eye, and retinal detachment. In most cases, their eye conditions were not recently developed. Nine of the applicants were either born with their vision impairments or have had them since childhood. The four individuals that sustained their vision conditions as adults have had it for a range of 6 to 18 years. Although each applicant has one eye which does not meet the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), each has at least 20/40 corrected vision in the other eye, and in a doctor's opinion, has sufficient vision to perform all the tasks necessary to operate a CMV.

Doctors' opinions are supported by the applicants' possession of a valid license to operate a CMV. By meeting State licensing requirements, the applicants demonstrated their ability to operate a CMV, with their limited vision in intrastate commerce, even though their vision disqualified them from driving in interstate commerce. We believe that the applicants' intrastate driving experience and history provide an adequate basis for predicting their ability to drive safely in interstate commerce. Intrastate driving, like interstate operations, involves substantial driving on highways on the interstate system and on other roads built to interstate standards. Moreover, driving in congested urban areas exposes the driver to more pedestrian and vehicular traffic than exists on interstate highways. Faster reaction to traffic and traffic signals is generally required because distances between

them are more compact. These conditions tax visual capacity and driver response just as intensely as interstate driving conditions.

The applicants in this notice have driven CMVs with their limited vision in careers ranging for 4 to 78 years. In the past three years, no drivers were involved in crashes, and one driver was convicted of a moving violation in a CMV. All the applicants achieved a record of safety while driving with their vision impairment, demonstrating the likelihood that they have adapted their driving skills to accommodate their condition. As the applicants' ample driving histories with their vision deficiencies are good predictors of future performance, FMCSA concludes their ability to drive safely can be projected into the future.

Consequently, FMCSA finds that in each case exempting these applicants from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

#### V. Conditions and Requirements

The terms and conditions of the exemption are provided to the applicants in the exemption document and includes the following: (1) Each driver must be physically examined every year (a) by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who attests that the vision in the better eye continues to meet the standard in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) and (b) by a certified Medical Examiner who attests that the individual is otherwise physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41; (2) each driver must provide a copy of the ophthalmologist's or optometrist's report to the Medical Examiner at the time of the annual medical examination; and (3) each driver must provide a copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver's qualification file, or keep a copy in his/her driver's qualification file if he/she is self-employed. The driver must also have a copy of the exemption when driving, for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official.

#### VI. Preemption

During the period the exemption is in effect, no State shall enforce any law or regulation that conflicts with this exemption with respect to a person operating under the exemption.

#### VII. Conclusion

Based upon its evaluation of the 13 exemption applications, FMCSA exempts the following drivers from the vision requirement, 49 CFR

391.41(b)(10), subject to the requirements cited above:

Ronald D. Blakely (MI)  
Homero Dominguez (TX)  
Larry L. George (LA)  
Jason C. Hetrick (PA)  
Michael A. Hildebrand (PA)  
Junior M. Isenberg (KY)  
David G. Livingston (VT)  
Joseph P. Markley (PA)  
Derek L. Redford (ID)  
David Tavarez (NJ)  
William B. Van Drielen (NV)  
Willie R. White, Jr. (NV)  
Curtis C. Williams (MO)

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, each exemption will be valid for two years from the effective date unless revoked earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked if the following occurs: (1) The person fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption; (2) the exemption has resulted in a lower level of safety than was maintained prior to being granted; or (3) continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136 and 31315.

Issued on: October 24, 2018.

**Larry W. Minor,**

*Associate Administrator for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2018-23706 Filed 10-29-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2018-0008-N-10]

#### Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), this notice announces that FRA is forwarding the Information Collection Requests (ICRs) abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICRs describe the information collections and their expected burden. On August 1, 2018, FRA published a notice providing a 60-day period for public comment on the ICRs.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 29, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the ICRs to the Office of Information

and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attention: FRA Desk Officer. Comments may also be sent via email to OMB at the following address: *oira\_submissions@omb.eop.gov*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert Brogan, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of Railroad Safety, Regulatory Analysis Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W33-497, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6292); or Ms. Kim Toone, Information Collection Clearance Officer, Office of Administration, Office of Information Technology, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W34-212, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6132).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520, and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 1320, require Federal agencies to issue two notices seeking public comment on information collection activities before OMB may approve paperwork packages. See 44 U.S.C. 3506, 3507; 5 CFR 1320.8 through 1320.12. On August 1, 2018, FRA published a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** soliciting comment on the ICRs for which it is now seeking OMB approval. See 83 FR 37606. FRA received no comments in response to this notice.

Before OMB decides whether to approve these proposed collections of information, it must provide 30 days for public comment. Federal law requires OMB to approve or disapprove paperwork packages between 30 and 60 days after the 30-day notice is published. 44 U.S.C. 3507(b)-(c); 5 CFR 1320.12(d); see also 60 FR 44978, 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. OMB believes the 30-day notice informs the regulated community to file relevant comments and affords the agency adequate time to digest public comments before it renders a decision. 60 FR 44983, Aug. 29, 1995. Therefore, respondents should submit their respective comments to OMB within 30 days of publication to best ensure having their full effect.

*Comments are invited on the following ICRs regarding:* (1) Whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (3) ways for

FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

The summaries below describe the ICRs that FRA will submit for OMB clearance as the PRA requires:

*Title:* Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards and Event Recorders.

*OMB Control Number:* 2130-0004.

*Abstract:* The Locomotive Safety Standards at 49 CFR part 229 require railroads to inspect, repair, and maintain locomotives, including their event recorders, to ensure they are safe and free of defects. Crashworthy locomotive event recorders provide FRA with verifiable factual information about how trains are operated. These devices are used by FRA and State inspectors for part 229 rule enforcement. The information garnered from crashworthy event recorders is used by railroads to monitor railroad operations and by railroad employees (locomotive engineers, train crews, dispatchers) to improve train handling, and promote the safe and efficient operation of trains throughout the country, based on a surer knowledge of different control inputs.

*Type of Request:* Extension with change of a current information collection.

*Affected Public:* Businesses (railroads).

*Form(s):* FRA F 6180.49A.

*Respondent Universe:* 741 Railroads.

*Frequency of Submission:* On occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Responses:* 7,509,648.

*Total Estimated Annual Burden:* 3,815,751 hours.

*Title:* Railroad Signal System Requirements.

*OMB Control Number:* 2130-0006.

*Abstract:* The regulations pertaining to railroad signal systems are contained in 49 CFR parts 233 (Signal System Reporting Requirements), 235 (Instructions Governing Applications for Approval of a Discontinuance or Material Modification of a Signal System), and 236 (Rules, Standards, and Instructions Governing the Installation, Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair of Signal and Train Control Systems, Devices, and Appliances). Section 233.5 provides that each railroad must report to FRA within 24 hours after learning of an accident or incident arising from signal failure (e.g., failure of a signal appliance, device, method or system to function or indicate as required by 49

CFR part 236 that results in a more favorable aspect than intended) or other condition hazardous to the movement of a train. Section 233.7 provides that each railroad must report signal failures within 15 days in accordance with the instructions printed on Form FRA F 6180.14.

Title 49 CFR part 235 sets forth the specific conditions under which FRA will approve the modification or discontinuance of railroad signal systems. These regulations also describe the process that should be followed by a railroad to seek such an approval. The application process prescribed under 49 CFR part 235 enables FRA to obtain the necessary information to make logical and informed decisions concerning railroad requests to modify or discontinue signaling systems. Section 235.5 requires railroads to apply for FRA approval to discontinue or materially modify railroad signal systems. However, section 235.7 cites signal system changes that do not require FRA approval such as removal of an interlocking where a drawbridge has been permanently closed by the formal approval of another governmental agency. Section 235.8 allows railroads to seek relief from the requirements in 49 CFR part 236. Sections 235.10, 235.12, and 235.13 explain where the application must be submitted, what information must be included, what the format should be, and who is authorized to sign the application. FRA provides public notice concerning applications for relief and allows individuals and organizations to protest the granting of an application for relief. Section 235.20 describes the protest process, including essential information that must accompany the protest, the address for filing the protest, the time limit for filing the protest, and the requirement that a person requesting a public hearing explain why written statements cannot be used to explain his or her position.

Title 49 CFR part 236 contains FRA's signal system requirements. Section 236.110 requires that the results of signal system tests required under §§ 236.102 through 236.109; 236.376 through 236.387; 236.576 and 236.577; and 236.586 through 236.589 be recorded on pre-printed forms provided by the railroad or by electronic means, subject to FRA approval. These forms show the name of the railroad, place and date of the test conducted, type of equipment tested, and results of the test. They also describe any repairs, replacements, and adjustments performed on the equipment that has been tested, and the condition in which the equipment was left. This section

also requires that the employee conducting the test must sign the form and that the record be retained at the office of the supervisory official. Test results made in compliance with § 236.587 must be retained for 92 days. The results of all other tests required under §§ 236.102 through 109; 236.376 through 236.387; 236.576 and 236.577; and 236.586 through 236.589, including results of periodic tests, must be retained until the next record is filed, but no less than one year. Additionally, § 236.587 requires each railroad to make a departure test of the cab signal, automatic train stop, or train control devices on locomotives prior to a locomotive entering equipped territory. This section further requires that whoever performs the departure test must certify in writing that the test was properly performed. The certification and test results must be posted in the locomotive cab with a copy of the certification and test results retained at the office of the supervisory official. However, if it is impractical to leave a copy of the certification and test results at the location where the test is conducted, then the test results must be transmitted to either the dispatcher or another designated official who must keep a written record of the test results and the name of the person performing the test. All records prepared under this section are required to be retained for 92 days. Finally, § 236.590 requires railroads to clean and inspect the pneumatic apparatus of automatic train stop, train control, or cab signal devices on locomotives as required by § 229.29(a).

*Type of Request:* Extension with change of a currently approved information collection.

*Affected Public:* Businesses.

*Form(s):* FRA F 6180.14.

*Respondent Universe:* 741 Railroads.

*Frequency of Submission:* On occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Responses:* 1,673,437.

*Total Estimated Annual Burden:* 444,820 hours.

*Title:* Inspection Brake System Safety Standards for Freight and Other Non-Passenger Trains and Equipment (Power Brakes).

*OMB Control Number:* 2130-0008.

*Abstract:* Recognizing the importance of upgrading rail technologies, Congress in 1980 passed the Rock Island Railroad Transition and Employee Assistance Act (the "Rock Island Act"), which, inter alia, provides statutory relief for the implementation of new technologies. More specifically, when certain statutory requirements preclude the

development or implementation of more efficient railroad transportation equipment or other transportation innovations, the applicable section of the Rock Island Act, currently codified at 49 U.S.C. 20306, provides the Secretary of Transportation with the authority to grant an exemption to those requirements based on evidence received and findings developed at a hearing. In accordance with that statute, FRA held a public hearing and invoked its discretionary authority under 49 U.S.C. 20306 to provide a limited exemption from 49 U.S.C. 20303 for freight trains and freight cars operating with electronically controlled pneumatic (ECP) brake systems. In doing so, FRA revised the regulations governing freight power brakes and equipment in October 2008 by adding a new subpart G. The revisions are designed to provide for and encourage the safe implementation and use of ECP brake system technologies. These revisions contain specific requirements on the design, interoperability, training, inspection, testing, handling of defective equipment, and periodic maintenance related to ECP brake systems. The final rule also provides flexibility to facilitate the voluntary adoption of this advanced brake system technology. The collection of information is used by FRA to monitor and enforce regulatory requirements related to power brakes on freight cars, including the requirements related to ECP brake systems. The collection of information is also used by locomotive engineers and road crews to verify that the terminal air brake test has been performed in a satisfactory manner.

*Type of Request:* Extension with change of a currently approved information collection.

*Affected Public:* Businesses.

*Form(s):* N/A.

*Respondent Universe:* 741 Railroads.

*Frequency of Submission:* On occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Responses:* 30,518,808.

*Total Estimated Annual Burden:* 1,045,478 hours.

Under 44 U.S.C. 3507(a) and 5 CFR 1320.5(b) and 1320.8(b)(3)(vi), FRA informs all interested parties that it may not conduct or sponsor, and a respondent is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Authority:** 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520.

**Juan D. Reyes III,**  
Chief Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2018-23586 Filed 10-29-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-06-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2018-0158]

#### Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws: Vessel YEMAYA; Invitation for Public Comments

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, DOT.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirements of the coastwise trade laws to allow the carriage of no more than twelve passengers for hire on vessels, which are three years old or more. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before November 29, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD-2018-0158 by any one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Search MARAD-2018-2018-0158 and follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management Facility is in the West Building, Ground Floor of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Docket Management Facility location address is: U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD-2018-0158, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

*Note:* If you mail or hand-deliver your comments, we recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the agency name and specific docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, see the section entitled Public Participation.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bianca Carr, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime