

current regulation (49 CFR 381.305). The decision of the Agency must be published in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(b)) with the reason for the grant or denial, and, if granted, the specific person or class of persons receiving the exemption, and the regulatory provision or provisions from which exemption is granted. The notice must also specify the effective period of the exemption (up to 5 years), and explain the terms and conditions of the exemption. The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.300(b)).

### III. Request for Exemption

Teupen applied for an exemption for Mr. Martin Borutta from 49 CFR 383.23, which prescribes licensing requirements for drivers operating commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate or intrastate commerce. He holds a valid German commercial license but is unable to obtain a CDL because he not domiciled in this country. A copy of the exemption application is in the docket referenced at the beginning of this notice.

The exemption would allow this driver to operate CMVs in interstate or intrastate commerce to support Teupen field tests designed to better understand product requirements and ensure the safe operation of their new aerial lift design vehicle in environments in the U.S. According to Teupen, Mr. Borutta will typically drive for no more than 5 hours per day for one to two days. The test driving will typically be done on interstate highways, and driving will consist of no more than 200 miles per day. He will in all cases be accompanied by a U.S. CDL holder familiar with the routes to be traveled.

Mr. Borutta holds a valid German commercial license, and as explained by Teupen in its exemption request, the requirements for that license ensure that, operating under the exemption, Mr. Borutta would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved by the current regulation. Teupen requests that the exemption cover the maximum allowable period of five years.

### IV. Method To Ensure an Equivalent or Greater Level of Safety

Teupen notes that the process for obtaining a German commercial license is comparable to, or as effective as, the requirements of part 383, and adequately assesses the driver's ability to operate CMVs in the U.S. The Agency granted one of Navistar's drivers a similar exemption [April 15, 2019 (84 FR 15283)]. Since 2015, the Agency has also granted Daimler drivers similar exemptions: [December 7, 2015 (80 FR

76059); December 21, 2015 (80 FR 79410)]; July 12, 2016 (81 FR 45217); July 25, 2016 (81 FR 48496); August 17, 2017 (82 FR 39151); and September 10, 2018 (83 FR 45742)]. The Agency has not received any information or reports indicating there have been safety performance problems with individuals holding German commercial licenses who operate CMVs on public roads in the United States.

### V. Public Comments

On October 24, 2019, FMCSA published notice of this application and requested public comments (84 FR 57155). One commenter stated: "Concur with request for exemption. Additionally, as this scenario is possibly encountered by military spouses without U.S. citizenship, recommend review of the regulation to consider possibilities for inclusive language while still maintaining safety standards."

### VI. FMCSA Decision

Based upon the merits of this application, including Mr. Borutta's extensive driving experience and safety record, FMCSA has concluded that the exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved absent such exemption, in accordance with § 381.305(a). The requirements for a German-issued commercial license ensure that drivers meet or exceed the same level of safety as if these drivers had obtained a U.S. CDL. Mr. Borutta is familiar with the operation of CMVs and will be accompanied at all times by a driver who holds a U.S. CDL and is familiar with the routes to be traveled. FMCSA has determined that the process for obtaining a commercial license in Germany is comparable to that for obtaining a CDL issued by one of the States and adequately assesses the driver's ability to operate CMVs safely in the United States.

### VII. Terms and Conditions for the Exemption

FMCSA grants Teupen driver Martin Borutta an exemption from the CDL requirement in 49 CFR 383.23 to allow him to drive CMVs in this country without a State-issued CDL, subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) The driver and carrier must comply with all other applicable provisions of the FMCSRs (49 CFR parts 350–399);

(2) the driver must be in possession of the exemption document and a valid German commercial license;

(3) the driver must be employed by and operate the CMV within the scope of their duties for Teupen;

(4) at all times while operating a CMV under this exemption, the driver must be accompanied by a holder of a U.S. CDL who is familiar with the routes traveled;

(5) Teupen must notify FMCSA in writing within 5 business days of any accident, as defined in 49 CFR 390.5, involving this driver; and

(6) Teupen must notify FMCSA in writing if this driver is convicted of a disqualifying offense under § 383.51 or § 391.15 of the FMCSRs.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the exemption will be valid for 5 years unless revoked earlier by the FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked if:

(1) Mr. Borutta fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption;

(2) the exemption results in a lower level of safety than was maintained before it was granted; or

(3) continuation of the exemption would be inconsistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136.

### VIII. Preemption

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 31315(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 or intrastate commerce that conflicts with or is inconsistent with this exemption with respect to a firm or person operating under the exemption.

Issued on: February 19, 2020.

**Jim Mullen,**

*Acting Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2020-04940 Filed 3-10-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA–2020–0097]

### Hours of Service (HOS) of Drivers: Small Business in Transportation Coalition (SBTC) Application for Exemption From ELD and Certain HOS Requirements

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

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

**SUMMARY:** FMCSA announces that the Small Business in Transportation Coalition (SBTC) has applied for an

exemption from the electronic logging device (ELD) requirements for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers traveling with domestic animals, in interstate commerce. SBTC also requests an exemption from the hours-of-service requirements, allowing these drivers to drive up to 13 hours during a driving shift and up to 16 hours from the beginning of the work shift, following 10 consecutive hours off duty. FMCSA requests public comment on SBTC's application for exemption.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 10, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Number FMCSA–2020–0097 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:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001.
- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- *Fax:* 1–202–493–2251.
- Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket number 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.

**Docket:** For access to the docket to read background documents or comments, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) at any time or visit Room W12–140 on the ground level of the West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The on-line FDMS is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year.

**Privacy Act:** DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking and exemption review processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, 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), which can be reviewed at [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Pearl Robinson, FMCSA Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards; Telephone: (202) 366–4325;

Email: [MCPSD@dot.gov](mailto:MCPSD@dot.gov). If you have questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, contact Docket Services, telephone (202) 366–9826.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

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

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

##### *Submitting Comments*

If you submit a comment, please include the docket number for this notice (FMCSA–2020–0097), indicate the specific section of this document to which the comment applies, and provide a reason for 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 comments online, go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and put the docket number, “FMCSA–2020–0097” in the “Keyword” box, and click “Search.” When the new screen appears, click on “Comment Now!” button and type your comment into the text box in the following screen. Choose whether you are submitting your comment as an individual or on behalf of a third party and then submit. 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. If you submit comments by mail and would like to know that they reached the facility, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope. FMCSA will consider all comments and material received during the comment period and may grant or not grant this application based on your comments.

#### **II. Legal Basis**

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31315(b) to grant exemptions from certain parts of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). 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 any safety analyses that have been conducted. The Agency must also provide an opportunity for public comment on the request.

The Agency reviews 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 by the current regulation (49 CFR 381.305). The decision of the Agency must be published in the **Federal Register** (49 CFR 381.315(b)) with the reasons for denying or granting the application and, if granted, the name of the person or class of persons receiving the exemption, and the regulatory provision from which the exemption is granted. The notice must also specify the effective period and explain the terms and conditions of the exemption. The exemption may be renewed (49 CFR 381.300(b)).

#### **II. Background**

##### *Current Regulations*

Generally, individuals may not drive a property-carrying CMV more than 11 hours during a work shift, following 10 consecutive hours off duty. Under the current regulations all driving must be completed within 14 hours of the beginning of the work shift. (See 49 CFR 395.3.)

Drivers who are required to prepare and maintain records of duty status (RODS) to document their hours of service must generally use electronic logging devices (ELDs). (See 49 CFR 395.8.)

##### *SBTC Exemption Application*

SBTC requests that drivers of property-carrying CMVs, when accompanied by any domestic animal, be exempt from the requirement to use ELDs for their RODS (49 CFR 395.8). These drivers would prepare and maintain paper RODS as an alternative.

SBTC also requests that drivers of property-carrying vehicles accompanied by any domestic animal be granted an exemption from 49 CFR 395.3(a)(2) and (3)(i), allowing them to drive up to 13 hours during a work shift, following 10 consecutive hours off-duty. The exemption would allow them a 16-hour driving window within which to use the 13 hours of driving time. A copy of the exemption application has been placed in the docket referenced at the beginning of this notice.

#### **III. Request for Comments**

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315(b), FMCSA requests public comment from all interested persons on SBTC's application for an exemption. All comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated at the beginning of this notice

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.

Issued on: March 6, 2020.

**Larry W. Minor,**

*Associate Administrator for Policy.*

[FR Doc. 2020-04939 Filed 3-10-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-EX-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0799]

### Agency Information Collection Activity: Casket and Urn Reimbursement

**AGENCY:** National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Cemetery Administration (NCA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each new collection and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed that implements statutory authority for NCA to provide reimbursement for the purchase of caskets and urns for the interment of the remains of Veterans without next of kin (NOK) or sufficient resources available for burial.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before May 11, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov) or the National Cemetery Administration (42E), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to [NCA42EACTION@va.gov](mailto:NCA42EACTION@va.gov).

*va.gov*. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0799” in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through FDMS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *Cynthia.harvey-pryor@va.gov* at (202) 461-5870.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, NCA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of NCA’s functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of NCA’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

**Authority:** Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521.

**Title:** Casket/Urn Reimbursement, VA Form 40-10088.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-0799.

**Type of Review:** Reinstatement of a previously approved collection.

**Abstract:** The Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration has established VA regulations to implement statutory authority for NCA to provide reimbursement for the purchase of caskets and urns for the interment of the remains of Veterans without next of kin and sufficient resources available for burial.

**Affected Public:** Federal Government and Community Social Services.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 74 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:** 10 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** Once.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 445.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Danny S. Green,**

*VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2020-04921 Filed 3-10-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0696]

### Agency Information Collection Activity: Availability of Educational, Licensing, and Certification Records

**AGENCY:** Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before May 11, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov) or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420 or email to [nancy.kessinger@va.gov](mailto:nancy.kessinger@va.gov). Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900-0696” in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the FDMS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Danny S. Green at (202) 421-1354.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Under the PRA of 1995, Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA’s functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4)