SUMMARY: FMCSA announces the extension of the 2015 exemption granted to Trailways Companies (Trailways) and other regular-route for-hire passenger carriers. The Agency extends the expiration date from June 4, 2015, to June 4, 2020, in response to the “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act” (FAST Act). That Act extends the expiration date of hours-of-service (HOS) exemptions in effect on the date of enactment of the FAST Act to 5 years from the date of issuance of the exemptions. This exemption provides that drivers of passenger-carrying vehicles with regularly scheduled routes are exempted from changing their duty status from “driving” to “on-duty not driving” when making stops of less than 10 minutes for the limited purpose of picking up or dropping off passengers, baggage, or small express packages. The Agency previously determined that operations under this exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level of safety that would be obtained in the absence of the exemption.

DATES: This limited exemption is effective from June 4, 2015, through June 4, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thomas Yager, Chief, FMCSA Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards; Telephone: 614–042–6477. Email: MCPSD@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Legal Basis

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 to grant exemptions from certain parts of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the Federal Register [49 CFR 381.315(a)].

Section 5206(b)(2)(A) of the “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act,” (FAST Act), effective October 1, 2015, requires FMCSA to extend any exemption from any provision of the HOS regulations under 49 CFR part 395 that was in effect on the date of enactment of the Act for a period of 5 years from the date the exemption was granted. The exemption may be renewed. Because this action merely implements a statutory mandate that took effect on the date of enactment of the FAST Act, notice and comment are not required.

Trailways Exemption

Trailways, a regular-route passenger carrier, applied for a limited exemption on behalf of Adirondack Trailways, Pine Hill Trailways, New York Trailways and all other regular-route passenger carriers and their drivers, from the change of duty status requirements in 49 CFR 395.8(c). Trailways had requested that drivers with regularly scheduled routes be exempted from changing their duty status from “driving” to “on-duty not driving” when making stops of less than 10 minutes for the limited purpose of picking up or dropping off passengers, baggage, or small express packages.

FMCSA reviewed the application and the public comments and concluded that allowing these drivers to perform their daily duties without having to record short-term changes in duty status would promote safety at least as effectively as the logbook regulations in 49 CFR part 395.8(c). Trailways held a similar 2-year exemption from 2013 to 2015. A Notice of Final Determination granting the Trailways exemption was published on June 4, 2015 [80 FR 31961]. The substance of the exemption is not affected by this extension. The exemption covers only the driver’s record of duty status regulations [49 CFR 395.8(c)]. The exemption is restricted to drivers employed by Trailways and other regular-route for-hire passenger carriers. Instead of complying with the provisions in 49 CFR 395.8(c), these drivers are exempted from changing their duty status from “driving” to “on-duty not driving” when making stops of less than 10 minutes.

The FMCSA does not believe the safety record of any driver operating under this exemption will deteriorate. However, should deterioration in safety occur, FMCSA will take all steps necessary to protect the public interest, including revocation of the exemption. The FMCSA has the authority to terminate the exemption at any time the Agency has the data/information to conclude that safety is being compromised.

Issued on: November 3, 2016.

T.F. Scott Darлин, III, Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2016–27269 Filed 11–10–16; 8:45 am]
from the date of issuance of the exemptions. The SC&RA exemption from the Agency’s 30-minute rest break requirement is limited to drivers of specialized loads moving in interstate commerce that exceed normal weight and dimension limits—oversize/overweight (OS/OW) loads—and require a permit issued by a government authority. The Agency previously determined that the drivers of specialized commercial motor vehicles (CMV) under this exemption would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level of safety that would be obtained in the absence of the exemption.

DATES: This limited exemption is effective from June 18, 2015, through June 17, 2020.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Thomas Yager, Chief, FMCSA Driver and Carrier Operations Division; Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards; Telephone: 614–942–6477. Email: MCPSD@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Legal Basis

FMCSA has authority under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 to grant exemptions from certain parts of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. FMCSA must publish a notice of each exemption request in the Federal Register [49 CFR 381.315(a)]. Section 5206(b)(2)(A) of the FAST Act requires FMCSA to extend any exemption from any provision of the HOS regulations under 49 CFR part 395 that was in effect on the date of enactment of the Act for a period of 5 years from the date the exemption was granted. The exemption may be renewed. Because this action merely implements a statutory mandate that took effect on the date of enactment of the FAST Act, notice and comment are not required.

SC&RA Exemption

The SC&RA, a trade association, applied for a limited exemption from the mandatory rest break requirement of 49 CFR 395.3(a)(3)(ii) on behalf of all specialized carriers and drivers responsible for the transportation of loads exceeding standard legal weight and dimensional limits—oversize/overweight (OS/OW) loads—that require a permit issued by a government authority.

FMCSA reviewed SC&RA’s application and the public comments and concluded that limiting the exemptions to these OS/OW permitted loads would promote safety at least as effectively as the 30-minute break. Because hours in which an OS/OW load can travel are restricted by permit requirements, often those hours are in conflict with the timing of the required 30-minute rest break. A Notice of Final Determination granting the SC&RA exemption was published on June 18, 2015 [80 FR 34957].

The substance of the exemption is not affected by this extension. The exemption covers only the 30-minute rest break requirement [49 CFR 395.3(a)(3)(ii)]. The exemption is restricted to drivers of specialized loads moving in interstate commerce that exceed normal weight and dimensional limits—OS/OW loads—and require a permit issued by a government authority.

The FMCSA does not believe the safety record of any driver operating under this exemption will deteriorate. However, should deterioration in safety occur, FMCSA will take all steps necessary to protect the public interest, including revocation of the exemption. The FMCSA has the authority to terminate the exemption at any time the Agency has the data/information to conclude that safety is being compromised.

Issued on: November 3, 2016.
T.F. Scott Darling, III, Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2016–27267 Filed 11–10–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–2016–0107; Notice 1]

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, Receipt of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Receipt of petition.

SUMMARY: The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (Goodyear), has determined that certain Goodyear tires do not fully comply with paragraph S6.5(f) of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 119, New pneumatic tires for motor vehicles with a GVWR of more than 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds) and motorcycles. Goodyear filed a report dated September 27, 2016, pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports. Goodyear then petitioned NHTSA under 49 CFR part 556 for a decision that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is December 14, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on this petition. Comments must refer to the docket and notice number cited in the title of this notice and submitted by any of the following methods:

• Mail: Send comments by mail addressed to U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

• Hand Delivery: Deliver comments by hand to U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Federal Holidays.

• Electronically: Submit comments electronically by logging onto the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Web site at https://www.regulations.gov/. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

• Comments may also be faxed to (202) 493–2251.

Comments must be written in the English language, and be no greater than 15 pages in length, although there is no limit to the length of necessary attachments to the comments. If comments are submitted in hard copy form, please ensure that two copies are provided. If you wish to receive confirmation that comments you have submitted by mail were received, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the comments. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to https://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided.

All comments and supporting materials received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be filed in the docket and will be considered. All comments and supporting materials received after the closing date will also be filed and will be considered to the fullest extent possible.

When the petition is granted or denied, notice of the decision will also be published in the Federal Register pursuant to the authority indicated at the end of this notice.

All comments, background documentation, and supporting materials submitted to the docket may be viewed by anyone at the address and