

INFORMATION BULLETIN



March 16, 2020

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION LIMITED EXEMPTION FOR SMART-VISION CAMERA MONITORING SYSTEM

Effective January 15, 2020, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) granted Vision Systems North America, Incorporated (Inc.), a limited 5-year exemption to allow motor carriers to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMV) with the Smart-Vision high-definition camera monitoring system as an alternative to the two rear-vision mirrors required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. The FMCSA has determined that granting the exemption to allow the use of the Smart-Vision system in lieu of mirrors would likely achieve a level of safety equivalent to or greater than the level of safety provided by the regulation.

The Smart-Vision system consists of multiple digital cameras mounted on the exterior of the CMV. Each camera has video-processing software that presents a clear, high-definition image to the driver by means of a monitor mounted to each A-pillar of the CMV. Vision Systems North America, Inc., explains that attaching the monitors to the A-pillars avoids the creation of incremental blind spots while eliminating the blind spots associated with conventional mirrors.

Vision Systems North America, Inc.'s, Smart-Vision system is the sole beneficiary of this temporary 5-year exemption. Additionally, the FMCSA has included preemptive language preventing states from enforcing a state law that is in conflict with this exemption.

Questions regarding this Information Bulletin may be directed to Commercial Vehicle Section, at (916) 843-3400.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

OPI: 062

