

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Safety Division
Rail Transit Safety Section

RESOLUTION ST-12
Date July 20, 1994

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION ST-12. AUTHORITY GRANTING LOS ANGELES METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY A TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM GENERAL ORDER 143-A, SECTION 12.02 REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS B COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE WITH PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION ENDORSEMENT.

SUMMARY

By letter dated June 6, 1994, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority requests that in the event of a work stoppage a temporary variance be granted from a part of Section 12.02 of General Order 143-A. It requests exemption from the requirement that operators of light rail vehicles who are employees of a transit agency that operates a combined bus/rail system must possess a valid Class B commercial driver's license with passenger transportation endorsement.

BACKGROUND

The reason for the Class B license with passenger endorsement requirement for transit systems with combined bus/rail operations was to establish uniform requirements for both kinds of service, and to prevent a bus operator who lost his license for cause from transferring to a position as a train operator. Train operators employed by transit agencies with rail only operations are not required to have a Class B license with passenger transportation endorsement. They are, however, required to possess a Class C driver's license and pass a physical examination with the same requirements as for a Class B license on a bi-annual basis.

DISCUSSION

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) operates a combined bus/rail operation. The rail operations consist of the Metro Red Line, the Metro Blue Line, and the Metro Green Line (not yet operational). The Metro Blue Line carries an average of 1,000,000 passengers per month. The Metro Red Line carries an additional 450,000 passengers per month.

LACMTA's current labor contract with its train operators is due to expire on June 30, 1994. In the event of a work stoppage after that date, LACMTA plans to maintain train operations on a limited basis with noncontract management employees performing train operator duties. The noncontract substitute train operators will meet all of the Commission's requirements for certification of train operators on a transit system without bus operations; including possession of a valid Class C driver's license and a physical examination with the same requirements as for a Class B license. In this way, LACMTA will be able to maintain limited train operations during a period of a work stoppage by their contract employees without compromising the safety of those operations. Under the conditions established by LACMTA for this exemption, its noncontract employees assigned to perform train operation duties on a temporary basis will be required to meet the same qualification and certification requirements as any other employee would be required to meet on a rail transit system that does not also provide bus service, e.g. San Diego Trolley.

PROTESTS

There are no known protests to this request.

FINDINGS

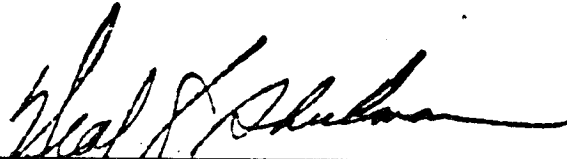
1. LACMTA has requested a temporary variance from the Class B driver's license with passenger transportation endorsement requirements specified in Section 12.02 of General Order 143-A, Safety Rules and Regulations Governing Light Rail Transit.
2. The temporary variance is only to apply during the period of a work stoppage by LACMTA contract employees.
3. Noncontract employees who serve as substitute train operators on a temporary basis will be required to possess a valid Class C driver's license and pass the same physical examination as required for a Class B license.

4. The driver's license and physical examination requirements for noncontract employees who serve as substitute train operators on a temporary basis are the same as for any employee on a rail transit system that does not provide bus service.
5. Granting the variance requested by LACMTA will not have an adverse effect on system safety.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that: Noncontract LACMTA employees, who serve as temporary train operators during the period of a work stoppage by contract employees, are exempt from the requirements in Section 12.02 of General Order 143-A for a Class B commercial driver's license with passenger transportation endorsement provided that:

1. The noncontract employees shall be required to possess a valid California Class C driver's license and pass a physical examination meeting the same requirements as are needed to obtain a Class B commercial driver's license.
2. This exemption is only valid during the period of a work stoppage by LACMTA contract employees.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on July 20, 1994. The following Commissioners approved it:



Executive Director

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
President
PATRICIA M. ECKERT
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY
P. GREGORY CONLON
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, Jr.
Commissioners