



The Flxible Corporation

QA 19969

LANCE WATT
Vice President
Research and Development

KHWA-97-2278-4

May 16, 1996

Federal Highway Administration
Office of the Chief Counsel
Room 4232, HCC-10
400 Seventh Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

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LEGS./REGS. DIV.
FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION

Reference: Docket N° MC-96-5

Dear Sirs:

The Flxible Corporation, a major domestic manufacturer of city transit buses, submits the following comments to the above referenced docket.

Transit buses, along with other commercial vehicles, are entering a new technology era. With I.T.S. in the offing, driver's will have display monitors within their field of view for various message transmissions.

In addition, in large cities where inner city crime has increased, it has on occasion moved inside transit buses. Due to this, customers are requiring the installation of video surveillance equipment so that the driver may observe passenger activity at all times, including while the vehicle is in operation.

This results in a monitor within the driver's field of view. Some more sophisticated systems monitor various zones within the vehicle on a rotational basis, which can also require a driver to "lock-in" on any potential trouble situation for constant monitoring.

In light of this, and in the overall interest of safety of the riding public in the case of transit buses, it becomes evident that a rule change is required in order to allow the use of such equipment.

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As the federal government is in support of the development of a national I.T.S. system, along with crime prevention, then it stands to reason that laws of the land should change accordingly, to keep up with these changes in technology.

Therefore, Flxible believes that the use of monitors for purposes other than entertainment, should be allowed within the driver's field of view, especially in commercial vehicles. To date, variances have been granted on a case by case basis such as in the I75 Project for commercial trucks, and it is agreed that, to review applications on a case by case basis followed by the issuance of appropriate permits, etc., is not in the best interests of the nation as a whole.

Flxible appreciates the opportunity to comment on this N.P.R.M.

Sincerely,



LW/sb

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