

will be available for examination in the docket at the above address both before and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. Notice of final action on the petition will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 30141 (a)(1)(A) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: April 3, 1995.

**Harry Thompson,**

Acting Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 95-8551 Filed 4-6-95; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 95-22; Notice 1]

**Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation**

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E passenger cars are eligible for importation.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision, that a 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E that was not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is eligible for importation into the United States because (1) it is substantially similar to a vehicle that was originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and that was certified by its manufacturer as complying with the safety standards, and (2) it is capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

**DATES:** The closing date for comments on the petition is May 8, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to the docket number and notice number, and be submitted to: Docket Section, Room 5109, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. (Docket hours are from 9:30 am to 4 pm.).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ted Bayler, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5306).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) (formerly section 108(c)(3)(A)(i)(I) of the

National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (the Act)), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards shall be refused admission into the United States unless NHTSA has decided that the motor vehicle is substantially similar to a motor vehicle originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States, certified under 49 U.S.C. 30115 (formerly section 114 of the Act), and of the same model year as the model of the motor vehicle to be compared, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Petitions for eligibility decisions may be submitted by either manufacturers or importers who have registered with NHTSA pursuant to 49 CFR part 592. As specified in 49 CFR 593.7, NHTSA publishes notice in the **Federal Register** of each petition that it receives, and affords interested persons an opportunity to comment on the petition. At the close of the comment period, NHTSA decides, on the basis of the petition and any comments that it has received, whether the vehicle is eligible for importation. The agency then publishes this decision in the **Federal Register**.

Liphardt & Associates of Ronkonkoma, New York ("Liphardt") (Registered Importer 93-016) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E (Model ID 124.031) passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicle which Liphardt believes is substantially similar is the 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E that was manufactured for importation into, and sale in, the United States and certified by its manufacturer, Daimler Benz A.G., as conforming to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The petitioner claims that it carefully compared the non-U.S. certified 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E to its U.S. certified counterpart, and found the two vehicles to be substantially similar with respect to compliance with most Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Liphardt submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that the non-U.S. certified 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E, as originally manufactured, conforms to many Federal motor vehicle safety standards in the same manner as its U.S. certified counterpart, or is capable of being readily altered to conform to those standards.

Specifically, the petitioner claims that the non-U.S. certified 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E is identical to its U.S. certified counterpart with respect to

compliance with Standards Nos. 102 *Transmission Shift Lever Sequence* \* \* \*, 103 *Defrosting and Defogging Systems*, 104 *Windshield Wiping and Washing Systems*, 105 *Hydraulic Brake Systems*, 106 *Brake Hoses*, 107 *Reflecting Surfaces*, 109 *New Pneumatic Tires*, 111 *Rearview Mirror*, 113 *Hood Latch Systems*, 116 *Brake Fluid*, 124 *Accelerator Control Systems*, 201 *Occupant Protection in Interior Impact*, 202 *Head Restraints*, 203 *Impact Protection for the Driver From the Steering Control System*, 204 *Steering Control Rearward Displacement*, 205 *Glazing Materials*, 206 *Door Locks and Door Retention Components*, 207 *Seating Systems*, 209 *Seat Belt Assemblies*, 210 *Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages*, 211 *Wheel Nuts, Wheel Discs and Hubcaps*, 212 *Windshield Retention*, 216 *Roof Crush Resistance*, 219 *Windshield Zone Intrusion*, and 302 *Flammability of Interior Materials*.

Additionally, the petitioner states that the non-U.S. certified 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E complies with the Bumper Standard found in 49 CFR part 581.

Petitioner also contends that the vehicle is capable of being readily altered to meet the following standards, in the manner indicated:

**Standard No. 101 Controls and Displays:** (a) Substitution of a lens marked "Brake" for a lens with an ECE symbol on the brake failure indicator lamp; (b) recalibration of the speedometer/odometer from kilometers to miles per hour.

**Standard No. 108 Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment:** (a) Installation of U.S.-model headlight assemblies and mounting hardware; (b) installation of U.S.-model taillamp assemblies and rear sidemarkers; (c) installation of a high mounted stop lamp.

**Standard No. 110 Tire Selection and Rims:** Installation of a tire information placard.

**Standard No. 114 Theft Protection:** Installation of a buzzer relay and a warning buzzer in the steering lock electrical circuit.

**Standard No. 115 Vehicle Identification Number:** Installation of a VIN plate that can be read from outside the left windshield pillar, and a VIN reference label on the edge of the door or latch post nearest the driver.

**Standard No. 228 Power Window Systems:** Rewiring of the power window system so that the window transport is inoperative when the ignition is switched off.

**Standard No. 208 Occupant Crash Protection:** (a) Installation of a seat belt warning buzzer; (b) installation of knee bolsters and mounting hardware to

augment the vehicle's air bag based passive restraint system, which has the identical part number to that found on the U.S. certified 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E.

Standard No. 214 *Side Impact Protection: Installation of reinforcement tubes.*

Standard No. 301 *Fuel System Integrity: Installation of a rollover valve in the fuel tank vent line between the fuel tank and the evaporative emissions collection canister.*

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on the petition described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5109, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. It is requested but not required that 10 copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be considered, and will be available for examination in the docket at the above address both before and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. Notice of final action on the petition will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 30141(a) (1) (A) and (b) (1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: April 3, 1995.

**Harry Thompson,**

Acting Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

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## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### North-South Center External Research Grant Program

**ACTION:** Notice—request for proposals.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Information Agency's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs invites applications from eligible institutions under the auspices of the North-South Center's 1995 Research Grant Program. The North-South Center is located at the University of Miami and is funded largely through a Congressional appropriation managed by the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Center's Research Grant Programs support select research activities which are of importance to the people and governments of the Western

Hemisphere. Through grant awards, the Center brings together human and technical resources to address major themes relevant to policy-making in the region.

Overall grant-making authority for this program is contained in the grant awarded to the North-South Center by the United States Information Agency. The mission of the North-South Center is to promote better relations and serve as a people of the hemisphere.

The purposes of the External Research Grant Program are to support scholarship in various fields of research among institutions throughout the hemisphere, stimulate discussion of policy-relevant issues, and promote scholarship from which policy solutions may derive. Since 1991, approximately 150 External Research Grants have been awarded involving over 300 institutions throughout the hemisphere.

**Short-term Field Research Grant Program on Migration and Refugee Issues:** In response to increasing migration pressures in the region, the North-South Center seeks to further the state of understanding of the social, political, and economic impulses for and consequences of migration. Research initiatives concerning this theme can be investigated from a variety of disciplinary perspectives from within the social sciences and other relevant fields. Research proposals will be accepted from various disciplines to conduct research projects or field research which investigates contemporary issues in relation to themes such as the following: The formation, functioning, and consequences of transnational communities; the processes of return migration resulting from political reconciliation and democratization; the consequences of neoliberal economic reforms on international migration and return migration; new migratory currents within the Americas; and demographic changes brought about by migration.

**ANNOUNCEMENT NAME:** All communications with the North-South Center concerning this announcement should refer to the title of Research Grant Program on Migration and Refugee Issues.

**DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS:** The External Research Grant Program requires that one original and nineteen (19) copies of final proposal, written in English, be received at the Office of Grant Programs, North-South Center by 5 p.m. Miami time on Friday, May 12, 1995. Please conserve paper by making copies double-sided. Documents sent by facsimile will not be accepted, nor will

documents postmarked on May 12, 1995 but received on a later date. It is the responsibility of each grant applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadlines. Project activities should begin no earlier than July 1, 1995 and should run no longer than December 31, 1995.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Interested applicants should read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before addressing inquiries to the Grant Programs Office where an applicant can obtain the application package, which contains submission deadlines. Draft and final proposals will be accepted only in the format requested in the application package and only until May 12, 1995. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the North-South Center will not inform the applicant on the status of his/her application—except to acknowledge its receipt—until after the Center's proposal review process has been completed.

Organizations/institutions/individuals should contact the Office of Grant Programs at the address listed below or by telephone at (305) 284-8951, facsimile (305) 284-6370, or electronic mail escott@umiami.ir.miami.edu to request a detailed application packet.

Application packets include award criteria not mentioned in this announcement, all necessary forms, and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific budget preparation information.

**ADDRESSES:** Twenty (20) complete proposals written in English should be received by the May 12, 1995 deadline addressed to: Mary Uebersax, Director of Grant Programs, North-South Center, 1500 Monza Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33146-3027.

To ensure timely delivery, a reliable courier should be used to envoy the project proposals. The Center will not reimburse the cost of such delivery.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Proposals from all parts of the world, except where prohibited by U.S. law that are consistent with the mission of the North-South Center and are of sound intellectual justification will be considered. Funding will not be authorized for any private for-profit institutions, profit-oriented individuals' initiatives, projects of a proprietary nature, or for projects of a partisan political nature. The applicant should be the project's principal investigator and should have completed advanced degrees and be affiliated with an institution. Pre-doctoral scholars are eligible to compete for the Program.