

interpretative or procedural in nature. Transcripts of these meetings will be available for public inspection in the NHTSA Technical Reference Section in Washington, DC, within four weeks after the meeting. Copies of the transcript will then be available at ten cents a page, (length has varied from 100 to 150 pages) upon request to NHTSA Technical Reference Section, Room 5108, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. The Technical Reference Section is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We would appreciate the questions you send us to be organized by categories to help us to process the questions into agenda form more efficiently.

Sample format as follows:

- I. Rulemaking
  - A. Crashavoidance
  - B. Crashworthiness
  - C. Other Rulemakings
- II. Consumer Information
- III. Miscellaneous

NHTSA will provide auxiliary aids to participants as necessary. Any person desiring assistance of "auxiliary aids" (e.g., sign-language interpreter, telecommunications devices for deaf persons (TDDs), readers, taped texts, Brailled materials, or large print materials and/or a magnifying device), please contact Barbara Carnes on (202) 366-1810, by COB September 11, 1995.

**Barry Felrice,**

*Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.*

[FR Doc. 95-20785 Filed 8-21-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-M

[Docket No. 95-8; Notice 2]

### **Spartan Motors, Inc.; Denial of Application for Temporary Exemption From Three Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards**

This notice denies the application of Spartan Motors, Inc., of Charlotte, Michigan, to be exempted from three Federal motor vehicle safety standards for light trucks that it converts to electric power. The basis of the application was that an exemption would facilitate the development or field evaluation of a low-emission motor vehicle, and would not unreasonably lower the safety level of the vehicle. The basis of the denial is that Spartan has failed to provide sufficient information upon which a determination can be made that an exemption would not unreasonably lower the vehicle's safety level.

Notice of receipt of the application was published on February 13, 1995 (60

FR 8275) and an opportunity afforded for comment. No comments were received.

Spartan is a Michigan corporation "providing development electric vehicle technology through the application of state of the art traction system and battery technology in commercial applications." It intended to convert new Chevrolet S10 and GMC Sonoma pickup trucks to electric power. It sought exemption for two years from Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards Nos. 103, 105, and 301.

With respect to Standard No. 105, *Hydraulic Brake Systems*, Spartan wishes to be exempted from S5.1.1.3 (the third effectiveness test), S5.1.2.1 (partial failure), and S7.7.1, S7.9.1 and S7.9.2 (certain tests at lightly loaded vehicle weight). The curb weight of the vehicle is increased to approximately 4,500 pounds. The weight proportioning between axles is different than that used in the certification testing of the original vehicle. These changes affect the applicability of the testing requirements for lightly loaded vehicle weight. However, the GVWR remains the same as the original rating of 4,900 pounds, and the original vehicle's braking system is not modified. This, in the applicant's view, minimized "the impact of the electric vehicle not meeting the standard."

With respect to Standard No. 301 *Fuel System Integrity*, the applicant noted that "a small tank" is added "for the on board storage of fuel for interior heating."

On February 9, 1995, NHTSA wrote Spartan, asking it to provide further information. The agency noted that:

"\* \* \* the curb weight of a converted vehicle has been increased to 4500 pounds, but that the GVWR remains at 4900 pounds. This means that the pickup truck will be overloaded if the total weight of passengers and cargo exceeds 400 pounds. The agency is concerned that a user of the converted pickup truck would reasonably assume that the vehicle has a much greater carrying capacity than it had in its unmodified form, and would therefore be likely to overload it. This suggests that the GVWR should be increased to a level more commensurate with the probable use of the conversion. This might require some increased capacity to the suspension, tires, and brakes, and possibly modifications to the frame as well. We would appreciate your comments on this issue \* \* \*."

The agency also asked for information on the capacity of the "small tank", and a statement, or diagram, indicating its location as installed. The agency asked for this information within 30 days of its receipt. Spartan did not respond. On May 5, 1995, an agency staff member telephoned Spartan to ask when a

response might be received, and was informed that Spartan no longer intended to engage in electric vehicle conversions. Spartan was asked to submit a letter withdrawing its application so that the application could be mooted and the agency could close its files in this matter. To date, Spartan has not responded to this request either.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby found that the petitioner has not met its burden of persuasion that the exemptions requested would not unreasonably degrade the safety of the vehicles to be exempted, and that an exemption would be in the public interest and consistent with the objectives of 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301. Therefore, the application of Spartan Motors, Inc., for temporary exemption from Motor Vehicle Safety Standards Nos. 103, 105, and 301 is denied. This denial is without prejudice, and Spartan may file a new application in the future if it intends to engage in electric vehicle conversion.

(49 U.S.C. 30113; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50).

Issued on August 16, 1995.

**Ricardo Martinez,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 95-20728 Filed 8-21-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

### **Study and Report on the Consumer and Small Business Credit System**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Treasury (Treasury) requests comment regarding the processes, and the effect of Federal laws on those processes, by which credit is made available for consumers and small businesses. This request for comment is issued in connection with a study required by the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994.

**DATES:** Comments should be submitted by September 12, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be directed to: Gordon Eastburn, Director, Office of Policy Planning and Analysis, Department of the Treasury, room 3025, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20220, Attention: Consumer Credit Study.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gordon Eastburn, Director, Office of Policy Planning and Analysis, (202) 622-2730.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

Section 330 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act, Pub. L. No. 103-225, 108 Stat. 2160, 2231 (1994) (the CDRI Act), requires the Secretary of the Treasury (the Secretary) to conduct a study of the process by which credit is made available to consumers and small businesses. The study is to be conducted in consultation with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (FRB), the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

The purpose of the study is to identify procedures and Federal laws that have the effect of:

- (1) Reducing the amount of credit available (to consumers or small businesses) or the number of persons eligible for such credit;
- (2) Increasing the level of consumer inconvenience, cost, and time delays in connection with the extension of consumer and small business credit without corresponding benefit in protecting consumers, small businesses, or the safety and soundness of insured depository institutions; and
- (3) Increasing costs and burdens on insured depository institutions, insured credit unions, and other lenders, without corresponding benefit in protecting consumers, small businesses or the safety and soundness of insured depository institutions.

At the conclusion of the study, the Secretary is to submit a report to the Congress describing his findings and conclusions and recommending any administrative actions or statutory changes that he determines to be appropriate.

Finally, section 330 requires the Treasury to solicit comments from "consumers, representatives of consumers, insured depository institutions, insured credit unions, other lenders, and other interested parties." *Id.* The Treasury is, accordingly, issuing this request for comment in order to learn the views of interested parties with respect to the process by which consumers and small businesses seek and obtain credit.

**Request for Comment**

Set forth below is a list of questions on which the Treasury specifically

solicits commenters' views. The questions pertaining to the consumer and the small business credit systems are virtually identical but are separated into two discrete sections of this notice to facilitate responses from commenters who wish to respond only on one of the two topics.

The Treasury also invites comment regarding any aspect of the process, including any Federal laws, by which credit is made available for consumers and small businesses. Since one important purpose of the report is to offer recommendations for administrative or legislative change, commenters are encouraged to be as specific as possible in suggesting improvements to the consumer and small business credit systems.

Commenters are asked to identify the capacity or capacities (e.g., consumer representative, insured depository institution, small business, etc.) in which they are responding to this request. Moreover, commenters who choose to respond to one or more of the questions enumerated below are asked to identify the question by its number.

**Questions on the Availability of Consumer Credit**

The consumer lending process is affected by many Federal banking laws and the regulations that implement them. While these laws are generally intended to facilitate consumers' access to credit, they may also have the effect of increasing lenders' costs which can, in turn, inhibit or restrict credit availability.

*Question (1).* Please identify any consumer credit laws or implementing regulations that have a direct and significant effect on the consumer credit process. Examples include the items listed below. Commenters may also identify and comment on other Federal banking statutes and implementing rules not included on this list.

- a. The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 *et seq.*) and Regulation B (12 CFR part 202);
- b. The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (12 U.S.C. 2801 *et seq.*) and Regulation C (12 CFR part 203);
- c. The Fair Housing Home Loan Data System (12 CFR part 27) (applies only to national banks);
- d. The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (12 U.S.C. 2601) and Regulation X (24 CFR part 3500) (disclosure provisions);
- e. The Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) and Regulation Z (12 CFR part 226);
- f. The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681); and

g. The National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4001 *et seq.*); 12 CFR part 22 (OCC); 12 CFR part 339 (FDIC); 12 CFR part 760 (NCUA); 12 CFR 563.48 (OTS); 12 CFR 208.8 (FRB).

For each law or regulation identified in response to Question (1), commenters are invited to address the following questions:

*Question (2).* What are the principal benefits of the law or regulation? What are its principal costs or burdens? Does the law or regulation impede consumers' access to credit? If so, how?

*Question (3).* Does this law or regulation duplicate, or overlap with, any other Federal law or regulation in a significant way?

*Question (4).* How could this law or regulation be changed to achieve its purpose in a way that is less costly or burdensome?

Lenders also adopt policies and establish procedures that are not required by statute or regulation but that nonetheless may have important effects on credit availability. Examples include the location of a lender's branches, its underwriting policies and procedures, and the ways in which it makes information about credit available to consumers.

*Question (5).* Please identify any significant non-statutory, non-regulatory policies or procedures used by lenders that impede the process of obtaining consumer credit or that limit or restrict consumer credit availability.

*Question (6).* Can the policy or procedure be modified to achieve the lender's objectives in a way that eliminates or reduces the restriction on consumer credit availability? If so, how?

*Question (7).* Are consumers adequately informed, through advertising or other means, about the availability of financial products and services? If not, please identify ways in which the flow of information to consumers could be improved.

There are other features of the overall Federal regulatory scheme that may affect credit availability. For example, the supervisory practices of the agencies that regulate lending institutions may have an impact on lending processes.

*Question (8).* Please identify any other aspects of the government's administration of Federal laws, regulations, or programs, or its oversight of the lending process, that limit or restrict the availability of credit to consumers. Include any specific suggestions for improvement in the way the agencies or departments involved in this study, as described above, manage their statutory responsibilities.

### Questions on the Availability of Small Business Credit

Similarly, the small business lending process is affected by many Federal banking laws and the regulations that implement them. While these laws are generally intended to promote the safety and soundness of financial institutions and a competitive, efficient banking system, they may also have the effect of increasing lenders' costs or preventing consideration of new, but effective, credit delivery vehicles. These results can inhibit or restrict credit availability.

*Question (9).* Please identify any laws or implementing regulations that have a direct and significant effect on the small business credit process. Examples include the items listed below; commenters may also identify and comment on other Federal banking statutes and implementing rules not included on this list.

a. Lending Limits (12 U.S.C. 84) and 12 CFR part 32 (OCC); 12 CFR 563.93 (OTS);

b. Leasing (12 U.S.C. 24(Seventh)), (12 U.S.C. 24(Tenth)); 12 CFR part 23 (OCC);

c. National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.); 12 CFR part 22 (OCC); 12 CFR part 339 (FDIC); 12 CFR part 760 (NCUA); 12 CFR 563.48 (OTS); 12 CFR 208.8 (FRB);

d. Real Estate Lending Guidelines (12 U.S.C. 1828o; 12 CFR part 34, subpart D (OCC); 12 CFR part 208, subpart C (FRB); 12 CFR part 365 (FDIC); 12 CFR 563.101 (OTS); and

e. Real Estate Appraisals (12 U.S.C. 3331; 12 CFR part 34, subpart C (OCC); 12 CFR part 225 (FRB); 12 CFR part 323 (FDIC); 12 CFR parts 545, 563, and 564 (OTS).

For each law or regulation identified in response to Question (9), commenters are invited to address the following questions:

*Question (10).* What are the principal benefits of the law? What are its principal costs or burdens? Does the law or regulation impede small businesses' access to credit? If so, how?

*Question (11).* Does this law or regulation duplicate, or overlap with, any other Federal law or regulation in a significant way?

*Question (12).* How could this law or regulation be changed to achieve its purpose in a way that is less costly or burdensome?

Lenders also adopt policies and establish procedures that are not required by statute or regulation but that nonetheless may have important effects on credit availability. Examples include the location of a lender's branches, its

underwriting policies and procedures, and the ways in which it makes information about credit available to consumers.

*Question (13).* Please identify any significant non-statutory, non-regulatory policies or procedures used by lenders that impede the process of obtaining small business credit or that limit or restrict small business credit availability.

*Question (14).* Can the policy or procedure be modified to achieve the lender's objectives in a way that eliminates or reduces the restriction on small business credit availability? If so, how?

*Question (15).* Are small businesses adequately informed, through advertising or other means, about the availability of financial products and services? If not, please identify ways in which the flow of information to small businesses could be improved.

There are other features of the overall Federal regulatory scheme that may affect credit availability. For example, the supervisory practices of the agencies that regulate lending institutions may have an impact on lending processes.

*Question (16).* Please identify any other aspects of the government's administration of Federal laws, regulations, or programs, or its oversight of the lending process, that limit or restrict the availability of credit to small businesses. Include any specific suggestions for improvement in the way the agencies or departments involved in this study, as described above, manage their statutory responsibilities.

*Question (17).* What specific revisions to the supervisory practices of the Federal banking agencies would allow lending institutions greater flexibility in managing the risks of small business lending (e.g., expanding existing options for reviewing small business loans on a portfolio performance basis, rather than an individual loan basis).

Dated: August 11, 1995.

**Richard S. Carnell,**

*Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.*

[FR Doc. 95-20701 Filed 8-21-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-25-M

### Office of Thrift Supervision

#### Public Information Collection Requirements Submitted to OMB for Review

August 16, 1995.

The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork

Reduction Act of 1980, Public Law 96-11. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the OTS Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the OTS Clearance Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552.

*OMB Number:* 1550-0011.

*Form Number:* Not applicable.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* General reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

*Description:* To provide the Office of Thrift Supervision with the means to determine the integrity of savings associations' records and operations when examining for safety, soundness, and regulatory compliance.

*Estimated Number of Respondents/Recordkeepers:* 1512.

*Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent/Recordkeeper:* 3145.14 avg. hrs.

*Frequency of Response:* On occasion.

*Estimated Total Respondent/Recordkeeping Burden:* 4,755,465 hrs.

*Clearance Officer:* Colleen M. Devine, (202) 906-6025, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 Street, NW., Washington, DC 20552.

*OMB Reviewer:* Milo Sunderhauf, (202) 395-7340, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10226, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

**Catherine C. M. Teti,**

*Director, Records Management and Information Policy.*

[FR Doc. 95-20809 Filed 8-21-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6720-01-P

### Public Information Collection Requirements Submitted to OMB for Review

August 14, 1995.

The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) has submitted the following public information collection requirement(s) to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Public Law 96-11. Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling the OTS Clearance Officer listed. Comments regarding this information collection should be addressed to the OMB reviewer listed and to the OTS Clearance Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, 1700 G Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20552.

*OMB Number:* Renewal

*Form Number:* OTS Form 248

*Type of Review:* Renewal of Existing Collection