

application by expedited procedures. Such procedures may consist of the adoption of a show-cause order, a tentative order, or in appropriate cases a final order without further proceedings.

Docket Number: OST-96-2040.

Date filed: December 31, 1996.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope: January 28, 1997.

Description: Application of Delta Air Lines, Inc., pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Sections 41102 and 41108, and Subpart Q of the Regulations, applies for renewal of its certificate of public convenience and necessity for Route 526, issued by Order 87-5-5, served May 8, 1987, and renewed by Order 92-6-21 (served June 12, 1992), authorizing Delta to engage in foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between the terminal points Cincinnati, Ohio and London (Gatwick), England.

Paulette V. Twine,

Chief, Documentary Services.

[FR Doc. 97-608 Filed 1-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

Coast Guard

[CGD 96-0711]

Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee; Vacancies

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for applications.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is seeking applications for appointment to membership on the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC). CTAC provides advice and makes recommendations to the Coast Guard on matters relating to the safe transportation and handling of hazardous materials in bulk on U.S. flag vessels and barges in U.S. ports and waterways.

DATES: Applications and any supporting information must be received on or before April 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Application forms may be obtained by writing Commandant (G-MSO-3), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second Street SW., Washington, DC 20593-0001; by calling (202) 267-0087; or by faxing (202) 267-4570. Completed application forms must be submitted to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Commander Kevin S. Cook, Executive Director of CTAC, or Lieutenant J.J. Plunkett, Assistant to the Executive Director, telephone (202) 267-0087, fax (202) 267-4570.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) is a Federal advisory committee constituted under 5 U.S.C. App. 2. It provides advice and makes recommendations to the Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection on matters relating to the safe transportation and handling of hazardous materials in bulk on U.S. flag vessels and barges in U.S. ports and waterways. The advice and recommendations of CTAC also assist the U.S. Coast Guard in formulating U.S. positions prior to meetings of the International Maritime Organization.

CTAC meets at least once a year at Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC. It may also meet for extraordinary purposes. Its subcommittees and working groups may meet to consider specific problems as required.

The Coast Guard will consider applications for ten positions that expire or become vacant in September 1997. To be eligible, applicants should have experience in chemical manufacturing, marine transportation of chemicals, occupational safety and health, or environmental protection issues associated with chemical transportation. Each member serves for a term of 3 years. A few members may serve consecutive terms. All members serve at their own expense, and receive no salary, reimbursement of travel expenses, or other compensation from the Federal Government.

In support of the Department of Transportation's policy on ethnic and gender diversity, the Coast Guard is especially seeking applications from qualified women and minority group members.

Applicants may be required to complete an Executive Branch Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (SF 450).

Dated: January 3, 1997.

Joseph J. Angelo,

Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.

[FR Doc. 97-604 Filed 1-9-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-14-M

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. 96-106; Notice 2]

Decision That Nonconforming 1997 Mercedes-Benz Gelaendewagen Type 463 Multi-Purpose Passenger Vehicles Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of decision by NHTSA that nonconforming 1997 Mercedes-Benz Gelaendewagen Type 463 multi-purpose passenger vehicles (MPVs) are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the decision by NHTSA that 1997 Mercedes-Benz Gelaendewagen Type 463 MPVs not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because they have safety features that comply with, or are capable of being altered to comply with, all such standards.

DATES: The decision is effective January 10, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George Entwistle, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5306).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A), 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, 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. Where there is no substantially similar U.S.-certified motor vehicle, 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(B) permits a nonconforming motor vehicle to be admitted into the United States if its safety features comply with, or are capable of being altered to comply with, all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards based on destructive test data or such other evidence as NHTSA decides to be adequate.

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 determination in the Federal Register.

Europa International, Inc. of Santa Fe, New Mexico ("Europa") (Registered Importer No. R-91-002) petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1997 Mercedes-Benz Gelaendewagen Type 463 MPVs are eligible for importation into the United States. NHTSA published notice of the petition on October 9, 1996 (61 FR 52990) to afford an opportunity for public comment. As described in the notice of the petition, Europa claimed that the 1997 Mercedes-Benz Gelaendewagen Type 463 MPV has safety features that comply with Standard Nos. 102 *Transmission Shift Lever Sequence* * * * (based on visual inspection and operation), 103 *Defrosting and Defogging Systems* (based on visual inspection), 104 *Windshield Wiping and Washing Systems* (based on operation), 113 *Hood Latch Systems* (based on information in owner's manual describing operation of secondary latch mechanism), 116 *Brake Fluids* (based on visual inspection of certification markings and information in owner's manual describing fluids installed at factory), 119 *New Pneumatic Tires for Vehicles Other Than Passenger Cars* (based on visual inspection of certification markings), 124 *Accelerator Control Systems* (based on operation and comparison to U.S.-certified vehicles), 201 *Occupant Protection in Interior Impact* (based on test data and certification of vehicle to European standard), 202 *Head Restraints* (based on Standard No. 208 test data for prior model year vehicle with same head restraint and certification of vehicle to European standard), 204 *Steering Control Rearward Displacement* (based on test film for prior model year vehicle), 205 *Glazing Materials* (based on visual inspection of certification markings), 207 *Seating Systems* (based on test results and certification of vehicle to European standard), 209 *Seat Belt Assemblies* (based on wiring diagram of seat belt warning system and visual inspection of certification markings), 211 *Wheel Nuts, Wheel Discs and Hubcaps* (based on visual inspection), 214 *Side Impact Protection* (based on test results for prior model year vehicle), and 219 *Windshield Zone Intrusion* (based on test results and certification information for prior model year vehicle).

The petitioner also contended that the 1997 Mercedes-Benz Gelaendewagen Type 463 MPV is capable of being altered to comply with 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) installation of a speedometer/odometer calibrated in miles per hour.

Standard No. 108 *Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment*: (a) installation of U.S.-model sealed beam headlamps; (b) installation of U.S.-model side marker lamps and reflectors; (c) installation of a high mounted stop lamp. The petitioner asserted that testing performed on the taillamp reveals that it complies with the standard, even though it lacks a DOT certification marking, and that all other lights are DOT certified.

Standard No. 111 *Rearview Mirrors*: inscription of the required warning statement on the convex surface of the passenger side rearview mirror.

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

Standard No. 118 *Power-Operated Window Systems*: rewiring of the power window system so that the window transport is inoperative when the front doors are open.

Standard No. 120 *Tire Selection and Rims for Vehicles other than Passenger Cars*: installation of a tire information placard. The petitioner asserted that even though the tire rims lack a DOT certification marking, they comply with the standard, based on their manufacturer's certification that they comply with the German TUV regulations, as well as their certification by the British Standards Association and the Rim Association of Australia.

Standard No. 206 *Door Locks and Door Retention Components*: installation of interior locking buttons on all door locks and modification of rear door locks to disable latch release controls when locking mechanism is engaged.

Standard No. 208 *Occupant Crash Protection*: (a) installation of complying driver's and passenger's side air bag systems; (b) installation of a seat belt warning system; (c) placement of an air bag warning label on the visors of vehicles manufactured after November 1996. The petitioner stated that the vehicle will meet frontal impact test requirements with structural modifications described in a submission that has been granted confidentiality by NHTSA's Office of Chief Counsel under 49 CFR Part 512.

Standard No. 210 *Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages*: insertion of instructions on the installation and use of child restraints in the owner's manual for the vehicle. The petitioner certified that the vehicle complies with this standard on the basis of tests performed to the standard's requirements by an

independent testing and engineering laboratory.

Standard No. 212 *Windshield Retention*: application of cement to the windshield's edges.

Standard No. 301 *Fuel System Integrity*: installation of a rollover valve.

Standard No. 302 *Flammability of Interior Materials*: treatment of fabric seating surfaces with a flame-proof spray.

The petitioner additionally stated that a vehicle identification number (VIN) plate must be attached to the vehicle's dash so that it is visible to an observer at the driver's side "A" pillar, as required by 49 CFR Part 565. The petitioner also stated that a vehicle rollover warning statement must be inserted in the owner's manual and on a sticker affixed to the driver's side visor of short wheelbase Gelaendewagens, as required by 49 CFR 575.105.

No comments were received in response to the notice of the petition. Based on its review of the information submitted by the petitioner, NHTSA has decided to grant the petition.

Vehicle Eligibility Number for Subject Vehicles

The importer of a vehicle admissible under any final determination must indicate on the form HS-7 accompanying entry the appropriate vehicle eligibility number indicating that the vehicle is eligible for entry. VCP-15 is the vehicle eligibility number assigned to vehicles admissible under this determination.

Final Determination

Accordingly, on the basis of the foregoing, NHTSA hereby decides that 1997 Mercedes-Benz Gelaendewagen Type 463 MPVs are eligible for importation into the United States because they have safety features that comply with, or are capable of being altered to comply with, all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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

Issued on January 6, 1997.

Marilynne Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.
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