and Metro-East St. Louis areas by 15 percent (%) by November 15, 1996, contingency plans to reduce VOC emissions by an additional 3% beyond the ROP plans, and transportation control measures for the Metro-East St. Louis area as revisions to the Illinois State Implementation Plan (SIP). The EPA is withdrawing this final rule due to receipt of adverse comments. In a subsequent final rule EPA will summarize and respond to the comments received and announce final rulemaking action on these requested Illinois SIP revisions.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 3, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the documents relevant to this action are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following location: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, Air Programs Branch, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark J. Palermo, Environmental Protection Specialist, Air Programs Branch (AR-18), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Telephone: (312) 886-6082.

**List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 52**
- Environmental protection, Air pollution control, Hydrocarbons, Intergovernmental relations, Incorporation by reference, Ozone.

**Dated:** August 19, 1997.

Michelle D. Jordan,
Acting Regional Administrator.

**PART 52—[AMENDED]**

Therefore the amendments to 40 CFR part 52 which added §§ 52.726(o), § 52.726(q), and § 52.726(r) are withdrawn.

[FR Doc. 97-23355 Filed 9-2-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6560-50-M**

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

49 CFR Part 575
[Docket No. 94-30, Notice]
RIN 2127-AF17

**Consumer Information Regulations, Uniform Tire Quality Grading Standards**

**ACTION:** Final rule. Response to petition for reconsideration.

**SUMMARY:** This document responds to a petition for reconsideration of a final rule of this agency that amended the Uniform Tire Quality Grading Standards to establish a new traction grade of “AA” and to freeze the base course wear rate of course monitoring tires used in tire tread wear testing at its current value. The petition asked the agency to exclude the petitioner from the applicability of the amended base course wear rate value until the mandatory compliance date of the amendments in the final rule. If that request is not granted, the petitioner requested a lead time of 2 years following publication of the final rule.

This document denies the petition, and reaffirms NHTSA's decision both to maintain the base course wear rate at its current value and the mandatory compliance date specified in the final rule. Further, in response to a number of inquiries, this document makes it clear that manufacturers have the option of early compliance with the amendments in the final rule.

**DATES:** The amendments promulgated in the final rule of September 9, 1996 (61 FR 47437) become effective March 9, 1998. Optional, early compliance with those amendments was permitted beginning October 9, 1996.

Any petition for reconsideration of this rule must be received by NHTSA not later than October 20, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Petitions for reconsideration should refer to the docket and notice numbers noted above for this rule and be submitted to the Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 5109, Washington, DC 20590; telephone (202) 366-4949.

Docket room hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**
For technical issues: Mr. Orron Kee, Chief, Consumer Program Division, Office of Planning and Consumer Programs, National Highway Traffic