

use the information on the engine trend monitoring system to ensure engine reliability by analyzing the trend indicators and performing inspections or replacing engine parts as indicated. The respondents are an estimated 1800 part 135 operators. The estimated annual recordkeeping burden is 10,800 hours.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 2, 2000.

Steve Hopkins,

Manager, Standards and Information Division, APF-100.

[FR Doc. 00-11492 Filed 5-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Notice of Availability and Public Hearing of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Buffalo Inner Harbor Project, New York

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of availability and public hearing of the draft supplemental environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is issuing this notice to advise the public and interested agencies that a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS) will be available on the Buffalo Inner Harbor Project. This Draft SEIS is in response to a court order and is limited in scope to the issue of historic preservation. The Draft SEIS will address events and information that became available subsequent to the Final EIS (FEIS), which was issued February 12, 1999.

The Draft SEIS was prepared pursuant to an order filed in a civil action filed by Preservation Coalition on October 6, 1999, in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York under civil action number 99-CV-745S against FTA, NFTA, the New York State Thruway Authority, Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Preservation Coalition challenged the Buffalo Inner Harbor Project on environmental and historic preservation grounds. On March 31, 2000, District Court Judge William M. Skretny ordered that a SEIS be prepared to consider the information learned during archaeological investigations conducted after the FEIS.

The court established a compressed timetable for the public comment period

on the Draft SEIS. In accordance with the order, the Draft SEIS will be available for public comment between May 10, 2000, and May 31, 2000. Written comments must be received by 5:00 PM on May 31, 2000. A public hearing on the project will be held on May 24, 2000, from 7 to 9:00 p.m.

DATES: Comment due date/time: May 31, 2000, 5:00 PM. Public hearing date/time: May 24, 2000, 7-9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Written comments are to be sent to Ruta Dzenis, AICP, Project Director, Empire State Development Corporation, 420 Main Street, Suite 717 Liberty Building, Buffalo, NY 14202. The address of the public hearing is Erie County Community College, Downtown Campus, Main Auditorium, Buffalo, NY 14203. The Auditorium entrance is along the Clinton Street side of the building and is accessible to the disabled. If there is a need for a translator for the hearing impaired or other special accommodations please notify Ms. Mary Coleman, Empire State Development Corporation, at (716) 856-8111 by Tuesday, May 16, 2000. Copies of the Draft SEIS are available by contacting Ms. Coleman. Copies of the draft SEIS are also available for review at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, Central Branch, Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14202; the Niagara Falls Public Library, 1425 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305; and the University of Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning Library, Hayes Hall, South Campus, Buffalo NY 14216.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anthony G. Carr, FTA Region II, One Bowling Green, Room 429; New York, NY 10004. Telephone (212) 668-2170.

Following the public comment period, a Final SEIS that responds to the comments will be prepared and made available to the public.

Issued on: May 3, 2000.

Letitia Thompson,

Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Region II.

[FR Doc. 00-11484 Filed 5-8-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2000-7111]

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That all Nonconforming 1992-1994 Mercedes-Benz SE and SEL Passenger Car Models Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition for decision that all nonconforming 1992-1994 Mercedes-Benz SE and SEL passenger car models are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This document announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that all 1992-1994 Mercedes-Benz SE and SEL passenger car models that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because (1) they are substantially similar to vehicles that were originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and that were certified by their manufacturer as complying with the safety standards, and (2) they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is June 8, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to the docket number and notice number, and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. [Docket hours are from 9 am to 5 pm].

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.

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**.

J.K. Technologies LLC of Baltimore, Maryland ("J.K.") (Registered Importer 90-006) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether all nonconforming 1992-1994 Mercedes-Benz SE and SEL passenger car models are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles which J.K. believes are substantially similar are all 1992-1994 Mercedes-Benz SE and SEL passenger car models that were manufactured for importation into, and sale in, the United States and certified by their manufacturer as conforming to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The petitioner claims that it carefully compared non-U.S. certified 1992-1994 Mercedes-Benz SE and SEL passenger car models to their U.S.-certified counterparts, and found the vehicles to be substantially similar with respect to compliance with most Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

J.K. submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that non-U.S. certified 1992-1994 Mercedes-Benz SE and SEL passenger car models, as originally manufactured, conform to many Federal motor vehicle safety standards in the same manner as their U.S. certified counterparts, or are capable of being readily altered to conform to those standards.

Specifically, the petitioner claims that non-U.S. certified 1992-1994 Mercedes-Benz SE and SEL passenger car models are identical to their U.S. certified counterparts with respect to compliance with Standard Nos. 102 *Transmission Shift Lever Sequence* * * *, 103 *Defrosting and Defogging Systems*, 104 *Windshield Wiping and Washing Systems*, 105 *Hydraulic Brake Systems*, 106 *Brake Hoses*, 109 *New Pneumatic Tires*, 113 *Hood Latch Systems*, 116 *Brake Fluid*, 124 *Accelerator Control Systems*, 201 *Occupant Protection in Interior Impact*, 202 *Head Restraints*, 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*, 212 *Windshield Retention*, 216 *Roof Crush Resistance*, 219 *Windshield Zone Intrusion*, 301 *Fuel System Integrity*, and 302 *Flammability of Interior Materials*.

Additionally, the petitioner states that non-U.S. certified 1992-1994 Mercedes-Benz SE and SEL passenger car models comply with the Bumper Standard found in 49 CFR Part 581.

Petitioner also contends that the vehicles are 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 a noncomplying symbol on the brake failure indicator lamp; (b) replacement of the speedometer with one calibrated in miles per hour.

Standard No. 108 Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment: (a) installation of U.S.-model headlamps and front sidemarker lamps; (b) installation of U.S.-model taillamp assemblies which incorporate rear sidemarker lights; (c) installation of a U.S.-model high mounted stop lamp.

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

Standard No. 111 Rearview Mirror: replacement of the passenger side rearview mirror with a U.S.-model component.

Standard No. 114 Theft Protection: installation of a warning buzzer and a warning buzzer microswitch in the steering lock assembly.

Standard No. 118 Power Window Systems: installation of a relay in 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 safety belt warning buzzer, wired to the driver's seat belt latch; (b) replacement of the driver's and passenger's side air bags, control units, sensors, seat belts and knee bolsters with U.S.-model components on vehicles that are not already so equipped. The petitioner states that the vehicles are equipped at the front and rear outboard seating positions with combination lap and shoulder belts that are self tensioning and capable of being released by means of a single red push-button, and with a lap belt in the rear center designated seating position.

Standard No. 214 Side Impact Protection: installation of U.S.-model

doorbars in vehicles that are not already so equipped.

The petitioner also states that a vehicle identification plate must be affixed to the vehicle near the left windshield post and a reference and certification label must be affixed in the area of the left front door post to meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 565.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on the petition described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. [Docket hours are from 9 am to 5 pm]. 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: May 3, 2000.

Marilynne Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance. [FR Doc. 00-11485 Filed 5-8-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Docket No. NHTSA-2000-7225

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 1995-1998 Mercedes-Benz S Class Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 1995-1998 Mercedes-Benz S Class passenger cars are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This document announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that 1995-1998 Mercedes-Benz S Class passenger cars that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United