The purpose of FMVSS No. 120 according to S2 is "to provide safe operational performance of vehicles by ensuring that vehicles to which it applies are equipped with tires of adequate size and load rating, and rims of appropriate size and type designation." Paragraph S5.2 of FMVSS No. 120 requires that each rim be marked with specific information, including the rim size designation which indicates the source of the rim’s published nominal dimensions, and the rim size designation. For example: “20 x 5.50,” or “20 x 5.5.”

Between March 1, 1999, and March 13, 1999, GM produced 5,079 Chevrolet Blazers and Chevrolet S-10 pickup trucks, some of which may be equipped with one or more than one of the 1,658 wheels that are missing the width designation in the rim marking on the back side of the wheel. In the original petition, GM stated that this missing data affected 11,522 vehicles; however, on March 6, 2000, the agency received a follow-up letter from GM stating that only 5,079 vehicles may be affected. GM’s wheel supplier, Reynolds-Rualca, Venezuela, produced 3,721 wheels that had an error in the rim size designation. Instead of the correct rim size designation of “15 x 7,” these wheels have a rim size designation of “15 x.” The error occurred when one of the wheel casting molds was refurbished. Of the 3,721 mis-marked wheels produced, 2,063 were located and correctly stamped with the missing rim width. The remaining 1,658 wheels were installed on the Chevrolet vehicles. The rim markings other than the rim width designation were not affected by the refurbishing error, and the remainder of the rim marking information, including rim diameter, is correct on all of the 1,658 wheels.

GM supports its application for inconsequential noncompliance by stating the following:

1. “The tire and rim of the affected wheels are properly matched, and are appropriate for the load-carrying characteristics of these vehicles. The lack of complete marking has no effect on the performance of the tire/rim combination of the subject vehicles.”

2. “These vehicles have a placard on the left front door that contains the correct and complete tire and rim sizes installed on these vehicles. The placard on the subject vehicles shows rim size completely and correctly as 15x7].”

3. “The owner’s manual provided with these vehicles contains a section ‘Buying New Tires.’ The text of this section informs the customer that they should look at the Certification/Tire Label to find out what kind and size of tires they need. It goes on to tell them that they should get new tires with the same Tire Performance Criteria Specification (TPC Spec) that the vehicle came with, and that they can find the TPC number on each tire’s sidewall. Finally it advises them that if they were to replace the tires with those not having the TPC Spec number found on the original equipment tires, they should make sure that the tires they choose are the same size, load range, speed rating and construction type as the original tires. Nowhere are customers told to look at the wheel to determine the appropriate tire.”

4. “General Motors believes that very few of these wheels will ever have to be replaced over the life of the vehicle. Nevertheless, the owner’s manual provided with these vehicles contains a section ‘Wheel Replacement.’ This section states that each new wheel should have the same load-carrying, diameter, width, offset and be mounted in the same way as the one it replaces. It also advises customers that their dealer will know the kind of wheel they need. The wheels at issue here are not marked with an incorrect width. Rather, they have no width marking. Therefore a dealer would not be misled by a width marking on the wheel, but would look at the placard if they were not aware of the exact width.”

5. “If a customer needs to replace a tire or a wheel, he/she is likely to go to a tire/wheel store, or a vehicle dealer. The skilled personnel at any of these places know how to determine the correct tire or wheel size that they are replacing. For the tire replacement, it is highly probable that they will first look at the tire sidewall to determine the replacement tire size. They also know that the information exists on the placard and may look at the placard. For the wheel replacement, they may look at the tire placard or at the wheel itself to determine the replacement size. The subject wheels do not give incorrect information, however the information is incomplete. Since the information on the wheel is incomplete, the person looking at it will look elsewhere to find the missing information prior to selecting replacement wheel or tire size. For the correct tire selection, rim diameter is of primary importance, and the tire diameter must be the same as the rim diameter. The information on the subject wheels does contain the correct rim diameter, i.e., 15.”

The purpose for the rim marking requirements in FMVSS No. 120 is to provide the owner with permanent rim size and type designation information necessary to ensure proper selection and matching of rims and tires. Without...
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33889]

State of Texas (Acting by and Through the Texas Department of Transportation)—Acquisition Exemption—West Texas & Lubbock Railroad Company, Inc.

The State of Texas (acting by and through the Texas Department of Transportation), a noncarrier, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.31 to acquire the right-of-way underlying a rail line (the line) from West Texas & Lubbock Railroad Company, Inc. (WTLR). The line is located between milepost 7.2 and milepost 1.1, in Lubbock, TX, a distance of approximately 6.1 miles.¹

The transaction was scheduled to be consummated on or shortly after June 27, 2000.²

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.³ Petitions to reopen the proceeding to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33889, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423–0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on Charles W. Heald, Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation, 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701–2483.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at “WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”


By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

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BILLING CODE 4915–00–M

¹The State of Texas will not provide rail freight service on the line. WTLR will retain ownership of the rail, ties and other track materials and will retain the permanent, irrevocable, exclusive rail freight easement to provide service over the line.

²The transaction could be consummated no sooner than the June 23, 2000 effective date of the exemption.

³According to the State of Texas, a motion to dismiss will be filed in the near future in this proceeding on the grounds that the Board does not have jurisdiction over this transaction.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Joint Comment Request

AGENCIES: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury; Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board); and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Submission for OMB Review; Joint Comment Request

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the OCC, the Board, and the FDIC (collectively, the “agencies”) hereby give notice that they plan to submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requests for review of the information collections described below. The agencies may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

On April 18, 2000, the agencies, under the auspices of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), requested public comment for 60 days on the extension, without revision, of the currently approved information collections: the Foreign Branch Report of Condition (FFIEC 030). The agencies, however, are making a minor clarification to the FFIEC 030 general instructions, effective September 30, 2000.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before August 4, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to any or all of the agencies. All comments, which should refer to the OMB control number(s), will be shared among the agencies.

OCC: Written comments on the FFIEC 030 should be submitted to the Communications Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, S.W., Third Floor, Attention: 1557–0099, Washington, DC 20219. In addition, comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to (202)874–5274, or by electronic mail to regs.comments@occ.treas.gov. Comments will be available for inspection and photocopying at the OCC’s Public Reference Room, 250 E