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Issued in Washington, D.C. on July 25, 2000.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 00-19235 Filed 7-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Detroit Connecting Railroad Company

[Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2000-6877]

The Adrian & Blissfield Rail Road Company of Madison Heights, Michigan, has petitioned on behalf of Detroit Connecting Railroad Company for a permanent waiver of compliance for one locomotive from the requirements of the Safety Glazing Standards, 49 CFR part 223, which requires certified glazing in all locomotive windows, except those locomotives used in yard service. The railroad indicates that the locomotive is used in switching service over 2.29 miles at a speed not to exceed 10 mph and is equipped with auto type safety glazing.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number 2000-6877) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th

Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on July 25, 2000.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 00-19234 Filed 7-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Lapeer Industrial Railroad Company

[Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2000-6876]

The Adrian & Blissfield Rail Road Company of Madison Heights, Michigan, has petitioned on behalf of Lapeer Industrial Railroad Company for a permanent waiver of compliance for two locomotives from the requirements of the Safety Glazing Standards, 49 CFR part 223, which requires certified glazing in all locomotive windows, except those locomotives used in yard service. The railroad indicates that the locomotives are used in switching service over 2.22 miles at a speed not to exceed 10 mph and are equipped with auto type safety glazing.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires

an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number 2000-6876) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on July 25, 2000.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 00-19233 Filed 7-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Discretionary Cooperative Agreement To Advance Occupant Protection Technology in Passenger Vehicles

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Announcement of Discretionary Cooperative Agreement to Advance Occupant Protection Technology in Passenger Vehicles.

SUMMARY: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announces a discretionary cooperative agreement to advance occupant protection technology in passenger vehicles. NHTSA solicits applications from for-profit organizations (small or large), non-profit organizations and educational institutions. NHTSA's objective is to develop and evaluate new technologies and methodologies which have the potential for improving the crashworthiness of passenger vehicles and protecting their occupants. NHTSA seeks to establish a collaborative research effort between NHTSA and a qualified research organization to meet the above objective.

DATES: Applications must be received at the office designated below on or before September 14, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Contracts and Procurement (NAD-30), ATTN.: Joseph Comella, 400 Seventh Street SW., Room 5301, Washington DC 20590. All applications submitted must include a reference to NHTSA Program Number NRD-01-0-07301.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: General administrative questions may be directed to Joseph Comella, Office of Contracts and Procurement, at 202-366-9568 (E-mail jcomella@nhtsa.dot.gov). Programmatic questions should be directed to Ms. Lori Summers, Crashworthiness Research, NHTSA, Room 6226 (NRD-11), 400 Seventh Street S.W. Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-6734 (E-mail: lsummers@nhtsa.dot.gov). Interested applicants are advised that no separate application package exists beyond the contents of this announcement.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Each year in the United States, more than 40,000 deaths and millions of injuries occur as the direct result of motor vehicle traffic crashes. As part of its mission to alleviate this toll, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration vigorously conducts an extensive research program to develop and evaluate new technologies and methodologies which have the potential for improving the crashworthiness of passenger vehicles and protecting their occupants. NHTSA is conducting crashworthiness research in the area of developing new or enhanced injury countermeasures.

Objective and Purpose

The proposed cooperative research agreement program seeks to establish collaborative research efforts between NHTSA and a qualified research organization to study advanced methodologies for occupant protection in passenger vehicle crashes. The collaboration will include problem definition, sharing of scientific and technical data, joint research and the development of new methodologies and technologies for occupant crash protection. Research areas could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Advanced frontal occupant restraints.
- Advanced air bag inflator and/or air bag inflation methodologies.
- Adaptive air bag systems to tailor bag deployment over the expected range

of crash severities, occupant sizes, occupant ages, occupant positioning, etc.

- Advanced occupant seating systems.
- Ejection mitigation technologies.
- Intrusion resistance countermeasures.
- Coupling of air bag inflation with anticipatory crash sensing technologies.
- Improved vehicle crash sensing methodologies.

The above list of potential programs constitutes only a sampling of the potential research areas. Applicants are encouraged to select from these research areas and other areas which are believed to provide the potential for practical improvement over current occupant crash protection and are most amenable to their special skills and experience.

The program shall include a maximum of three phases including the following: (1) Preliminary studies identifying the system performance improvement desired, an estimate of additional production costs related to the improvement, the benefits to be appreciated from such improvement, and the approximate magnitude of national injuries and fatalities now occurring due to the absence of the improvement. (2) Prototype development and establishment of reliable production costs. (3) Prototype demonstration. The duration of each phase will vary according to current state-of-the-art, and in some instances, phases may overlap.

NHTSA Involvement

NHTSA will be involved in all activities undertaken as part of the cooperative agreement program and will:

1. Provide one professional staff person to be designated as the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), to participate in the planning and management of the cooperative agreement and coordinate activities between the cooperative agreement participant organization and NHTSA.

2. Make available information and technical assistance from government sources, within available resources and as determined appropriate by the COTR.

3. Provide liaison with other government agencies and organizations, as appropriate.

4. Stimulate the exchange of ideas, problems, and solutions among cooperative agreement recipients who agree to such sharing, and if appropriate, NHTSA contractors and other interested parties; and

5. Share nonproprietary information developed at Government expense with the scientific and industrial community.

Availability of Funds and Period of Support

The Cooperative Agreements may be awarded for a total period of support of up to four years. It is currently intended that no single award as a result of this notice shall exceed \$150,000 per year.

The agency anticipates awarding multiple cooperative agreements for a base period of 12 months. NHTSA may choose to extend the period of performance under this agreement for three additional 12 month periods subject to availability of funds. If NHTSA elects to extend the period of performance, it will notify the recipient within 50 days prior to the expiration of this agreement. Funds allocated for these cooperative agreements are not intended to cover all of the costs that will be incurred in the process of completing the project. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment of financial or in-kind resources to support the proposed project.

Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible to participate in this cooperative agreement program, an applicant must be a for-profit organization (small or large), a non-profit organization, or an educational institution. Consortiums of organizations from any of the above categories may apply. Regardless of the type of organization applying for Federal assistance, no fee or profit will be allowed.

Application Procedure

Each applicant must submit one original and two copies of its application package to: Office of Contracts and Procurement (NAD-30), NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 5301, Washington, D.C. 20590. An additional three copies will facilitate the review process, but are not required. Applications are due no later than 45 days after the appearance of the announcement in the **Federal Register**. Only complete application packages received by the due date will be considered. The applicant shall specifically identify any information in the application which is to be treated as proprietary, in accordance with the procedures of 49 CFR 512 Confidential Business Information. Applications must include a reference to NHTSA program number NRD-01-0-07301. The proposal shall not exceed 35 pages, not including budget proposal, letters of endorsement or support, and resumes.

Application Contents

The application package must be submitted with a Standard Form 424, Application for Federal Assistance,

including 424A, Budget Information—Nonconstruction Program, and 424B Assurances—Nonconstruction Programs, with the required information filled in and the certified assurances included. The OMB Standard Forms SF-424, SF-424A, and SF424B may be downloaded directly from the OMB Internet web site, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/grants/index.html>. While the Form 424-A deals with budget information, and Section B identifies Budget Categories, the available space does not permit a level of detail which is sufficient to provide for a meaningful evaluation of the proposed costs. A supplemental sheet should be provided which presents a detailed breakdown of the proposed costs (direct labor, including labor categories, level of effort and rate; direct material, including itemized equipment; travel and transportation, including projected trips and number of people traveling; subcontracts with similar cost detail, if known; and overhead costs) as well as any costs which the applicant proposes to contribute in support of this effort. The budget should detail cost for each year of the proposed project. Also, the application shall include a program narrative statement which contains the following:

1. A description of the research to be pursued which addresses:
 - a. The objectives, goals, and anticipated outcomes of the proposed research effort;
 - b. The method or methods that will be used;
 - c. The source of crash and injury statistics to be used;
 - d. The vehicle occupant protection population and crash modes to be addressed;
 - e. The project's estimated benefits, e.g., amount of lives saved or injuries reduced, potential for timely development, reduction in vehicle crashes, etc.
2. An organizational plan detailing a plan of action for accomplishing the proposed work. The plan should include a time line of projected activities and milestones. The proposed program director and other key personnel should be identified for participation in the proposed research effort, including a description of their qualifications and their organizational responsibilities.
3. A description of the test facilities and equipment currently available or to be obtained for use in the conduct of the proposed research and development effort. Also, where human subjects are proposed, a description of the policy and plan for protection of the rights and

welfare of human subjects to meet the requirements of NHTSA Order 700 series.

4. A description of the applicant's previous experience or on-going research program that is related to this proposed research effort.

5. A detailed schedule and budget for the proposed research effort, including any cost-sharing contribution proposed by the applicant as well as any additional financial commitments made by other sources.

6. A statement of any technical assistance which the applicant may require of NHTSA in order to successfully complete the proposed program.

Application Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

Initially, all applications will be screened to ensure that they meet the eligibility requirements and to ensure that applications contain all information required by the Application Contents of this Notice. Each complete application from an eligible recipient will then be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee. Factors one and two are most important, then the factors are listed in descending order. The applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. The applicant's understanding of the purpose and unique problems represented by the research objectives of this cooperative agreement program as evidenced in the description of its proposed research and development effort. Specific attention will be placed upon the applicant's stated proposed development and demonstration effort.

2. The potential of the proposed research effort accomplishments to make a timely and an innovative and/or significant contribution to occupant protection technology knowledge as it may be applied to saving lives and reducing injuries resulting from motor vehicle crashes. The potential of the project to save lives, reduce injuries, and result in timely development and implementation by vehicle manufacturers will be evaluated.

3. The technical and financial merit of the proposed research effort, including the feasibility of the approach, practicability, planned methodology, and anticipated results. Financial merit will be estimated by the cost of the cooperative agreement to be borne by NHTSA and the in-kind contribution provided by the applicant as compared to the anticipated benefits to vehicle crash occupants.

4. The adequacy of test facilities and equipment identified to accomplish the proposed research.

5. The adequacy of the organizational plan for accomplishing the proposed research effort, including the qualifications and experience of the research team, the various disciplines represented, and the relative level of effort proposed for professional, technical, and support staff.

Terms and Conditions of the Award

1. The protection of the rights and welfare of human subjects in NHTSA-sponsored experiments is established in NHTSA Orders 700-1 and 700-3. Any recipient must satisfy the requirements and guidelines of these NHTSA Orders 700 series prior to any actual testing or research involving human subjects.

2. Prior to award, the recipient must comply with the certification requirements of 49 CFR Part 29—Department of Transportation Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants).

3. During the effective period of the cooperative agreement, the agreement shall be subject to NHTSA's General Provisions for Assistance Agreements; the cost principles of OMB Circular A-21, A-122, or FAR 31.2, as applicable to the recipient, and the requirements of 49 CFR Part 29 and Certificate Regarding Lobbying 49 CFR 20. Each agreement with a non-profit organization or an educational institution shall also be subject to the general administrative requirements of 49 CFR Part 19.

4. The cooperative agreement will include the provisions of Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 52 contract clause 52.227-11 Patent Rights Retention by the Contractor (short form).

5. Reporting Requirements

a. Written Research Reports

The recipient shall submit bimonthly research reports suitable for public dissemination which shall be due 15 days after the reporting period, and a final research report within 45 days after completion of the research effort. An original and three copies of each of these research reports shall be submitted to the COTR.

b. Oral Briefings

The recipient shall conduct semiannual oral presentations of research results for the COTR and other interested NHTSA personnel. These presentations will be conducted at the NHTSA Office of Vehicle Safety Research, Washington D.C. An original and three copies shall be submitted to the COTR.

c. Data Reports

Dynamic and other data measured in research, development, and prototype evaluation and demonstration tests will be provided by the recipient within 3 weeks after the data is obtained, in the format of a data package as described below. The recipient may be relieved of the data package report requirement for certain activities by agreement from the COTR.

A data package consists of high speed film, paper test report, and magnetic tape complying with the NHTSA Data Tape Reference Guide. The NHTSA's Crashworthiness Division maintains a Vehicle Crash Test and a Component Data Base which it provides upon request to the public.

To facilitate the input of data as well as the exchange of information, the recipient must provide the magnetic tape in the format specified in the "NHTSA Data Tape Reference Guide". A copy of this document may be obtained from the programmatic information contact or on the NHTSA website: www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

Issued on: July 25, 2000.

Raymond P. Owings,

Associate Administrator for Research and Development.

[FR Doc. 00-19239 Filed 7-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

[Docket NHTSA-99-5087]

Safety Performance Standards Program Meeting.

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of NHTSA Rulemaking Status Meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting at which NHTSA will answer questions from the public and the automobile industry regarding the agency's vehicle regulatory program.

DATES: The Agency's regular, quarterly public meeting relating to its vehicle regulatory program will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2000, beginning at 9:45 a.m. and ending at approximately 12:00 p.m. at the Tysons Westpark Hotel in McLean, VA.

Questions relating to the vehicle regulatory program must be submitted in writing with a diskette (Wordperfect) by Wednesday, August 23, 2000, to the address shown below or by e-mail. If sufficient time is available, questions

received after August 23, may be answered at the meeting. The individual, group or company submitting a question(s) does not have to be present for the questions(s) to be answered. A consolidated list of the questions submitted by August 23, 2000, and the issues to be discussed, will be posted on NHTSA's web site (www.nhtsa.dot.gov) by Monday, September 11, 2000, and also will be available at the meeting. The agency will hold a second public meeting on September 14, devoted exclusively to a presentation or research and development programs. This meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at approximately 5:00 p.m. This meeting is described more fully in a separate announcement.

The next NHTSA Public Meeting will take place on Thursday, December 14, 2000, at the Best Western Gateway International Hotel, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

ADDRESSES: Questions for the September 14, NHTSA Rulemaking Status Meeting, relating to the agency's vehicle regulatory program, should be submitted to Delia Lopez, NPS-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, Fax Number 202-366-4329, e-mail dllopez@nhtsa.dot.gov. The meeting will be held at Tysons Westpark Hotel, 8401 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Delia Lopez, (202) 366-1810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NHTSA holds a regular, quarterly meeting to answer questions from the public and the regulated industries regarding the agency's vehicle regulatory program. Questions on aspects of the agency's research and development activities that related directly to ongoing regulatory actions should be submitted, as in the past, to the agency's Safety Performance Standards Office. The purpose of this meeting is to focus on those phases of NHTSA activities which are technical, interpretative or procedural in nature. Transcripts of these meetings will be available for public inspection in the DOT Docket in Washington, DC, within four weeks after the meeting. Copies of the transcript will then be available at ten cents per page, (length has varied from 80 to 150 pages) upon request to DOT Docket, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. The DOT Docket is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The transcript may also be accessed electronically at <http://dms.dot.gov>, at docket NHTSA-99-5087. Questions to be answered at the quarterly meeting

should be organized by categories to help us process the questions into an agenda form more efficiently. Sample format:

I. Rulemaking

- A. Crash avoidance
- 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 Delia Lopez on (202) 366-1810, by COB Monday, September 11, 2000.

Issued: July 18, 2000.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Acting Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 00-19172 Filed 7-28-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Internal Revenue Service****Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 8582-CR**

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 8582-CR, Passive Activity Credit Limitations.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before September 29, 2000 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, Room 5244, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Larnice Mack,