

Boston, Massachusetts. The project sponsor, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), has announced its intention not to pursue the project at this time for lack of financial resources.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Richard H. Doyle, Regional Administrator, FTA Region 1, (617) 494-2055.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 8, 1995, FTA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for a North-South Rail Link (60 FR 12819): a rail-in-tunnel connection between the MBTA's North and South Stations in downtown Boston, intended to connect the MBTA's separate commuter rail systems on the north and south sides of Boston and to close the gap in intercity rail service between Boston and Portland, Maine. On April 14, 2003, however, the MBTA informed FTA of its intention to forego this project in the near future in light of the MBTA's limited financial resources and its pursuit of certain other projects of higher priority. In response, on May 30, 2003, FTA recommended that the results of the MBTA's alternatives analyses to date be compiled as a Major Investment Study (MIS): a document that could provide an appropriate planning context for further consideration of alternatives for a North-South Rail link. In accordance with FTA's metropolitan planning requirements at 23 CFR part 450, an MIS may precede the preparation of an EIS and be a useful tool for developing local consensus, financing, and an implementation strategy for a fixed guideway transit project. Thus, on June 24, 2003, the MBTA published an MIS for the North-South Rail Link, which had been prepared with financial assistance from FTA. Should the MBTA choose in the future to again pursue a North-South Rail Link, this June 2003 MIS could serve as a foundation of analysis for a subsequent EIS. Given the MBTA's current intentions, however, there is no longer a proposal for Federal action on the North-South Rail Link subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, therefore, FTA is rescinding its March 8, 1995 NOI and terminating its preparation of an EIS for the North South Rail Link.

Issued on: June 27, 2003.

**Richard H. Doyle,**

*Regional Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 03-16977 Filed 7-3-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-57-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

**Reports, Forms, and Record Keeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The **Federal Register** document with a 60-day comment period was published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66192).

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before August 6, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carlita Ballard at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Planning and Consumer Standards, (NVS-131), 202-366-0307, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 5320, Washington, DC 20590.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

*Title:* 49 CFR Part 544; Insurer Reporting Requirement.

*OMB Control Number:* 2127-0547.

*Type of Request:* Request for public comment on a previously approved collection of information.

*Abstract:* NHTSA must ensure that passenger motor vehicle insurance companies and rental/leasing companies comply with 49 CFR Part 544, Insurer Reporting Requirement. Part 544 requires that the insurance/rental and leasing companies provide information on comprehensive insurance premiums, theft and recoveries and actions taken to address motor vehicle theft.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 66,300 hours (56,700 man-hours for 28 insurance companies and 9,600 man-hours for 17 rental and leasing companies).

*Addresses:* Send comments, within 30 days, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention: NHTSA Desk Officer.

*Comments are invited on:* Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A Comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC, on: June 27, 2003.

**Stephen R. Kratzke,**

*Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.*

[FR Doc. 03-16975 Filed 7-3-03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-59-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

**Reports, Forms and Record Keeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period was published on October 28, 2002 (67 FR 65832).

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before August 6, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph P. Scott at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Office of Crash Avoidance Standards, 202-366-8525. 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

*Title:* 49 CFR Part 574, Tire Identification and Recordkeeping.

*OMB Control Number:* 2127-0050.

*Type of Request:* Request for public comment on a previously approved collection of information.

*Abstract:* Each tire manufacturer is required to collect and maintain records of the names and addresses of the first purchasers of new tires. To carry out this mandate, 49 CFR part 574 requires tire dealers and distributors to record the names and addresses of retail purchasers of new tires and the identification number(s) of the tires sold. A specific form is provided to tire dealers and distributors by tire manufacturers for recording this information.

The completed forms are returned to the tire manufacturers where they are to remain for three years after the date received by the manufacturer. Additionally, motor vehicle manufacturers were required to record the names and addresses of the first purchasers of new motor vehicles, together with the identification numbers of the tires on the new vehicles.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 245,000 hours.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments, within 30 days, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention NHTSA Desk Officer.

**Comments Are Invited on**

- Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility.
- Whether the Department's estimate for the burden of the proposed information collection is accurate.
- Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information or reduce the costs for collecting the required information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued on: June 27, 2003.  
**Stephen R. Kratzke,**  
*Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.*  
 [FR Doc. 03-16976 Filed 7-3-03; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 4910-59-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Research and Special Programs Administration**

**Actions on Exemption Applications**

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT

**ACTION:** Notice of actions on exemption applications.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the procedures governing the application for, and the processing of, exemptions from the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 107, Subpart B), notice is hereby given of the actions on exemption applications in January-March 2003. The modes of transportation involved are identified by a number in the "Nature of Application" portion of the table below as follows: 1—Motor vehicle, 2—Rail freight, 3—Cargo vessel, 4—Cargo aircraft only, 5—Passenger-carrying aircraft. Application numbers prefixed by the letters EE represent applications for Emergency Exemptions. It should be noted that some of the sections cited were those in effect at the time certain exemptions were issued.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 26, 2003.

**R. Ryan Posten,**

*Exemptions Program Officer, Office of Hazardous Materials Exemptions and Approvals.*

Application No.	Exemption No.	Applicant	Regulation(s) affected	Nature of exemption thereof
<b>MODIFICATION EXEMPTIONS</b>				
8760-M .....	DOT-E 8760	Barton Solvents, Inc., Des Moines, IA.	49 CFR 172.328, 172.334(b).	To modify the exemption to authorize the transportation of additional Class 3 materials in compartmented cargo tank motor vehicles.
9778-M .....	DOT-E 9778	Baker Atlas, Houston, TX	49 CFR 173.304, 173.306	To modify the exemption to authorize the transportation of an additional Class 7 material in non-DOT specification packaging.
9909-M .....	DOT-E 9909	Taylor-Wharton, Harrisburg, PA.	49 CFR 173.301(h), 173.302, 173.304, 173.34(a)(1), 175.3, 178.37.	To modify the exemption to authorize the elimination of the Fracture Toughness Test requirement on non-DOT specification steel cylinders transporting Division 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 materials.
10143-M .....	DOT-E 10143	Eurocom, Inc., Irving, TX	49 CFR 173.306(a), 178.33a.	To modify the exemption to authorize the transportation of additional Division 2.2 materials in a non-refillable, non-DOT specification inside metal container.
10232-M .....	DOT-E 10232	Sexton Can Company, Inc., Cambridge, MA.	49 CFR 173.304 .....	To modify the exemption to authorize a capacity increase to 40 cubic inches of the non-refillable, non-DOT specification container for the transportation of Division 2.2 materials.
10880-M .....	DOT-E 10880	American West Explosives, Inc., Springfield, MO.	49 CFR 172.101 column (8c), 173.114, 173.35(b).	To modify the exemption to authorize the transportation of Division 1.1D, 1.4D, 1.4B, 1.4S and additional 1.5D materials in reusable, flexible intermediate bulk containers.
11099-M .....	DOT-E 11099	AMKO A Service Company, Gnadenhutten, OH.	49 CFR 173.302(c), 173.34(e).	To modify the exemption to authorize retesting of DOT Specification 3A and 3AA cylinders by acoustic emission (AE) and ultrasonic examination (UE) method for the transportation of Division 2.1 and 2.2 materials.