

believes that an important safety factor is that these drivers be capable of operating commercial vehicles that have the steering wheel on the left side of the vehicle. Commercial vehicles manufactured in Japan are equipped with steering wheels that are operated from the right side of the vehicle. Mr. Millard stated that the need to train and qualify these drivers in left-side steering maneuvers should be emphasized, since the vehicles being driven could cause a great deal of damage to the public and to private property if involved in an accident. Mr. Millard further stated that Isuzu could hire experienced U.S. drivers to operate its test vehicles, or take the necessary measures to train the Japanese drivers to obtain a CDL issued in the U.S.

FMCSA Response to Comments

Although the commenter opposed granting the exemption, the FMCSA believes that granting the exemption to Isuzu would achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety that would be achieved by complying with the FMCSRs.

The FMCSA believes the drivers for Isuzu have the knowledge and skills necessary to safely operate CMVs in the U.S. The FMCSA determined that the Japanese CDLs are comparable to the CDLs that are issued from the various State licensing agencies in the U.S. CMV drivers in both Japan and the U.S. are given extensive and comprehensive knowledge and skills tests and must be medically qualified before a commercial license is issued. There is no data to suggest that a driver's ability to control and maneuver a vehicle in traffic would be contingent upon the placement of the steering wheel in the vehicle. These drivers have demonstrated that they can safely operate a CMV with the steering wheel on the right-side of the vehicle and there is no data to indicate they would be less safe operating CMVs with the steering wheel on the left-side of the vehicle. Alternatively, drivers of certain types of refuse trucks operated in residential neighborhoods in the U.S. drive vehicles with dual steering wheels to enable them to steer from either the left-or the right-side to expedite the collection of garbage. There has been no indication that U.S. drivers are less safe when they operate refuse trucks from the right-side driving position versus the left-side.

Basis for FMCSA's Determination

The agency has determined that it is in the public's interest to grant these exemptions because the drivers are over the age of 21 years, hold currently valid Japanese CDLs that allow them to drive

such vehicles in their home country, and have passed medical examinations that are compatible with the agency's medical standards. The exemptions are likely to achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety that would be obtained in the absence of the exemptions because the drivers will meet all applicable FMCSRs, except for having a State-issued CDL. Drivers, who meet license testing and driver qualification standards, including medical examinations that are compatible with U.S. standards and have behind-the-wheel experience operating these vehicles, will operate the vehicles.

Under 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the FMCSA may grant an exemption for a 2-year period if it finds "such exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption." The statute also allows the agency to renew exemptions at the end of the 2-year period. Accordingly, the FMCSA has evaluated the exemption request on its merit, and made a determination to grant the exemption to all of the drivers.

Terms and Conditions for the Exemption

After considering the comments to the docket and based upon its evaluation of the application for an exemption, the FMCSA grants Isuzu an exemption from the Federal commercial driver's license requirement in 49 CFR 383.23 for 31 drivers—Shintaro Moroi, Shigeru Takamatsu, Norio Takeda, Takeshi Yamagishi, Satoru Amemiya, Toshiya Asari, Yasunori Fujita, Shiro Fukuda, Tetsuya Hiromatsu, Kazunori Ligo, Masao Inoue, Akihiko Kashiwakura, Kinya Kitamura, Tsuyoshi Koyama, Takao Kudo, Wataru Kumakura, Yoshihiko Matsubara, Nobuyuki Miyazaki, Ryo Natsume, Motoki Nishi, Takuo Nishi, Fumio Oota, Masuru Otsu, Toshimitsu Sato, Kazuyoshi Shimamura, Masahito Suzuki, Yasuhito Tahara, Hiroyoshi Takahashi, Takashi Tanabe, Takehito Yaguchi, and Tsutomu Yamazaki—to test-drive CMVs within the United States, subject to the following terms and conditions: (1) That these drivers will be subject to drug and alcohol testing, (2) that these drivers are subject to the same driver disqualification rules under 49 CFR 383 and 391 that apply to other CMV drivers in the U.S., (3) that these drivers keep a copy of the exemption on the vehicle at all times, (4) that Isuzu notify FMCSA in writing of any accident involvement by a driver as defined in 49 CFR 390.5 and, (5) that Isuzu notify FMCSA in writing if any driver is convicted of

disqualification offenses in §§ 383.51 or 391.15 of the FMCSRs.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136(e), the exemption will be valid for 2 years unless revoked earlier by the FMCSA. The exemption will be revoked if: (1) the drivers for Isuzu fail to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption; (2) the exemption has resulted in a lower level of safety than was maintained before it was granted; or (3) continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31315 and 31136.

Issued on: October 10, 2003.

Pamela M. Pelcovits,

Office Director, Policy, Plans, and Regulation.

[FR Doc. 03-26119 Filed 10-15-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[U.S. DOT Docket Number NHTSA-2003-16162]

Reports, Forms, and Recordkeeping Requirements

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

ACTION: Request for public comment on proposed collection of information.

SUMMARY: Before a Federal agency can collect certain information from the public, it must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under procedures established by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before seeking OMB approval, Federal agencies must solicit public comment on proposed collections of information, including extensions and reinstatement of previously approved collections.

This document describes an existing collection of information for Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 213, "Child restraint systems," for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval.

DATES: You should submit your comments early enough to ensure that Docket Management receives them not later than December 15, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments [identified by DOT DMS Docket Number NHTSA -2003-16162] by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://dms.dot.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the DOT electronic docket site.

- Fax: 1-202-493-2251.
- Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Nassif Building, Room PL-401, Washington, DC 20590-0003.

• Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

• Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number for this collection. It is requested, but not required, that two copies of the comments be provided. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://dms.dot.gov>, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading under Regulatory Notices.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time or to Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Complete copies of each request for collection of information may be obtained at no charge from Mr. Michael Huntley, NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 5320, NVS-113, Washington, DC 20590.

Mr. Huntley's telephone number is (202) 366-0029. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Control Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must first publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulation (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

(i) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(iv) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks for public comments on the following proposed collection of information:

Title: 49 CFR 571.213, "Child Restraint Systems".

OMB Control Number: 2127-0511.

Affected Public: Business.

Abstract: Manufacturers are required to provide owner registration cards and to label each child restraint system with a message informing users of the importance of registering the restraint with the manufacturer. The owner registration information is then retained in the event that owners need to be contacted for recall or replacement campaigns. The manufacturer is also required to provide a printed instructions brochure with step-by-step information on how the restraint is to be used. Without proper use, the effectiveness of these systems is greatly diminished. Each child restraint system must also have a permanent label. A permanently attached label gives quick-look information on whether the restraint meets the safety requirements, recommended installation and use, and warnings against misuse.

Estimated Annual Burden: 90,000 hours.

Number of Respondents: 15.

Currently, approximately 15 manufacturers produce, on average, a total of approximately 4,500,000 child restraints per year. The agency estimates that manufacturers use a total of 0.02 hours per response. The estimated annual burden hour is 90,000 hours. This number reflects the total responses (4,500,000) times the total hours per response (0.02). Prior years' information indicates that it takes an average of \$20.00 per hour for professional/clerical personnel to collect the information for Standard No. 213. Therefore, the agency estimates that the cost associated with the burden hours is \$1,800,000 (\$20.00 per hour x 90,000 burden hours).

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.

Issued on October 9, 2003.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 03-26091 Filed 10-15-03; 8:45 am]

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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, DOT.

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 June 12, 2003 [68 FR 35253-35254].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before November 17, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marvin Levy, Ph.D. at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of Research and Technology (NTI-131), 202-366-5597, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Room 5319, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Title: National Survey of Drinking and Driving Attitudes and Behavior.

OMB Number: 2127—New.

Type of Request: New Collection.

Abstract: Recent data show an increase in alcohol-related crashes. In 1999, 16,572 persons were killed in alcohol-related crashes; in 2000, it rose to 17,380 and for 2001, it rose again to 17,448 deaths. Based on this alarming trend, the NHTSA Administrator has