

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA may renew an exemption from the vision requirements in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), which applies to drivers of CMVs in interstate commerce, for a two-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 procedures for requesting an exemption (including renewals) are set out in 49 CFR part 381.

Exemption Decision

This notice addresses 16 individuals who have requested renewal of their exemptions in accordance with FMCSA procedures. FMCSA has evaluated these 16 applications for renewal on their merits and decided to extend each exemption for a renewable two-year period. They are:

Charlene F. Brown (KS)
Nathan A. Buckles (IN)
Dale H. Dattler (NY)
Paul A. Giarrusso (FL)
Benjamin P. Hall (NY)
John N. Lanning (CA)
Bruce J. Lewis (RI)
John L. Lolley (AL)
Charles M. McDaris (GA)
Tommy L. McKnight (OH)
Calvin J. Schaap (MN)
Frederick C. Schultz, Jr. (NY)
Steve C. Sinclair (IA)
Eugene J. Smith (WI)
Charles R. Sylvester (NC)
Daniel M. Veselitz (NV)

The exemptions are extended subject to the following conditions: (1) That each individual has a physical examination every year (a) by an ophthalmologist or optometrist who attests that the vision in the better eye continues to meet the requirements in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), and (b) by a medical examiner who attests that the individual is otherwise physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41; (2) that each individual provides a copy of the ophthalmologist’s or optometrist’s report to the medical examiner at the time of the annual medical examination; and (3) that each individual provide a

copy of the annual medical certification to the employer for retention in the driver’s qualification file and retains a copy of the certification on his/her person while driving for presentation to a duly authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement official. Each exemption will be valid for two years unless rescinded earlier by FMCSA. The exemption will be rescinded if: (1) The person fails to comply with the terms and conditions of the exemption; (2) the exemption has resulted in a lower level of safety than was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. 31136(e) and 31315.

Basis for Renewing Exemptions

Under 49 U.S.C. 31315(b)(1), an exemption may be granted for no longer than two years from its approval date and may be renewed upon application for additional two year periods. In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, each of the 16 applicants has satisfied the entry conditions for obtaining an exemption from the vision requirements (73 FR 35194; 73 FR 38497; 73 FR 48271; 73 FR 48273; 73 FR 61922; 73 FR 74563; 75 FR 34209; 75 FR 47886; 75 FR 65057; 75 FR 77590; 75 FR 79081). Each of these 16 applicants has requested renewal of the exemption and has submitted evidence showing that the vision in the better eye continues to meet the requirement specified at 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10) and that the vision impairment is stable. In addition, a review of each record of safety while driving with the respective vision deficiencies over the past two years indicates each applicant continues to meet the vision exemption requirements.

These factors provide an adequate basis for predicting each driver’s ability to continue to drive safely in interstate commerce. Therefore, FMCSA concludes that extending the exemption for each renewal applicant for a period of two years is likely to achieve a level of safety equal to that existing without the exemption.

Request for Comments

FMCSA will review comments received at any time concerning a particular driver’s safety record and determine if the continuation of the exemption is consistent with the requirements at 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315. However, FMCSA requests that interested parties with specific data concerning the safety records of these drivers submit comments by December 26, 2012.

FMCSA believes that the requirements for a renewal of an exemption under 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315 can be satisfied by initially granting the renewal and then requesting and evaluating, if needed, subsequent comments submitted by interested parties. As indicated above, the Agency previously published notices of final disposition announcing its decision to exempt these 16 individuals from the vision requirement in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10). The final decision to grant an exemption to each of these individuals was made on the merits of each case and made only after careful consideration of the comments received to its notices of applications. The notices of applications stated in detail the qualifications, experience, and medical condition of each applicant for an exemption from the vision requirements. That information is available by consulting the above cited **Federal Register** publications.

Interested parties or organizations possessing information that would otherwise show that any, or all, of these drivers are not currently achieving the statutory level of safety should immediately notify FMCSA. The Agency will evaluate any adverse evidence submitted and, if safety is being compromised or if continuation of the exemption would not be consistent with the goals and objectives of 49 U.S.C. 31136(e) and 31315, FMCSA will take immediate steps to revoke the exemption of a driver.

Issued on: November 14, 2012.

Larry W. Minor,

Associate Administrator for Policy.

[FR Doc. 2012–28582 Filed 11–23–12; 8:45 am]

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

[Docket No. NHTSA–2012–0119; Notice 2]

Final Decision That Certain Canadian-Certified Vehicles Are Eligible for Importation

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

ACTION: Final decision that certain nonconforming vehicles are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This document announces a final decision by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that certain vehicles that do not comply with all applicable Federal motor

vehicle safety standards (FMVSS), but that are certified by their original manufacturer as complying with all applicable Canadian motor vehicle safety standards (CMVSS), are nevertheless eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles in question either (1) are substantially similar to vehicles that were certified by their manufacturers as complying with the U.S. safety standards and are capable of being readily altered to conform to those standards, or (2) have safety features that comply with, or are capable of being altered to comply with, all U.S. safety standards.

DATES: This decision is effective on November 26, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Coleman Sachs, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-3151.

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 FMVSS shall be refused admission into the United States unless NHTSA has decided, either pursuant to a petition from the manufacturer or registered importer or on its own initiative, (1) that the nonconforming motor vehicle is substantially similar to a motor vehicle of the same model year that was originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified by its manufacturer as complying with all applicable FMVSS, and (2) that the nonconforming motor vehicle is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable FMVSS. Where there is no substantially

similar U.S.-certified motor vehicle, 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(B) permits a nonconforming motor vehicle to be admitted into the United States if NHTSA decides that its safety features comply with, or are capable of being altered to comply with, all applicable FMVSS based on destructive test data or such other evidence as NHTSA decides to be adequate.

Tentative Decision

On September 18, 2012, NHTSA published a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing that it had made a tentative decision that certain motor vehicles that are not certified by their original manufacturer as complying with all applicable FMVSS, but that are certified as complying with all applicable CMVSS are eligible for importation into the United States (77 FR 57641). The notice identified these vehicles as:

(a) All passenger cars manufactured on or after September 1, 2012 and before September 1, 2017 that, as originally manufactured, comply with FMVSS Nos. 138, 201, 206, 208, 213, 214, and 225; and

(b) All multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses with a GVWR of 4,536 kg (10,000 lb) or less manufactured on or after September 1, 2012 and before September 1, 2017, that, as originally manufactured, comply with FMVSS Nos. 201, 206, 208, 213, 214, and 216, and insofar as they are applicable, with FMVSS Nos. 138, 222, and 225.

The notice stated that the agency also tentatively decided to revise its prior import eligibility decisions to eliminate references to the following standards that have been harmonized to their Canadian counterparts for the vehicles identified below:

- FMVSS No. 110 for all passenger cars and all multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses with a GVWR of 4,536 kg (10,000 lb) or less manufactured on or after September 1, 2009;

- FMVSS No. 118 for all passenger cars and all multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses with a GVWR of 4,536 kg (10,000 lb) or less manufactured on or after September 1, 2011;

- FMVSS No. 126 for all passenger cars and all multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses with a GVWR of 4,536 kg (10,000 lb) or less manufactured on or after September 1, 2011; and

- FMVSS No. 401 for all passenger cars manufactured on or after September 1, 2010.

The reader is referred to the September 18 notice for a full discussion of the factors leading to the tentative decision. The notice of tentative decision included tables that summarize the current state of harmonization between the CMVSS and the FMVSS. For the convenience of the reader, those tables are set out below. Table 1 is a list of all FMVSS that are harmonized to the CMVSS, or for which the differences are such that compliance with the U.S. standard can be readily achieved. Table 2 is a list of all FMVSS which are not harmonized. Table 3 is a list of FMVSS that have been adopted and are not yet effective, but will be in the future. Table 2 has been revised from the version provided in the notice of tentative decision to show that FMVSS 225 *Child Restraint Anchorage Systems* has two Canadian equivalents, CMVSS 210.1 *Tether Anchorage* and CMVSS 210.2 *Lower Anchorage*.

TABLE 1—HARMONIZED STANDARDS

FMVSS	Canadian equivalent	Date harmonized since last determination
102—Transmission Shift Position Sequence, Starter Interlock, and Transmission Braking Effect.	CMVSS 102—Transmission Control Functions	
103—Windshield Defrosting and Defogging Systems	CMVSS 103—Windshield Defrost and Defog	
104—Windshield Wiping and Washing Systems	CMVSS 104—Windshield Wiping and Wash	
105—Hydraulic and Electric Brake Systems	CMVSS 105—Hydraulic and Electric Brakes; TSD 105	
106—Brake Hoses	CMVSS 106—Brake Hoses; TSD 106	
108—Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment	CMVSS 108—Lighting Systems and Retroreflective Devices; TSD 108.	
110—Tire Selection and Rims for Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of 4,536 kg (10,000 lb) or Less.	CMVSS 110—Tire Selection and Rims; TSD 110	September 1, 2009.
111—Rearview Mirrors	CMVSS 111—Mirrors	
113—Hood Latch Systems	CMVSS 113—Hood Latch System	
114—Theft Protection and Rollaway Prevention	CMVSS 114—Locking and Immobilization; TSD 114	
116—Motor Vehicle Brake Fluids	CMVSS 116—Hydraulic Brake Fluids; TSD 116	
118—Power-Operated Window, Partition, and Roof Panel Systems.	CMVSS 118—Power-operated Windows; TSD 118	September 1, 2011.

TABLE 1—HARMONIZED STANDARDS—Continued

FMVSS	Canadian equivalent	Date harmonized since last determination
120—Tire Selection and Rims and Motor Home/Recreation Vehicle Trailer Load Carrying Capacity Information for Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of More Than 4,536 Kilograms (10,000 pounds).	CMVSS 120—Tire Selection and Rims for Vehicles Other Than Passenger Cars; TSD 120.	
121—Air Brake Systems	CMVSS 121—Air Brakes for Trucks; TSD 121	
122—Motorcycle Brake Systems	CMVSS 122—Motorcycle Brake Systems; TSD 122	
123—Motorcycle Controls and Displays	CMVSS 123—Motorcycle Control & Displays; TSD 123	
124—Accelerator Control Systems	CMVSS 124—Accelerator Control Systems; TSD 124	
126—Electronic Stability Control Systems	CMVSS 126—Electronic Stability Control; TSD 126	September 1, 2011.
131—School Bus Pedestrian Safety Devices	CMVSS 131—School Bus Pedestrian Safety Devices; TSD 131.	
135—Light Vehicle Brake Systems	CMVSS 135—Light Vehicle Brake Systems; TSD 135	
202—Head Restraints; Applicable unless a vehicle is certified to § 571.202a.	CMVSS 202—Head Restraints; TSD 202	
202a—Head Restraints	CMVSS 202—Head Restraints; TSD 202	September 1, 2012.
203—Impact protection for the driver from the steering control system.	CMVSS 203—Driver Impact Protection	
204—Steering control rearward displacement	CMVSS 204—Steering Column Rearward Displacement ...	
205—Glazing materials	CMVSS 205—Glazing Materials	
205a—Glazing materials before September 1, 2006 and glazing materials used in vehicles manufactured before November 1, 2006.	CMVSS 205—Glazing Materials	
207—Seating systems	CMVSS 207—Anchorage of Seats	
210—Seat belt assembly anchorages	CMVSS 210—Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages	
212—Windshield mounting	CMVSS 212—Windshield Mounting	
216—Roof crush resistance; Applicable unless a vehicle is certified to § 571.216a.	CMVSS 216—Roof Intrusion Protection; TSD 216	
216a—Roof crush resistance; Upgraded standard	CMVSS 216—Roof Intrusion Protection; TSD 216	
217—Bus emergency exits and window retention and release.	CMVSS 217—Bus Window Retention and Emergency Exits.	
219—Windshield zone intrusion	CMVSS 219—Windshield Zone Intrusion	
220—School bus rollover protection	CMVSS 220—Rollover Protection; TSD 220	
221—School bus body joint strength	CMVSS 221—School Bus Body Joint Strength	
224—Rear impact protection	CMVSS 223—Rear Impact Guards	
301—Fuel system integrity	CMVSS 301—Fuel System Integrity; TSD 301	
302—Flammability of interior materials	CMVSS 302—Flammability; TSD 302	
303—Fuel system integrity of compressed natural gas vehicles.	CMVSS 301.2—CNG Fuel System Integrity	
304—Compressed natural gas fuel container integrity	CMVSS 301.2—CNG Fuel System Integrity	
305—Electric-powered vehicles: electrolyte spillage and electrical shock protection.	CMVSS 305—Electrolyte Spillage and Electrical Shock Protection; TSD 305.	
401—Internal trunk release	CMVSS 401—Interior Trunk Release; TSD 401	September 1, 2010
500—Low-speed vehicles	CMVSS 500—Low-speed Vehicles; TSD 500	

TABLE 2—STANDARDS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN HARMONIZED

U.S. Standard	Canadian standard	Passenger cars	Multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses with a GVWR of 4,536 kg (10,000 lb) or less
FMVSS 101—Controls and Displays	CMVSS 101—Controls and Displays	X	X
FMVSS 138—Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems	X	X
FMVSS 201—Occupant Protection in Interior Impact.	CMVSS 201—Occupant Protection	X	X
206—Door locks and door retention components	CMVSS 206—Door Locks and Door Retention Components.	X	X
FMVSS 208—Occupant Crash Protection	CMVSS 208—Occupant Restraint Frontal Impact.	X	X
FMVSS 213—Child Restraint Systems	CMVSS 213.4—Built-in Child Restraint Systems	X	X
FMVSS 214—Side Impact Protection	CMVSS 214—Side Door Strength	X	X
FMVSS 222—School Bus Passenger Seating And Crash Protection.	CMVSS 222—School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection.	School buses only
FMVSS 225—Child restraint anchorage systems	CMVSS 210.1 Tether Anchorage and 210.2 Lower Anchorage.	X	X

TABLE 3—FMVSS THAT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BUT ARE NOT YET EFFECTIVE

FMVSS	Federal Register Notice	Description	Effective date
226—Ejection Mitigation	76 FR 3212; 1/19/2011 ..	New standard to mitigate occupant ejection from side windows in roll-overs and side impacts..	9/1/17, except for altered and multi-stage vehicles 9/1/18.

In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 30141(b), the September 18 notice solicited public comments on the tentative decision. No comments were submitted in response to the notice. Accordingly, we are adopting the tentative decision as a final decision.

Final Decision

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA hereby decides that—

(a) All passenger cars manufactured on or after September 1, 2009 and before September 1, 2010 that, as originally manufactured, comply with FMVSS Nos. 118, 138, 201, 202a, 206, 208, 213, 214, 225, and 401;

(b) All passenger cars manufactured on or after September 1, 2010 and before September 1, 2011 that, as originally manufactured, comply with FMVSS Nos. 118, 138, 201, 202a, 206, 208, 213, 214, and 225;

(c) All passenger cars manufactured on or after September 1, 2011 and before September 1, 2017 that, as originally manufactured, comply with FMVSS Nos. 138, 201, 206, 208, 213, 214, and 225;

(d) All multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses with a GVWR of 4,536 kg (10,000 lb) or less manufactured on or after September 1, 2011 and before September 1, 2012, that, as originally manufactured, comply with FMVSS Nos. 201, 202a, 206, 208, 213, 214, and 216, and insofar as they are applicable, with FMVSS Nos. 138 and 225; and

(e) All multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses with a GVWR of 4,536 kg (10,000 lb) or less manufactured on or after September 1, 2012 and before September 1, 2017, that, as originally manufactured, comply with FMVSS Nos. 201, 206, 208, 213, 214, and 216, and insofar as they are applicable, with FMVSS Nos. 138, 222, and 225;

that are certified by their original manufacturer as complying with all applicable Canadian motor vehicle safety standards, are eligible for importation into the United States on the basis that either:

1. They are substantially similar to vehicles of the same make, model, and model year originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States, or originally manufactured in the

United States for sale therein, and certified as complying with all applicable FMVSS, and are capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable FMVSS, or

2. They have safety features that comply with, or are capable of being altered to comply with, all applicable FMVSS.

Vehicle Eligibility Number

The importer of a vehicle admissible under any final decision must indicate on the form HS-7 accompanying entry the appropriate vehicle eligibility number indicating that the vehicle is eligible for entry. Vehicle Eligibility Number VSA-80 is currently assigned to Canadian-certified passenger cars and Vehicle Eligibility Number VSA-81 is currently assigned to Canadian-certified multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses with a GVWR of 4,536 kg (10,000 lb) or less. All passenger cars admissible under this decision will be assigned vehicle eligibility number VSA-80, and all multipurpose passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses admissible under this decision will be assigned vehicle eligibility number VSA-81.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.95.

Issued on: November 15, 2012.

Daniel C. Smith,

Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety.

[FR Doc. 2012-28626 Filed 11-23-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2012-0160, Notice 1]

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 2009 Porsche 911 (997) Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition.

SUMMARY: This document announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a

petition for a decision that nonconforming 2009 Porsche 911 (997) passenger cars that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS), are eligible for importation into the United States because they are substantially similar to vehicles that were originally manufactured for sale in the United States and that were certified by their manufacturer as complying with the safety standards (the U.S.-certified version of the 2009 Porsche 911 (997) passenger cars) and they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is December 26, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to the docket and notice numbers above and be submitted by any of the following methods:

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

- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.

Instructions: Comments must be written in the English language, and be no greater than 15 pages in length, although there is no limit to the length of necessary attachments to the comments. If comments are submitted in hard copy form, please ensure that two copies are provided. If you wish to receive confirmation that your comments were received, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the comments. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act heading below.

Privacy Act: Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the