DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD–2019–0151]

Requested Administrative Waiver of the Coastwise Trade Laws: Vessel VANGUARD (Motor Vessel); Invitation for Public Comments

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to grant waivers of the U.S.-build requirements of the coastwise trade laws to allow the carriage of no more than twelve passengers for hire on vessels, which are three years old or more. A request for such a waiver has been received by MARAD. The vessel, and a brief description of the proposed service, is listed below.

DATES: Submit comments on or before October 21, 2019.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD–2019–0151 by any one of the following methods:


• Mail or Hand Delivery: Docket Management Facility is in the West Building, Ground Floor of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Docket Management Facility location address is: U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, MARAD–2019–0151, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

Note: If you mail or hand-deliver your comments, we recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and specific docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, see the section entitled Public Participation.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As described by the applicant the intended service of the vessel VANGUARD is:

—Intended Commercial Use of Vessel: “Carrying passengers for hire”


—Vessel Length and Type: 76’ motor vessel

The complete application is available for review identified in the DOT docket as MARAD–2019–0151 at http://www.regulations.gov. Interested parties may comment on the effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or businesses in the U.S. that use U.S.-flag vessels. If MARAD determines, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. 12121 and MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388, that the issuance of the waiver will have an unduly adverse effect on a U.S.-vessel builder or a business that uses U.S.-flag vessels in that business, a waiver will not be granted. Comments should refer to the vessel name, state the commenter’s interest in the waiver application, and address the waiver criteria given in section 388.4 of MARAD’s regulations at 46 CFR part 388.

Public Participation

How do I submit comments?

Please submit your comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled ADDRESSES. Be advised that it may take a few hours or even days for your comment to be reflected on the docket. In addition, your comments must be written in English. We encourage you to provide concise comments and you may attach additional documents as necessary. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Where do I go to read public comments, and find supporting information?

Go to the docket online at http://www.regulations.gov., keyword search MARAD–2019–0151 or visit the Docket Management Facility (see ADDRESSES for hours of operation). We recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

Will my comments be made available to the public?

Yes. Be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, will be made publicly available.

May I submit comments confidentially?

If you wish to submit comments under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, Office of Legislation and Regulations, MAR–225, W24–220, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590. Include a cover letter setting forth with specificity the basis for any such claim and, if possible, a summary of your submission that can be made available to the public.

Privacy Act

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better inform its rulemaking process. DOT posts these comments, without edit, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice, DOT/ALL–14 FDMS, accessible through www.dot.gov/privacy. To facilitate comment tracking and response, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. Whether or not commenters identify themselves, all timely comments will be fully considered. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact the agency for alternate submission instructions.

SUMMARY: ElectraMeccanica Vehicles Corp. (EMV) has determined that certain model year (MY) 2018 ElectraMeccanica SOLO motorcycles do not fully comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 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). EMV filed a noncompliance report dated July 30, 2019. EMV subsequently petitioned NHTSA on August 12, 2019, for a decision that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. This document announces receipt of EMV’s petition.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is October 21, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on this petition. Comments must refer to the docket number and notice number cited in the title of this notice and may be submitted electronically by logging onto the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) website at https://www.regulations.gov/. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Comments may also be faxed to (202) 493–2251.

All comments and supporting materials submitted to the docket may be viewed by anyone at the address and times given above. The documents may also be viewed on the internet at https://www.regulations.gov by following the online instructions for accessing the dockets. The docket ID number for this petition is shown in the heading of this notice.

DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement is available for review in a Federal Register notice published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477–78).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Overview: EMV has determined that certain MY 2018 ElectraMeccanica SOLO motorcycles do not fully comply with paragraph S5.2(d) of FMVSS No. 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) (49 CFR 571.120). EMV filed a noncompliance report dated July 30, 2019, pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports. EMV subsequently petitioned NHTSA on August 12, 2019, for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301 on the basis that this noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h) and 49 CFR part 556, Exemption for Inconsequential Defect or Noncompliance.

This notice of receipt of EMV’s petition is published under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120 and does not represent any Agency decision or other exercises of judgment concerning the merits of the petition.

II. Vehicles Involved: Approximately 20 MY 2018 ElectraMeccanica SOLO motorcycles, manufactured between March 1, 2018, and June 28, 2019, are potentially involved.

III. Noncompliance: EMV explains that the noncompliance is that the subject vehicles are equipped with rims that are missing the manufacturer’s name, trademark, or symbol marking as required by paragraph S5.2(d) of FMVSS No. 120.

IV. Rule Requirements: Paragraph S5.2(d) of FMVSS No. 120 includes the requirements relevant to this petition. Each rim or, at the option of the manufacturer in the case of a single-piece wheel, wheel disc shall be marked with the information listed in paragraphs (a) through (e) of this paragraph, in lettering not less than 3 millimeters high, impressed to a depth or, at the option of the manufacturer, embossed to a height of not less than 0.125 millimeters. The information listed in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph shall appear on the weather side. In the case of rims of multi-piece construction, the information listed in paragraphs (a) through (e) of this paragraph shall appear on the rim base and the information listed in paragraphs (b) and (d) of this paragraph shall also appear on each other part of the rim. (d) A designation that identifies the manufacturer of the rim by name, trademark, or symbol.

V. Summary of EMV’s Petition: The following views and arguments presented in this section. V. Summary of EMV’s Petition, are the views and arguments provided by EMV. They have not been evaluated by the Agency and do not reflect the views of the Agency.

EMV described the subject noncompliance and stated that the noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

EMV submitted the following views and arguments in support of the petition:

1. The absence of the manufacturer name, trademark, or symbol does not have any effect on the operation, performance, or safety of the affected...