

“(ii) ACTION.—A rulemaking under paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 2503 shall be considered completed when the Secretary promulgates a final rule or when the Secretary decides not to promulgate a rule (which decision may include deferral of the action or reinitiation of the action). The Secretary may not decide against promulgation of a final rule because of lack of time to complete rulemaking. Any such rulemaking actions shall be published in the Federal Register, together with the reasons for such decisions, consistent with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 [formerly 15 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.].

“(iii) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(I) PERIOD.—Action under paragraph (5) of section 2503 which was begun under subparagraph (A) shall be completed within 24 months of the date of publication of an advance notice of proposed rulemaking or a notice of proposed rulemaking. If the Secretary determines that there is a need for delay and if the public comment period is closed, the Secretary may extend the date for completion for not more than 6 months and shall publish in the Federal Register a notice stating the reasons for the extension and setting a date certain for completion of the action. The extension of the completion date shall not be considered agency action subject to judicial review.

“(II) ACTION.—A rulemaking under paragraph (5) of section 2503 shall be considered completed when the Secretary promulgates a final rule with standards on improved head injury protection.

“(C) STANDARD.—The Secretary may, as part of any action taken under section 2503, amend any motor vehicle safety standard or establish a new standard under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 ([formerly] 15 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).

“SEC. 2503. MATTERS BEFORE THE SECRETARY.

“The Secretary shall address the following matters in accordance with section 2502:

“(1) Protection against unreasonable risk of roll-overs of passenger cars, multipurpose passenger vehicles, and trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or less and an unloaded vehicle weight of 5,500 pounds or less.

“(2) Extension of passenger car side impact protection to multipurpose passenger vehicles and trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of 8,500 pounds or less and an unloaded vehicle weight of 5,500 pounds or less.

“(3) Safety of child booster seats used in passenger cars and other appropriate motor vehicles.

“(4) Improved design for safety belts.

“(5) Improved head impact protection from interior components of passenger cars (i.e. roof rails, pillars, and front headers).

“[SECS. 2504, 2505. Repealed. Pub. L. 103-272, §7(b), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1379.]

“SEC. 2506. REAR SEATBELTS.

“The Secretary shall expend such portion of the funds authorized to be appropriated under the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act ([formerly] 15 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), for fiscal year 1993, as the Secretary deems necessary for the purpose of disseminating information to consumers regarding the manner in which passenger cars may be retrofitted with lap and shoulder rear seatbelts.

“SEC. 2507. BRAKE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR PASSENGER CARS.

“Not later than December 31, 1993, the Secretary, in accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 [formerly 15 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.], shall publish an advance notice of proposed rulemaking

to consider the need for any additional brake performance standards for passenger cars, including antilock brake standards. The Secretary shall complete such rulemaking (in accordance with section 2502(b)(2)(B)(ii)) not later than 36 months from the date of initiation of such advance notice of proposed rulemaking. In order to facilitate and encourage innovation and early application of economical and effective antilock brake systems for all such vehicles, the Secretary shall, as part of the rulemaking, consider any such brake system adopted by a manufacturer.

“[SEC. 2508. Repealed. Pub. L. 103-272, §7(b), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1379.]

“SEC. 2509. HEAD INJURY IMPACT STUDY.

“The Secretary, in the case of any head injury protection matters not subject to section 2503(5) for which the Secretary is on the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 18, 1991] examining the need for rulemaking and is conducting research, shall provide a report to Congress by the end of fiscal year 1993 identifying those matters and their status. The report shall include a statement of any actions planned toward initiating such rulemaking no later than fiscal year 1994 or 1995 through use of either an advance notice of proposed rulemaking or a notice of proposed rulemaking and completing such rulemaking as soon as possible thereafter.”

FUEL SYSTEM INTEGRITY STANDARD

Pub. L. 93-492, title I, §108, Oct. 27, 1974, 88 Stat. 1482, provided that:

“(a) RATIFICATION OF STANDARD.—Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 301 (49 CFR 571.301-75; Docket No. 73-20, Notice 2) as published on March 21, 1974 (39 F.R. 10588-10590) shall take effect on the dates prescribed in such standard (as so published).

“(b) AMENDMENT OR REPEAL OF STANDARD.—The Secretary may amend the standard described in subsection (a) in order to correct technical errors in the standard, and may amend or repeal such standard if he determines such amendment or repeal will not diminish the level of motor vehicle safety.”

EX. ORD. NO. 11357. ADMINISTRATION OF TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY THROUGH NATIONAL HIGHWAY SAFETY BUREAU AND ITS DIRECTOR

Ex. Ord. No. 11357, June 6, 1967, 32 F.R. 8225, provided:

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States by Section 201 of the Highway Safety Act of 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 735, 943) [set out as a note under section 401 of Title 23, Highways], and by Section 3(f)(3) of the Department of Transportation Act (80 Stat. 932) [former 49 U.S.C. 1652(f)(3)], it is hereby ordered that the provisions of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 718, 943) [formerly 15 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.], shall be carried out through the National Highway Safety Bureau and the Director thereof.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON.

§ 30102. Definitions

(a) GENERAL DEFINITIONS.—In this chapter—

(1) “dealer” means a person selling and distributing new motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment primarily to purchasers that in good faith purchase the vehicles or equipment other than for resale.

(2) “defect” includes any defect in performance, construction, a component, or material of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment.

(3) “distributor” means a person primarily selling and distributing motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment for resale.

(4) “interstate commerce” means commerce between a place in a State and a place in an-

other State or between places in the same State through another State.

(5) “manufacturer” means a person—

(A) manufacturing or assembling motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment; or

(B) importing motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment for resale.

(6) “motor vehicle” means a vehicle driven or drawn by mechanical power and manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways, but does not include a vehicle operated only on a rail line.

(7) “motor vehicle equipment” means—

(A) any system, part, or component of a motor vehicle as originally manufactured;

(B) any similar part or component manufactured or sold for replacement or improvement of a system, part, or component, or as an accessory or addition to a motor vehicle; or

(C) any device or an article or apparel, including a motorcycle helmet and excluding medicine or eyeglasses prescribed by a licensed practitioner, that—

(i) is not a system, part, or component of a motor vehicle; and

(ii) is manufactured, sold, delivered, or offered to be sold for use on public streets, roads, and highways with the apparent purpose of safeguarding users of motor vehicles against risk of accident, injury, or death.

(8) “motor vehicle safety” means the performance of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in a way that protects the public against unreasonable risk of accidents occurring because of the design, construction, or performance of a motor vehicle, and against unreasonable risk of death or injury in an accident, and includes nonoperational safety of a motor vehicle.

(9) “motor vehicle safety standard” means a minimum standard for motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment performance.

(10) “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands.

(11) “United States district court” means a district court of the United States, a United States court for Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, and the district court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) LIMITED DEFINITIONS.—(1) In sections 30117(b), 30118–30121, and 30166(f) of this title—

(A) “adequate repair” does not include repair resulting in substantially impaired operation of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment;

(B) “first purchaser” means the first purchaser of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment other than for resale;

(C) “original equipment” means motor vehicle equipment (including a tire) installed in or on a motor vehicle at the time of delivery to the first purchaser;

(D) “replacement equipment” means motor vehicle equipment (including a tire) that is not original equipment;

(E) a brand name owner of a tire marketed under a brand name not owned by the manu-

facturer of the tire is deemed to be the manufacturer of the tire;

(F) a defect in original equipment, or non-compliance of original equipment with a motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under this chapter, is deemed to be a defect or noncompliance of the motor vehicle in or on which the equipment was installed at the time of delivery to the first purchaser;

(G) a manufacturer of a motor vehicle in or on which original equipment was installed when delivered to the first purchaser is deemed to be the manufacturer of the equipment; and

(H) a retreader of a tire is deemed to be the manufacturer of the tire.

(2) The Secretary of Transportation may prescribe regulations changing paragraph (1)(C), (D), (F), or (G) of this subsection.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 941; Pub. L. 112–141, div. C, title I, §31201, July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 757.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
30102(a)(1) ..	15:1391(7). 15:1391(10). 49 App.:1655(a)(6)(A).	Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89-563, §102(1)-(3), (5)-(9), (11), (12), 80 Stat. 718, 719. Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89-563, §102(10), 80 Stat. 718; re-stated Oct. 27, 1974, Pub. L. 93-492, §110(a), 88 Stat. 1484. Oct. 15, 1966, Pub. L. 89-670, §6(a)(6)(A), 80 Stat. 938.
30102(a)(2) ..	15:1391(11).	
30102(a)(3) ..	15:1391(6).	
30102(a)(4) ..	15:1391(9).	
30102(a)(5) ..	15:1391(5).	
30102(a)(6) ..	15:1391(3).	
30102(a)(7) ..	15:1391(4).	Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89-563, §102(4), 80 Stat. 718; re-stated May 22, 1970, Pub. L. 91-265, §2, 84 Stat. 262.
30102(a)(8) ..	15:1391(1).	
30102(a)(9) ..	15:1391(2).	
30102(a)(10) ..	15:1391(8).	
30102(a)(11) ..	15:1391(12).	
30102(b)	15:1419.	Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89-563, 80 Stat. 718, §159; added Oct. 27, 1974, Pub. L. 93-492, §102(a), 88 Stat. 1476.

In subsection (a), the definitions apply to the entire chapter because of references in 15:1421–1431 applying 15:1391–1420 to 15:1421–1431. Before clause (1), the words “As used” are omitted as surplus. In clause (1), the text of 15:1391(10) and 49 App.:1655(a)(6)(A) is omitted as surplus because the complete name of the Secretary of Transportation is used the first time the term appears in a section. The words “selling and distributing” are substituted for “who is engaged in the sale and distribution of” to eliminate unnecessary words. The word “purposes” is omitted as surplus. In clause (3), the words “selling and distributing” are substituted for “engaged in the sale and distribution of” to eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (5)(A), the words “manufacturing or assembling” are substituted for “engaged in the manufacturing or assembling of” to eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (7), the words “physician or other duly” and “drivers, passengers, and other” are omitted as surplus. In clause (8), the words “is also protected” and “to persons” are omitted as unnecessary. In clause (9), the words “which is practicable, which meets the need for motor vehicle safety and which provides objective criteria” are omitted as unnecessary because of 15:1392(a) which is restated in section 30111 of the revised title. In clauses (10) and (11), the words “the Northern Mariana Islands” are added because of section 502(a)(2) of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth

of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, as enacted by the Act of March 24, 1976 (Public Law 94-241, 90 Stat. 268), and as proclaimed to be in effect by the President on January 9, 1978 (Proc. No. 4534, Oct. 24, 1977, 42 F.R. 56593). The words “the Canal Zone” are omitted because of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977. In clause (10), the word “means” is substituted for “includes” as being more appropriate. The words “a State of the United States” are substituted for “each of the several States” for consistency. The words “the Commonwealth of” are omitted as surplus. In clause (11), the word “Federal” is omitted as surplus. The words “of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico” are omitted as unnecessary because the district court of Puerto Rico is a district court of the United States under 28:119.

In subsection (b)(1), before clause (A), the words “The term” and “the term” are omitted as surplus. In clause (B), the words “of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment” are added for clarity. In clause (E), the words “to be” are added for consistency. The words “marketed under such brand name” are omitted as surplus. In clause (F), the words “a motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under this chapter” are added for clarity and consistency. The word “noncompliance” is substituted for “failure to comply” for consistency in the chapter. In clause (G), the words “(rather than the manufacturer of such equipment)” are omitted as surplus. The words “deemed to be” are substituted for “considered” for consistency. In clause (H), the words “which have been” are omitted as surplus.

Subsection (b)(2) is substituted for “Except as otherwise provided in regulations of the Secretary” for clarity and because of the restatement.

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (a)(7)(C). Pub. L. 112-141 amended subpar. (C) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (C) read as follows: “any device or an article or apparel (except medicine or eyeglasses prescribed by a licensed practitioner) that is not a system, part, or component of a motor vehicle and is manufactured, sold, delivered, offered, or intended to be used only to safeguard motor vehicles and highway users against risk of accident, injury, or death.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-141 effective Oct. 1, 2012, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 112-141, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of Title 23, Highways.

LOW-SPEED ELECTRIC BICYCLES

Pub. L. 107-319, § 2, Dec. 4, 2002, 116 Stat. 2776, provided that: “For purposes of motor vehicle safety standards issued and enforced pursuant to chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, a low-speed electric bicycle (as defined in section 38(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act [15 U.S.C. 2085(b)]) shall not be considered a motor vehicle as defined by section 30102(6) of title 49, United States Code.”

§ 30103. Relationship to other laws

(a) UNIFORMITY OF REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Transportation may not prescribe a safety regulation related to a motor vehicle subject to subchapter I of chapter 135 of this title that differs from a motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under this chapter. However, the Secretary may prescribe, for a motor vehicle operated by a carrier subject to subchapter I of chapter 135, a safety regulation that imposes a higher standard of performance after manufacture than that required by an applicable standard in effect at the time of manufacture.

(b) PREEMPTION.—(1) When a motor vehicle safety standard is in effect under this chapter, a

State or a political subdivision of a State may prescribe or continue in effect a standard applicable to the same aspect of performance of a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment only if the standard is identical to the standard prescribed under this chapter. However, the United States Government, a State, or a political subdivision of a State may prescribe a standard for a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment obtained for its own use that imposes a higher performance requirement than that required by the otherwise applicable standard under this chapter.

(2) A State may enforce a standard that is identical to a standard prescribed under this chapter.

(c) ANTITRUST LAWS.—This chapter does not—

- (1) exempt from the antitrust laws conduct that is unlawful under those laws; or
- (2) prohibit under the antitrust laws conduct that is lawful under those laws.

(d) WARRANTY OBLIGATIONS AND ADDITIONAL LEGAL RIGHTS AND REMEDIES.—Sections 30117(b), 30118-30121, 30166(f), and 30167(a) and (b) of this title do not establish or affect a warranty obligation under a law of the United States or a State. A remedy under those sections and sections 30161 and 30162 of this title is in addition to other rights and remedies under other laws of the United States or a State.

(e) COMMON LAW LIABILITY.—Compliance with a motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under this chapter does not exempt a person from liability at common law.

(Pub. L. 103-272, § 1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 943; Pub. L. 104-88, title III, § 308(j), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 947.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
30103(a)	15:1392(g).	Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89-563, §§ 103(g), 105(a)(6), 116, 80 Stat. 720, 721, 727.
30103(b)	15:1392(d).	Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89-563, § 103(d), 80 Stat. 719; Oct. 15, 1982, Pub. L. 97-331, § 3, 96 Stat. 1619.
30103(c)	15:1405.	
30103(d)	15:1394(a)(6). 15:1410a(e).	Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89-563, 80 Stat. 718, §§ 124(e), 160; added Oct. 27, 1974, Pub. L. 93-492, §§ 102(a), 106, 88 Stat. 1477, 1481.
30103(e)	15:1420. 15:1397(k).	Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89-563, § 108(k), 80 Stat. 723; Oct. 31, 1988, Pub. L. 100-562, § 2(b), 102 Stat. 2818.

In subsection (a), the words “or the Transportation of Explosives Act, as amended (18 U.S.C. 831-835)” are omitted as obsolete because 18:831-835 have been repealed. The word “prescribe” is substituted for “adopt” for consistency. The words “or continue in effect” and “In prescribing safety regulations” are omitted as surplus. The word “prescribed” is substituted for “issued” for consistency. The words “to comply” and “Federal” are omitted as surplus. The words “in effect” are added for clarity.

In subsection (b)(1), the word “Federal” is omitted as surplus. The word “prescribe” is substituted for “either to establish, or to continue in effect” for consistency and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “standard prescribed under this chapter” are substituted for “Federal standard” for clarity. The words “However, the United States . . . may prescribe” are substituted