

admission into the United States unless NHTSA has decided that the motor vehicle is substantially similar to a motor vehicle originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States, certified under 49 U.S.C. 30115, and of the same model year as the model of the motor vehicle to be compared, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable FMVSS.

Petitions for eligibility decisions may be submitted by either manufacturers or importers who have registered with NHTSA pursuant to 49 CFR Part 592. As specified in 49 CFR 593.7, NHTSA publishes notice in the **Federal Register** of each petition that it receives, and affords interested persons an opportunity to comment on the petition. At the close of the comment period, NHTSA decides, on the basis of the petition and any comments that it has received, whether the vehicle is eligible for importation. The agency then publishes this decision in the **Federal Register**.

J.K. Technologies, LLC, of Baltimore, Maryland (JK)(Registered Importer 90-006) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether nonconforming 2006 and 2007 Subaru Forester passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles which JK believes are substantially similar are 2006 and 2007 Subaru Forester passenger cars that were manufactured for sale in the United States and certified by their manufacturer as conforming to all applicable FMVSS.

The petitioner claims that it compared non-U.S. certified 2006 and 2007 Subaru Forester passenger cars to their U.S.-certified counterparts, and found the vehicles to be substantially similar with respect to compliance with most FMVSS.

JK submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that non-U.S. certified 2006 and 2007 Subaru Forester passenger cars, as originally manufactured, conform to many FMVSS in the same manner as their U.S. certified counterparts, or are capable of being readily altered to conform to those standards.

Specifically, the petitioner claims that non-U.S. certified 2006 and 2007 Subaru Forester passenger cars are identical to their U.S. certified counterparts with respect to compliance with Standard Nos. 102 *Transmission Shift Lever Sequence, Starter Interlock, and Transmission Braking Effect*, 103 *Windshield Defrosting and Defogging Systems*, 104 *Windshield Wiping and Washing Systems*, 106 *Brake Hoses*, 109 *New Pneumatic Tires*, 113 *Hood Latch System*, 116 *Motor Vehicle Brake Fluids*,

124 *Accelerator Control Systems*, 135 *Passenger Car Brake Systems*, 201 *Occupant Protection in Interior Impact*, 202 *Head Restraints*, 204 *Steering Control Rearward Displacement*, 205 *Glazing Materials*, 206 *Door Locks and Door Retention Components*, 207 *Seating Systems*, 209 *Seat Belt Assemblies*, 210 *Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages*, 212 *Windshield Mounting*, 214 *Side Impact Protection*, 216 *Roof Crush Resistance*, 219 *Windshield Zone Intrusion*, 225 *Child Restraint Anchorage Systems*, 301 *Fuel System Integrity*, and 302 *Flammability of Interior Materials*.

In addition, the petitioner claims that the vehicles comply with the Bumper Standard found in 49 CFR Part 581.

The petitioner also contends that the vehicles are capable of being readily altered to meet the following standards, in the manner indicated:

Standard No. 101 *Controls and Displays*: installation of a U.S.-model instrument cluster that has been reprogrammed to reflect the correct mileage on the vehicle.

Standard No. 108 *Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment*: (a) Installation of U.S.-model front sidemarker lamps; (b) installation of U.S.-model headlamps; and (c) installation of U.S.-model taillamp assemblies which incorporate rear U.S.-model sidemarker lamps.

Standard no. 110 *Tire Selection and Rims*: installation of vehicle placard.

Standard No. 111 *Rearview Mirrors*: installation of a U.S.-model passenger side rearview mirror, or inscription of the required warning statement on the face of that mirror.

Standard No. 114 *Theft Protection*: installation of U.S. version software to meet the requirements of this standard.

Standard No. 118 *Power-Operated Window, Partition, and Roof Panel Systems*: installation of U.S.-version software to meet the requirements of this standard.

Standard No. 208 *Occupant Crash Protection*: (a) installation of U.S.-version software to ensure that the seat belt warning system meets the requirements of this standard, and (b) inspection of all vehicles and replacement of any non-U.S.-model components needed to achieve conformity with this standard with U.S.-model components.

The petitioner states that the European version of the subject vehicle does not meet the requirements of FMVSS No. 208. According to the petitioner, the passenger occupant detection system must be added, the driver's and front passenger's seat belt buckle switch must be replaced, and the

Control ECU must be reprogrammed. The petitioner also states that on account of regulatory differences around the world parts of the occupant protection system must be inspected to verify that U.S.-model seat belts and control units are installed.

The agency is especially interested in obtaining comments concerning the subject vehicle's capability of being readily altered to conform to the advanced air bag requirements of this standard. For example, the agency wishes to know whether U.S.-model components can be readily installed in the subject vehicle and be readily calibrated to interface with that vehicle in such a way as to assure its conformity with the air bag low risk deployment and air bag automatic suppression performance requirements of the standard. The agency is willing to consider all information relating to this issue, be it test information or otherwise.

The petitioner additionally states that a vehicle identification plate must be affixed to the vehicles near the left windshield post to meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 565.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be considered, and will be available for examination in the docket at the above addresses both before and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. Notice of final action on the petition will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: February 26, 2008.

Claude H. Harris,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee; Notice of Renewal

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice that the Genomic Medicine Program Advisory Committee has been renewed for a two year period.

The Committee provides advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the scientific and ethical issues related to the development and operation of VA's genomic medicine program. The Committee is guided by the goal of

using genetic information to optimize clinical care of veterans and to enhance the study and development of diagnostic tests and treatments for diseases of particular relevance to veterans.

Dated: February 22, 2008.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 08-910 Filed 2-29-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans will be held on March 31–April 3, 2008 at the following locations: Fayetteville, Salisbury, and Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The sessions will be open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary on the administration of VA benefits and services to minority veterans, to assess the needs of minority veterans and to evaluate whether VA compensation, medical and rehabilitation services, outreach, and other programs are meeting those needs. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary regarding such activities.

On March 31, 2008, the Committee will meet from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center (VAMC), 2300 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina. The Committee will hold panel discussions with key staff members from the VAMC and with local Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) on services and benefits delivery challenges, successes, and concerns affecting Fayetteville area veterans. Additionally, the Committee will hold a town hall meeting at the Holiday Inn I-95 located at 1944 Cedar Creek Road in Fayetteville beginning at 6:30 p.m.

On April 1, 2008, the Committee will meet from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Womack Army Medical Center (AMC) located in Building 4-2817 at Ft. Bragg for a briefing from the Womack AMC leadership, a tour of the facility, and to visit with patients. Following this visit, the Committee will depart for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina to meet with tribal representatives at 2709 Union Chapel Road, Pembroke, North Carolina from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

On April 2, 2008, the Committee will meet from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Salisbury National Cemetery, 501 Statesville Blvd, Salisbury, North Carolina for a tour and briefing. The Committee will then depart at 12:45 p.m. for Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The Committee will meet from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Winston-Salem VA Regional Office at the Federal Building, 251 North Main Street, in Winston-Salem. The Committee will hold discussions with key staff members from the Winston-Salem VA Regional

Office on services and benefits, delivery challenges, and successes. Additionally, the Committee will hold a second town hall meeting at the Winston-Salem Marriott (460 N. Cherry Street) beginning at 6:30 p.m. to hear comments from the Winston-Salem area veterans. The town hall meeting will adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

On April 3, 2008, the Committee will meet from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn I-95, Conference Room Section III, 1944 Cedar Creek Road, Fayetteville, North Carolina. The Committee will conduct an exit briefing with each of the VA teams involved in the Committee's activities on March 31–April 2. The Committee will also work on its annual report.

The Committee will accept written comments from interested members of the public on issues outlined in the meeting agenda, as well as other issues affecting minority veterans. Such comments should be referred to the Committee at the following address: Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, Center for Minority Veterans (00M), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

For additional information about the meeting, please contact Ms. Juanita Mullen or Mr. Ronald Sagudan at (202) 461-6191.

Dated: February 27, 2008.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 08-922 Filed 2-29-08; 8:45 am]

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