

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32504	15:1915(c).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, § 105(c), 86 Stat. 952.

The words “Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation” are substituted for 15:1915(c)(1) (last sentence) to eliminate unnecessary words. The text of 15:1915(c)(2) is omitted as surplus because this section only applies to a vehicle or equipment subject to a standard prescribed under section 32502 of the revised title, and a standard prescribed under that section does not apply to a vehicle or equipment intended only for export, labeled for export, and exported.

§ 32505. Information and compliance requirements

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—(1) To enable the Secretary of Transportation to decide whether a manufacturer of passenger motor vehicles or passenger motor vehicle equipment is complying with this chapter and standards prescribed under this chapter, the Secretary may require the manufacturer to—

- (A) keep records;
- (B) make reports;
- (C) provide items and information, including vehicles and equipment for testing at a negotiated price not more than the manufacturer’s cost; and
- (D) allow an officer or employee designated by the Secretary to inspect vehicles and relevant records of the manufacturer.

(2) To enforce this chapter, an officer or employee designated by the Secretary, on presenting appropriate credentials and a written notice to the owner, operator, or agent in charge, may inspect a facility in which passenger motor vehicles or passenger motor vehicle equipment is manufactured, held for introduction in interstate commerce, or held for sale after introduction in interstate commerce. An inspection shall be conducted at a reasonable time, in a reasonable way, and with reasonable promptness.

(b) POWERS OF SECRETARY AND CIVIL ACTIONS TO ENFORCE.—(1) In carrying out this chapter, the Secretary may—

- (A) inspect and copy records of any person at reasonable times;
- (B) order a person to file written reports or answers to specific questions, including reports or answers under oath; and
- (C) conduct hearings, administer oaths, take testimony, and require (by subpoena or otherwise) the appearance and testimony of witnesses and the production of records the Secretary considers advisable.

(2) A witness summoned under this subsection is entitled to the same fee and mileage the witness would have been paid in a court of the United States.

(3) A civil action to enforce a subpoena or order of the Secretary under this subsection may be brought in the United States district court for any judicial district in which the proceeding by the Secretary is conducted. The court may punish a failure to obey an order of the court to comply with the subpoena or order of the Secretary as a contempt of court.

(c) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—(1) Information obtained by the Secretary under this chapter related to a confidential matter referred to in section 1905 of title 18 may be disclosed only—

- (A) to another officer or employee of the United States Government for use in carrying out this chapter; or
- (B) in a proceeding under this chapter.

(2) This subsection does not authorize information to be withheld from a committee of Congress authorized to have the information.

(3) Subject to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Secretary, on request, shall make available to the public at cost information the Secretary submits or receives in carrying out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-272, § 1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1044; Pub. L. 103-429, § 6(32), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4380.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

PUB. L. 103-272

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32505(a)(1) ..	15:1915(a).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §§ 104(a), (b), 105(a), (b), 109, 86 Stat. 950, 951, 952, 955.
32505(a)(2) ..	15:1915(b).	
32505(b)(1) ..	15:1914(a)(1)–(3).	
32505(b)(2) ..	15:1914(a)(5).	
32505(b)(3) ..	15:1914(a)(4).	
32505(c)(1), (2).	15:1914(b).	
32505(c)(3) ..	15:1919.	

In subsection (a)(1), before clause (A), the words “To enable the Secretary of Transportation to decide whether . . . is complying” are substituted for “to enable him to determine whether such manufacturer has acted or is acting in compliance” and “determining whether such manufacturer has acted or is acting in compliance” to eliminate unnecessary words. The word “reasonably” is omitted as surplus. In clause (A), the word “keep” is substituted for “establish and maintain” for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (C), the text of 15:1915(a) (2d sentence) is omitted as surplus because of 49:322(a). In clause (D), the words “upon request” and “duly” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (a)(2), the word “enter” is omitted as being as included in “inspect”. The word “facility” is substituted for “factory, warehouse, or establishment” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “shall be commenced and completed” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b)(1), before clause (A), the words “In carrying out this chapter” are substituted for “For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subchapter”, “In order to carry out the provisions of this subchapter”, “relevant to any function of the Secretary under this subchapter”, and “relating to any function of the Secretary under this subchapter” for consistency. In clause (A), the words “inspect and copy” are substituted for “have access to, and for the purposes of examination the right to copy” to eliminate unnecessary words. The word “records” is substituted for “documentary evidence” for consistency. In clause (B), the word “order” is substituted for “require, by general or special orders” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “in such form as the Secretary may prescribe” and “shall be filed with the Secretary within such reasonable period as the Secretary may prescribe” are omitted as surplus because of 49:322(a). In clause (C), the words “sit and act at such times and places” are omitted as being included in “conduct hearings”.

In subsection (b)(3), the words “A civil action to enforce a subpoena or order of the Secretary under this

subsection may be brought in the United States district court for the judicial district in which the proceeding by the Secretary was conducted” are substituted for 15:1914(a)(4) (words before semicolon) for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (c)(1), before clause (A), the words “reported to or otherwise” are omitted as surplus. The words “or his representative” are omitted for consistency with subsection (b) of this section. The words “related to a confidential matter referred to” are substituted for “contains or relates to a trade secret or other matter referred to” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “shall be considered confidential for the purpose of that section” are omitted as surplus. In clause (A), the words “of the United States Government” are added for clarity. In clause (B) the words “when relevant” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(2), the words “a committee of Congress authorized to have the information” are substituted for “the duly authorized committees of the Congress” for clarity.

In subsection (c)(3), the words “copies of any communications, documents, reports, or other” are omitted as surplus.

PUB. L. 103-429

This amends 49:32505(b)(3) to clarify the restatement of 15:1914(a)(4) by section 1 of the Act of July 5, 1994 (Public Law 103-272, 108 Stat. 1044).

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 103-429 substituted “any judicial district in which the proceeding by the Secretary is conducted” for “the judicial district in which the proceeding by the Secretary was conducted”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-429 effective July 5, 1994, see section 9 of Pub. L. 103-429, set out as a note under section 321 of this title.

§ 32506. Prohibited acts

(a) GENERAL.—Except as provided in this section and section 32502 of this title, a person may not—

(1) manufacture for sale, sell, offer for sale, introduce or deliver for introduction in interstate commerce, or import into the United States, a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment manufactured on or after the date an applicable standard under section 32502 of this title takes effect, unless it conforms to the standard;

(2) fail to comply with an applicable regulation prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation under this chapter;

(3) fail to keep records, refuse access to or copying of records, fail to make reports or provide items or information, or fail or refuse to allow entry or inspection, as required by this chapter or a regulation prescribed under this chapter; or

(4) fail to provide the certificate required by section 32504 of this title, or provide a certificate that the person knows, or in the exercise of reasonable care has reason to know, is false or misleading in a material respect.

(b) NONAPPLICATION.—Subsection (a)(1) of this section does not apply to—

(1) the sale, offer for sale, or introduction or delivery for introduction in interstate commerce of a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment after the first purchase of the vehicle or equipment in good faith other than for resale (but this clause does not prohibit a standard from requiring that a vehicle or equipment be manufactured to comply with the standard over a specified period of operation or use); or

(2) a person—

(A) establishing that the person had no reason to know, by exercising reasonable care, that the vehicle or equipment does not comply with the standard; or

(B) holding, without knowing about a non-compliance and before that first purchase, a certificate issued under section 32504 of this title stating that the vehicle or equipment complies with the standard.

(c) IMPORTING NONCOMPLYING VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.—(1) The Secretaries of Transportation and the Treasury may prescribe joint regulations authorizing a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment not complying with a standard prescribed under section 32502 of this title to be imported into the United States subject to conditions (including providing a bond) the Secretaries consider appropriate to ensure that the vehicle or equipment will—

(A) comply, after importation, with the standards prescribed under section 32502 of this title;

(B) be exported; or

(C) be abandoned to the United States Government.

(2) The Secretaries may prescribe joint regulations that allow a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment to be imported into the United States after the first purchase in good faith other than for resale.

(d) LIABILITY UNDER OTHER LAW.—Compliance with a standard under this chapter does not exempt a person from liability provided by law.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1045; Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(g) [title III, §351(b)(2)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-439, 2681-476.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32506(a)	15:1916(a).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §106, 86 Stat. 952.
32506(b)	15:1916(b)(1), (2).	
32506(c)	15:1916(b)(3), (4).	
32506(d)	15:1916(c).	

In subsection (a)(4), the words “required by such subsection to the effect that a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment conforms to all applicable bumper standards” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(1), before clause (A), the word “conditions” is substituted for “such terms and conditions” to eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (A), the words “comply, after importation” are substituted for “brought into conformity” for clarity and consistency.