

www.usembassy.egnet.net/usegypt/joint-st.htm.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: This program is established under 22 U.S.C. 2656d and the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. A solicitation for this program will begin August 1, 2004. This program will provide modest grants for successfully competitive proposals for binational collaborative projects and other activities submitted by U.S. and Egyptian experts. Projects must help the United States and Egypt utilize science and apply technology by providing opportunities to exchange ideas, information, skills, and techniques, and to collaborate on scientific and technological endeavors of mutual interest and benefit. Proposals which fully meet the submission requirements as outlined in the Program Announcement will receive peer reviews. Proposals considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2005 must be postmarked by November 8, 2004. All proposals will be considered; however, special consideration will be given to proposals that address priority areas defined/ approved by the Joint Board. These include priorities in the areas of information technology, environmental technologies, biotechnology, energy, standards and metrology, and manufacturing technologies. More information on these priorities and copies of the Program Announcement/ Application may be obtained by request.

Elizabeth Daugharty,

Acting Director, Office of Science and Technology Cooperation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Chair, U.S.-Egypt S&T Joint Board, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 4791]

United States-Egypt Science and Technology Joint Board Public Announcement of a Science and Technology Program for Competitive Grants to Support Junior Scientist Development Visits by U.S. and Egyptian Scientists

August 8, 2004.

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

DATES: Effective August 8, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joan Mahoney, Program Administrator, U.S.-Egypt Science and Technology Grants Program, U.S. Embassy, Cairo/ECPO, Unit 64900, Box 6, APO AE 09839-4900; phone: 011-(20-2) 797-2925; fax: 011-(20-2) 797-3150; E-mail: mahoneyjm@state.gov.

The 2004 Program guidelines for Junior Scientist Development visits will be available starting August 8, 2004 on the Joint Board Web site:

www.usembassy.egnet.net/usegypt/joint-st.htm.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: This program is established under 22 U.S.C. 2656d and the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

A solicitation for this program will begin August 8, 2004. This program will provide modest grants for successfully competitive proposals for development visits by U.S. Junior Scientists to Egypt; and Junior Egyptian Scientists to the United States. Applicants must be scientists who have received their PhD within the past ten years or for U.S. applicants only may also be currently enrolled in a PhD program or have received a Master's degree. Proposals considered for funding must be postmarked by October 25, 2004. All proposals, which fully meet the submission requirements, will be considered; however, special consideration will be given to proposals in the areas of Biotechnology, Standards and Metrology, Environmental Technologies, Energy, Manufacturing Technologies and Information Technology. More information on these priorities and copies of the Program Announcement/ Application may be obtained upon request.

Elizabeth Daugharty,

Acting Director, Office of Science and Technology Cooperation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and, Chair, U.S.-Egypt S&T Joint Board, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 2004-17678; Notice 2]

Ford Motor Company, Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Ford Motor Company (Ford) determined that the certification labels on certain vehicles that it produced in 1998 through 2004 do not comply with S5.3.2 of 49 CFR 571.120, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 120, "Tire selection and rims for motor vehicles other than passenger cars." Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and

30120(h), Ford has petitioned for a determination that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." Notice of receipt of the petition was published with a 30-day comment period on May 24, 2004 in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 29627). NHTSA received one comment.

A total of approximately 908,548 model year 1999 through 2003 Ford Windstar multi-purpose passenger vehicles and approximately 86,321 model year 2004 Ford Freestar and Mercury Monterey multipurpose passenger vehicles produced between August 4, 1998 and March 24, 2004 are affected. S5.3.2 of FMVSS 120 requires that each vehicle shall identify either on the certification label or on the separate tire information label "the [rim] size designation and, if applicable, the type designation of [r]ims * * *." The labeling on the affected vehicles does not include the rim size and type information required by S5.3.2.

Ford believes that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and that no corrective action is warranted. Ford states that the likelihood of an operator inadvertently installing an incorrect wheel on one of these vehicles is virtually nonexistent because the rim size and type information is marked on the wheels of the vehicle. Ford is not aware of any incidents relating to motor vehicle safety or any other evidence that this inadvertent omission of rim size and type data on the vehicle labeling has had a negative safety impact on the owners and/or operators of these vehicles.

One comment was received in response to the notice of receipt. The commenter, Barb Sachau of Florham Park, NJ, stated:

I do not think approval for any exemptions at all should be granted. Ford tires have received a lot of bad publicity. Therefore I do not think this exemption is in the public interest. I also think this is major and not "inconsequential." Why would Ford all of a sudden not have this rim information—seems very strange to me. I oppose and object to this request for an exemption.

The issue raised by the commenter related to the safety of tires on Ford vehicles. However, the petition addresses omission of information pertaining to rim size and type. The agency is not aware of any recent recalls involving rims used on Ford vehicles. The issue to be considered in determining whether to grant this petition is the effect of the noncompliance on motor vehicle safety.