

may be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Specifically address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the functions of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT (or EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Dated: December 13, 2002.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 02-31839 Filed 12-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Reports, Forms and Recordkeeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The nature of the information collection is described as well as its expected burden. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on the following collection of information was published on September 25, 2002 (67 FR 60279).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 17, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean McKeever, Associate Administrator for Shipbuilding, Maritime Administration, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-5737; FAX: 202-366-7901, or E-mail: jean.mckeever@marad.dot.gov. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Title: Capital Construction Fund and Exhibits.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0027.

Type of Request: Extension of currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Owners and operators of U.S.-flag vessels.

Form(s): None.

Abstract: This information collection consists of application for a Capital Construction Fund (CCF) agreement under Section 607 of the Merchant Marine Act, and annual submissions of appropriate schedules and exhibits. The Capital Construction Fund is a tax-deferred ship construction fund that was created to assist owners and operators of U.S.-flag vessels in accumulating the large amount of capital necessary for the modernization and expansion of the U.S. merchant marine. The program encourages construction, reconstruction, or acquisition of vessels through the deferment of Federal income taxes on certain deposits of money or other property placed into a CCF.

Annual Estimated Burden Hours: 2130 hours.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention MARAD Desk Officer.

Comments are Invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 13, 2002.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 02-31838 Filed 12-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2002-13933]

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) passenger cars are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This document announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) passenger cars that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because: (1) They are substantially similar to vehicles that were originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and that were certified by their manufacturer as complying with the safety standards, and (2) they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is January 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to the docket number and notice number, and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. [Docket hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Luke Loy, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5308).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30141(a)(1)(A), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards shall be refused 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 Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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**.

Automobile Concepts, Inc. of Miami, Florida ("AMC") (Registered Importer 01-278) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles which AMC believes are substantially similar are 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) passenger cars that were manufactured for importation into, and sale in, the United States and certified by their manufacturer as conforming to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The petitioner claims that it carefully compared non-U.S. certified 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) passenger cars to their U.S.-certified counterparts, and found the vehicles to be substantially similar with respect to compliance with most Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

AMC submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that non-U.S. certified 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) passenger cars, as originally manufactured, conform to many Federal motor vehicle safety standards 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 1996-2002 Mercedes Benz E Class (W210) passenger cars are identical to their U.S. certified counterparts with respect to compliance with Standard Nos. 102 *Transmission Shift Lever Sequence* * * *, 103 *Defrosting and Defogging Systems*, 104 *Windshield Wiping and Washing Systems*, 105 *Hydraulic Brake Systems*, 106 *Brake Hoses*, 109 *New Pneumatic Tires*, 113 *Hood Latch Systems*, 114 *Theft Protection*, 116 *Brake Fluid*, 124 *Accelerator Control Systems*, 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*, 216 *Roof Crush Resistance*, 219 *Windshield Zone Intrusion*, and 302 *Flammability of Interior Materials*.

The petitioner claims that the vehicles are exempt from the parts marking requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard at 49 CFR Part 541 because they are equipped with U.S.-model anti-theft devices that prevent the vehicles from being driven and activate the horn.

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*: (a) Inscription of the word "brake" on the dash in place of the international ECE warning symbol; (b) replacement of the speedometer with the U.S.-model component that reads in miles per hours.

Standard No. 108 *Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment*: (a) Installation of U.S.-model headlamps and front side marker lights; (b) installation of U.S.-model tail lamp assemblies which incorporate rear side marker lights; (c) installation of a U.S.-model center high mounted stop light assembly on vehicles that are not already so equipped.

Standard No. 110 *Tire Selection and Rims*: installation of a tire information placard.

Standard No. 111 *Rearview Mirror*: replacement of the passenger side rearview mirror with a U.S.-model component or inscription of the required warning statement on the surface of that mirror.

Standard No. 118 *Power Window Systems*: reprogramming of the power window system so that the windows will not operate with the ignition off.

Standard No. 201 *Occupant Protection in Interior Impact*: The petitioner contends that all components subject to this standard are identical to those on the vehicles' U.S.-certified counterparts, which have been identified by the manufacturer as meeting the upper interior head impact requirements of the standard. All vehicles will be inspected to ensure that they are equipped with the appropriate U.S.-model parts, and those parts will be installed on any vehicles that are not so equipped.

Standard No. 208 *Occupant Crash Protection*: (a) Reprogramming of the

seat belt warning buzzer; (b) inspection of all vehicles and replacement of the driver's and passenger's side air bags, control units, sensors, and seat belts with U.S.-model components on vehicles that are not already so equipped. Petitioner states that the vehicles are equipped with seat belts in front and rear outboard and the rear center designated seating positions. Petitioner further states that the vehicles are equipped with a seat belt warning lamp that is identical to the lamp installed on U.S.-certified models.

Standard No. 214 *Side Impact Protection*: inspection of all vehicles to ensure that they are equipped with door bars identical to those in the U.S. certified model and installation of those components on vehicles that are not already so equipped.

Standard No. 301 *Fuel System Integrity*: installation of a U.S.-model fuel tank, fuel level sensor, fuel vapor filter, and rollover valve.

The petitioner states that a vehicle identification plate must be affixed to the vehicles near the left windshield post and a reference and certification label must be affixed in the area of the left front door post to meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 565.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on the petition described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, DC 20590. [Docket hours are from 9 am to 5 pm]. It is requested but not required that 10 copies be submitted.

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 address 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: December 13, 2002.

Marilynne Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.
[FR Doc. 02-31880 Filed 12-17-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P