

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2003-16306) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; pages 19477-78). The statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 5, 2003.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 03-30650 Filed 12-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance from certain requirements of its safety regulations. The individual petition is described below including, the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

Union Pacific Railroad Company

[Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2003-14408]

On September 22, 2003, FRA denied a waiver request submitted by the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) seeking

a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Railroad Operating Practices regulations, 49 CFR 218, regarding blue signal protection of workers. Specifically, UP wanted authority to have train and yard crew members, and utility employees to remove and replace batteries in the two-way end-of-train telemetry device (EOT) on the train the individual has been assigned to, without establishing any blue signal protection. UP requested the same relief that was earlier granted to the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) in waiver request FRA-2001-10660. FRA denied the original request because it included utility employees from any working craft. UP is amending the original request, with regard to relief for utility employees. The new request is only for train and yard crew members and operating craft utility employees.

Both 218.25 and 218.27 requires blue signal protection when workers are on, under, or between rolling equipment on main track or other than main track. 218.5 defines worker as any railroad employee assigned to inspect, test, repair, or service railroad rolling equipment or their components, including brake systems. Members of train and yard crews are excluded, except when assigned such work on railroad rolling equipment that is not part of the train or yard movement they have been called to operate (or assigned to as "utility employees"). Utility employees assigned to and functioning as temporary members of a specific train or yard crew (subject to the conditions set forth in 218.22 of this chapter), are excluded only when so assigned and functioning. 218.22(b) states in part: A utility employee may be assigned to serve as a member of a train or yard crew without the protection otherwise required by subpart D of part 218 of this chapter only under the following conditions * * * (5) The utility employee is performing one or more of the following functions: * * * inspect, test, install remove or replace a rear marking device or end of train device. Under all other circumstances a utility employee working on, under, or between railroad rolling equipment must be provided with blue signal protection in accordance with 218.23 through 218.30 of this part.

The FRA has maintained that removing or replacing a battery in an EOT, while the device is in place on the rear of a train, requires blue signal protection since this task is a service and repair to the device. Therefore, the only way a utility employee or a train and yard crew member can legally remove or replace the EOT battery

without establishing blue signal protection, is to remove the EOT from the rear of the train and perform the battery work outside the area normally protected by the blue signal.

UP contends that safety would be improved by eliminating the need for employees to remove an EOT and place it on the ground to change the battery, then have to pick it up and re-mount it to the freight car coupler. Once again, UP requests that they be granted a waiver under conditions similar to those listed in BNSF waiver FRA-2001-10660.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2003-14408) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

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Issued in Washington, DC on December 5, 2003.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

[FR Doc. 03-30651 Filed 12-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[NHTSA-03-16121]

Insurer Reporting Requirements; Reports Under 49 U.S.C. on Section 33112(c)

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This notice announces publication by NHTSA of the annual insurer report on motor vehicle theft for the 1997 reporting year. Section 33112(c) of title 49 of the U.S. Code, requires this information to be compiled periodically and published by the agency in a form that will be helpful to the public, the law enforcement community, and Congress. As required by section 33112(c), this report provides information on theft and recovery of vehicles; rating rules and plans used by motor vehicle insurers to reduce premiums due to a reduction in motor vehicle thefts; and actions taken by insurers to assist in deterring thefts.

ADDRESSES: Due to the voluminous content of this report, interested persons may obtain a copy of this report by contacting the U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. (Docket hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Requests should refer to Docket No. 2003-16121. This report without appendices may also be viewed on-line at: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/theft>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Ms. Rosalind Proctor, Office of Planning and Consumer Standards, NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Ms. Proctor's telephone number is (202) 366-0846. Her fax number is (202) 493-2290.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Motor Vehicle Theft Law Enforcement Act of 1984 (Theft Act) was implemented to enhance detection and prosecution of motor vehicle theft (Pub. L. 98-547). The Theft Act added a new Title VI to the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act, which required the

Secretary of Transportation to issue a theft prevention standard for identifying major parts of certain high-theft lines of passenger cars. The Act also addressed several other actions to reduce motor vehicle theft, such as increased criminal penalties for those who traffic in stolen vehicles and parts, curtailment of the exportation of stolen motor vehicles and off-highway mobile equipment, establishment of penalties for dismantling vehicles for the purpose of trafficking in stolen parts, and development of ways to encourage decreases in premiums charged to consumers for motor vehicle theft insurance.

Title VI (which has since been recodified as 49 U.S.C. Chapter 331), was designed to impede the theft of motor vehicles by creating a theft prevention standard which required manufacturers of designated high-theft car lines to inscribe or affix a vehicle identification number onto major components and replacement parts of all vehicle lines selected as high theft. The theft standard became effective in Model Year 1987 for designated high-theft car lines.

The Anti Car Theft Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-519) amended the law relating to the parts-marking of major component parts on designated high-theft vehicles. One amendment made by the Anti Car Theft Act was to 49 U.S.C. 33101(10), where the definition of "passenger motor vehicle" now includes a "multipurpose passenger vehicle or light-duty truck when that vehicle or truck is rated at not more than 6,000 pounds gross vehicle weight." Since "passenger motor vehicle" was previously defined to include passenger cars only, the effect of the Anti Car Theft Act is that certain multipurpose passenger vehicle (MPV) and light-duty truck (LDT) lines may be determined to be high-theft vehicles subject to the Federal motor vehicle theft prevention standard (49 CFR part 541).

Section 33112 of title 49 requires subject insurers or designated agents to report annually to the agency on theft and recovery of vehicles, on rating rules and plans used by insurers to reduce premiums due to a reduction in motor vehicle thefts, and on actions taken by insurers to assist in deterring thefts. Rental and leasing companies also are required to provide annual theft reports to the agency. In accordance with 49 CFR 544.5, each insurer, rental and leasing company to which this regulation applies must submit a report annually not later than October 25, beginning with the calendar year for which they are required to report. The report would contain information for

the calendar year three years previous to the year in which the report is filed. The report that was due by October 25, 2000, contains the required information for the 1997 calendar year. Interested persons may obtain a copy of individual insurer reports for CY 1997 by contacting the Docket Section, NHTSA, Room 5109, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Requests should refer to Docket No. 00-001; Notice 04.

The annual insurer reports provided under section 33112 are intended to aid in implementing the Theft Act and fulfilling the Department's requirements to report to the public the results of the insurer reports. The first annual insurer report, referred to as the Section 612 Report on Motor Vehicle Theft, was prepared by the agency and issued in December 1987. The report included theft and recovery data by vehicle type, make, line, and model which were tabulated by insurance companies and, rental and leasing companies. Comprehensive premium information for each of the reporting insurance companies was also included. This report, the 13th, discloses the same subject information and follows the same reporting format.

Issued on: December 5, 2003.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 03-30693 Filed 12-10-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2003-16612]

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 2002 Ferrari 360 Spider and Coupe Passenger Cars Manufactured From September 1, 2002 Through December 31, 2002 Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 2002 Ferrari 360 Spider and Coupe passenger cars manufactured from September 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002 are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This document announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that 2002 Ferrari 360 Spider and Coupe passenger cars manufactured from September 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002 that were not originally manufactured to comply