

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

[Docket No. NHTSA-2003-14838]

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Occupant Crash Protection; Review: NCAP Test Improvements With Safety Belt Pretensioners and Load Limiters**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.**ACTION:** Request for comments on technical report and evaluation note.

SUMMARY: This notice announces NHTSA's publication of a Technical Report and an Evaluation Note reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of safety belt pretensioners and load limiters, safety devices that manufacturers can voluntarily install in vehicles. The report's title is NCAP Test Improvements with Pretensioners and Load Limiters.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than September 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: *Report:* You may obtain a copy of the report free of charge by sending a self-addressed mailing label to Communications Services (NPO-503), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. A summary of the report is available on the Internet for viewing online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/regrev/evaluate/809562.html>. The full report is available on the internet in PDF format at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/regrev/evaluate/pdf/809562.pdf>.

Comments: All comments should refer to the Docket number of this notice (NHTSA-2003-14838). You may submit your comments in writing to: U.S. Department of Transportation Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. You may also submit your comments electronically by logging onto the Dockets Management System Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help" to obtain instructions for filing the document electronically.

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) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

You may call Docket Management at 202-366-9324 and visit the Docket from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Charles J. Kahane, Chief, Evaluation Division, NPO-321, Planning, Evaluation, and Budget, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5208, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-2560. FAX: 202-366-2559. E-mail: ckahane@nhtsa.dot.gov.

For information about NHTSA's evaluations of the effectiveness of existing regulations and programs: Visit the NHTSA Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> and click "Regulations & Standards" underneath "Vehicle & Equipment Information" on the home page; then click "Regulatory Evaluation" on the "Regulations & Standards" page.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Scores on frontal New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) tests were obtained for passenger cars and light trucks which at one time did not have pretensioners and/or load limiters but later included them as standard equipment, in order to determine the effectiveness of these safety devices. The NCAP test is a 35 mph full-frontal crash into a rigid barrier, with 50th percentile male anthropomorphic dummies seated at the driver and right-front passenger positions, protected by the vehicle's safety belts. Seat belt pretensioners retract the seat belt almost instantly in a crash to remove excess slack, which helps to keep the occupant restrained. It also helps to position the occupant back and squarely in the seat, so that the air bag can more effectively deploy. Load limiters and other energy management systems allow seat belts to yield in a crash, preventing the shoulder belt from directing too much energy on the chest of the occupant. Note that load limiters are the primary, but not only, energy management method used in seat belts. Changes in NCAP scores of these vehicles were compared to those of vehicles that did not add either pretensioners or load limiters. The combination of pretensioners and load limiters is estimated to reduce (*i.e.*, improve) Head Injury Criterion (HIC) by 232, chest acceleration by an average of 6.6 g's, and chest deflection by 10.6 mm, for drivers and right front passengers. Each of these reductions is statistically significant. When looked at individually, pretensioners are more effective in reducing HIC scores for drivers and right front passengers, as

well as chest acceleration and chest deflection scores for drivers. Load limiters show greater reductions in chest acceleration and chest deflection scores for right front passengers.

How Can I Influence NHTSA's Thinking on This Evaluation?

NHTSA welcomes public review of this preliminary report and invites reviewers to submit comments about the data, the statistical methods used in the analyses, and/or additional information. NHTSA will submit to the Docket a response to the comments and, if appropriate, additional analyses that supplement the report. If the comments warrant a significant revision, then NHTSA will either add an appendix to the report or publish a revised report; otherwise, this preliminary report will serve as the final report.

How Do I Prepare and Submit Comments?

Your comments must be written and in English. To ensure that your comments are correctly filed in the Docket, please include the Docket number of this document (NHTSA-2003-14838) in your comments.

Your primary comments must not be more than 15 pages long (49 CFR 553.21). However, you may attach additional documents to your primary comments. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Please send two paper copies of your comments to Docket Management or submit them electronically. The mailing address is U.S. Department of Transportation Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. If you submit your comments electronically, log onto the Dockets Management System Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov> and click on "Help" to obtain instructions.

We also request, but do not require you to send a copy to Marie Walz, Evaluation Division, NPO-321, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5208, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 (alternatively, FAX to 202-366-2559 or e-mail to Marie.Walz@nhtsa.dot.gov). She can check if your comments have been received at the Docket and she can expedite their review by NHTSA.

How Can I Be Sure That My Comments Were Received?

If you wish Docket Management to notify you upon its receipt of your comments, enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope containing your comments. Upon receiving your comments, Docket

Management will return the postcard by mail.

How Do I Submit Confidential Business Information?

If you wish to submit any information under a claim of confidentiality, send three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Chief Counsel, NCC-110, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Include a cover letter supplying the information specified in our confidential business information regulation (49 CFR part 512).

In addition, send two copies from which you have deleted the claimed confidential business information to Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, or submit them electronically.

Will the Agency Consider Late Comments?

In our response, we will consider all comments that Docket Management receives before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above under **DATES**. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments that Docket Management receives after that date.

Please note that even after the comment closing date, we will continue to file relevant information in the Docket as it becomes available. Further, some people may submit late comments. Accordingly, we recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new material.

How Can I Read the Comments Submitted by Other People?

You may read the comments by visiting Docket Management in person at Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

You may also see the comments on the Internet by taking the following steps:

1. Go to the Docket Management System (DMS) Web page of the Department of Transportation (<http://dms.dot.gov>).
2. On that page, click on "Simple Search."
3. On the next page (<http://dms.dot.gov/search/searchFormSimple.cfm>) type in the five-digit Docket number shown at the beginning of this Notice (14838). Click on "Search."
4. On the next page, which contains Docket summary information for the Docket you selected, click on the

desired comments. You may also download the comments.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30111, 30168; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Rose A. McMurray,

Associate Administrator for Planning, Evaluation, and Budget.

[FR Doc. 03-10815 Filed 5-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34333]

Union Pacific Railroad Company— Trackage Rights Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) has agreed to grant temporary overhead trackage rights to Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) over BNSF's rail lines between BNSF milepost 141.7 near Rockview, MO, and BNSF milepost 422.2 near Jonesboro, AR, a distance of approximately 181.6 miles.¹

The parties intended to consummate the transaction on April 16, 2003; however, the earliest the transaction could have been consummated was April 21, 2003, the effective date of the exemption.² The temporary trackage rights will allow UP to facilitate maintenance work on its lines.³

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage rights will be protected by the conditions imposed in *Norfolk and Western Ry. Co.—Trackage Rights—BN*, 354 I.C.C. 605 (1978), as modified in *Mendocino Coast Ry., Inc.—Lease and Operate*, 360 I.C.C. 653 (1980).

¹ The milepost numbers do not reflect the actual length of the BNSF line segment, because the trackage includes portions of two BNSF subdivisions that have noncontiguous milepost designations.

² Under 49 CFR 1180.4(g), a railroad must file a verified notice of the transaction with the Board at least one week in advance of consummation, in order to qualify for an exemption under 49 CFR 1180.2(d). In this case, the verified notice was filed on April 14, 2003. By letter dated April 17, 2003, counsel for UP acknowledged that the transaction could not be consummated until April 21, 2003.

³ On April 14, 2003, UP concurrently filed a petition for partial revocation of the trackage rights class exemption in STB Finance Docket No. 34333 (Sub-No. 1), *Union Pacific Railroad Company—Trackage Rights Exemption—The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company*. In its petition, UP requests that the Board permit the proposed overhead trackage rights arrangement described in this notice to expire on or about May 10, 2003, when maintenance work is scheduled to be completed. The petition for partial revocation will be addressed by the Board in a separate decision.

This notice is filed under 49 CFR 1180.2(d)(7). If it contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke will not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Docket No. 34333, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on T. Christopher Lewis, 1416 Dodge Street, Room 830, Omaha, NE 68179.

Board decisions and notices are available on our Web site at <http://www.stb.dot.gov>.

Decided: April 25, 2003.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik,
Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 03-10874 Filed 5-1-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Form 1040EZ

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 1040EZ, Income Tax Return for Single and Joint Filers With No Dependents.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before July 1, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Glenn P. Kirkland, Internal Revenue Service, room 6411, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form and instructions should be directed to Carol Savage at Internal Revenue Service, room 6407, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW.,