

REGISTERED IMPORTER NEWSLETTER No. 54
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance
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Importing Canadian-Certified Vehicles Missing Required Certification Labels

To be eligible for importation under Vehicle Eligibility Numbers VSA-80, VSA-81, VSA-82, or VSA-83, a motor vehicle must be originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Canadian motor vehicle safety standards (CMVSS) and be so certified by its original manufacturer. The manufacturer's certificate of compliance is furnished in the form of a certification label permanently affixed to the vehicle in a prescribed location. In recent years, these labels have displayed the Canadian maple leaf and National Service Mark to show the vehicle's compliance with all applicable CMVSS. A photograph of the Canadian certification label must be included in the conformity package that is submitted for each Canadian-certified vehicle imported under Box 3 on the HS-7 Declaration form.

The Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance (OVSC) is seeing an increasing volume of conformity packages being submitted without the required photograph of the Canadian certification label. These packages will often include a report from a VIN checking service such as CARFAX or CARPROOF showing that the vehicle was first sold and registered in Canada as evidence that the vehicle was originally manufactured and certified to comply with all applicable CMVSS. Although NHTSA has generally accepted this in the past as evidence of compliance in lieu of a photograph of the certification label, the agency is no longer willing to follow this practice. This change in policy is influenced, in part, by the number of packages now being submitted with CARFAX or CARPROOF reports in place of photographs of certification labels. It is also influenced by reports the agency has received concerning registered importers (RIs) who are allegedly purchasing salvage and reconstructed vehicles in Canada and importing them into the United States under Box 3, despite the fact that a Box 3 entry requires the importer to declare that the vehicle is neither a salvage nor a reconstructed vehicle.

Any conformity package the agency receives after February 18, 2016 on a vehicle imported under Vehicle Eligibility Numbers VSA-81, VSA-82, VSA-83, or VSA-84 that is missing a photograph of the Canadian certification label will be returned to the submitting RI, and the RI will be charged \$59 for each such package it submits. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Johnny Gibson at 202-366-1672.