

4. Part 24 is amended by redesignating § 24.208 as § 24.209 and by adding a new § 24.208 to read as follows:

§ 24.208 Aliens not lawfully present in the United States.

(a) Each person seeking relocation payments or relocation advisory assistance shall, as a condition of eligibility, certify that he or she is either:

(1) A citizen or national of the United States, or

(2) An alien who is lawfully present in the United States.

(b) The displacing agency shall consider the certification provided pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section to be valid, unless the displacing agency determines in accordance with paragraph (d) that it is invalid based on a review of an alien's documentation or other information that the agency considers reliable and appropriate.

(c) Any review by the displacing agency of the certifications provided pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall be conducted in a nondiscriminatory fashion. Each displacing agency will apply the same standard of review to all such certifications it receives, except that such standard may be revised periodically.

(d) If, based on a review of an alien's documentation or other credible evidence, a displacing agency has reason to believe that a person's certification is invalid (for example a document reviewed does not on its face reasonably appear to be genuine), and that, as a result, such person may be an alien not lawfully present in the United States, it shall obtain the following information before making a final determination.

(1) If the agency has reason to believe that the certification of a person who has certified that he or she is an alien lawfully present in the United States is invalid, the displacing agency shall obtain verification of the alien's status from the local Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Office. A list of local INS offices was published in the **Federal Register** on November 17, 1997 at 62 FR 61350. Any request for INS verification shall include the alien's full name, date of birth and alien number, and a copy of the alien's documentation.

(2) If the agency has reason to believe that the certification of a person who has certified that he or she is a citizen or national is invalid, the displacing agency shall request evidence of United States citizenship or nationality from such person and, if considered

necessary, verify the accuracy of such evidence with the issuer.

(e) No relocation payments or relocation advisory assistance shall be provided to a person who is determined to be not lawfully present in the United States, unless such person can demonstrate to the displacing agency's satisfaction that the denial of relocation benefits will result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to such person's spouse, parent, or child who is a citizen of the United States, or is an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

(f) For purposes of paragraph (e) of this section, "exceptional and extremely unusual hardship" to such spouse, parent, or child of the person not lawfully present in the United States means that the denial of relocation payments and advisory assistance to such person will directly result in:

(1) A significant and demonstrable adverse impact on the health or safety of such spouse, parent, or child;

(2) A significant and demonstrable adverse impact on the continued existence of the family unit of which such spouse, parent, or child is a member; or

(3) Any other impact that the lead agency determines will have a significant and demonstrable adverse impact on such spouse, parent, or child.

(g) The certification referred to in paragraph (a) of this section may be included as part of the claim for relocation payments described in § 24.207.

Issued on: June 5, 1998.

Kenneth R. Wykle,

Federal Highway Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 571

[Docket No. 96-43, Notice 4]

International Regulatory Harmonization, Motor Vehicle Safety; Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Equipment

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice is to advise interested parties that the NHTSA Administrator, Dr. Ricardo Martinez, will conduct a public meeting on June 17, 1998. The meeting has several

purposes. One is to provide a brief summary of the progress of negotiations concerning the draft Agreement on Global Technical Regulations for harmonizing and developing global technical regulations that promote ever higher levels of environmental protection, safety, energy efficiency and anti-theft performance of wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or be used on wheeled vehicles. The Agreement is expected to be open for signature during the One Hundred and Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (UN/ECE/WP.29) to be held June 22-26, 1998, in Geneva, Switzerland. The other and more important purpose of the meeting is to outline and then invite discussion of possible measures that NHTSA can use for promoting effective public participation, here in the United States, and in Geneva, in the implementation of the Agreement.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 1998, at the address given below, and will begin at 4:00 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 6332-36 of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh St. SW., Washington, DC 20590.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Julie Abraham, Acting Director, Office of International Harmonization, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. Tel.: (202) 366-2114, and Fax: (202) 366-2106.

Persons planning to attend the meeting are requested to contact Ms. Julie Abraham by June 16, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 12, 1997, the Department of State authorized NHTSA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conclude an agreement under the auspices of the UN/ECE concerning the establishment of global technical regulations relating to vehicles and related equipment and parts. On March 12, 1998, the U.S., Japan and the EC reached agreement on a text which was presented to the members of WP.29 for comments and final negotiations during the June 1998 Session of WP.29. It is anticipated that the text will be finalized and officially opened for signature on June 25, 1998 by all countries that are members of the UN.

The negotiations concerning the text of the Agreement have been and will continue to be guided by principles set forth by Dr. Martinez as requirements that need to be met for the agency to become involved in any international

harmonization activity concerning vehicle safety standards. These guiding principles include advancing vehicle safety by identifying and adopting vehicle regulations that clearly reflect best practices; preserving the ability of countries that become Contracting Parties to the Agreement to adopt measures that meet their vehicle safety needs; and ensuring the creation of an open and transparent process for the consideration and establishment of global technical regulations. As a result of efforts by this agency and EPA, each of these principles is expressly recognized in the draft Agreement.

In light of the advanced stage of the negotiations concerning the Agreement, NHTSA has begun exploring issues relating to the implementation of the Agreement. In this regard, NHTSA emphasizes that the same principles that have guided the agency during the negotiations will also guide it in the implementation of the Agreement. With respect to transparency, the agency is exploring methods that would promote effective public participation in

activities relating to harmonizing and developing of global technical regulations within this agency's statutory responsibilities.

More specifically, NHTSA is considering the pre-rulemaking steps it could take in the U.S. simultaneously with the process in Geneva for establishing global technical regulations. NHTSA recognizes the need to outline plans for providing advance notice about its plans for submitting a proposal under the Agreement for a global technical regulation as well as for periodically reporting on recent developments and seeking public input regarding upcoming events in Geneva. These issues will be the subject of discussion during the meeting.

All interested persons and organizations are invited to attend the meeting. To assist interested parties in preparing for the meeting, the agency has developed a preliminary outline, shown below, of topics to be discussed at the meeting. The agency intends to conduct the meeting informally. The interactive exchange and development

of ideas among all participants during the meeting is critical to its success. NHTSA believes that an interactive discussion will aid the agency in identifying measures that would promote effective public participation in the implementation of the Agreement. The results of the meeting will aid the agency in developing a draft statement of policy to be published for public comments in the near future.

Preliminary Outline of Topics for Public Meeting

1. Brief overview of the draft Agreement on Global Technical Regulations.

2. Discussion of possible measures that NHTSA could use for promoting effective public participation in the implementation of the Agreement.

Issued on June 10, 1998.

Julie Abraham,

Acting Director, Office of International Harmonization.

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