

warning buzzer microswitch in the steering lock assembly.

Standard No. 118 *Power Window Systems*: installation of a relay in the power window system so that the window transport is inoperative when the ignition is switched off.

Standard No. 208 *Occupant Crash Protection*: (a) Installation of a safety belt warning buzzer, wired to the driver's seat belt latch; (b) Replacement of the driver's and passenger's side air bags, control units, sensors, seat belts and knee bolsters with U.S.-model components on vehicles that are not already so equipped. The petitioner states that the vehicles are equipped at the front and rear outboard seating positions with combination lap and shoulder belts that are self tensioning and capable of being released by means of a single red push-button, and with a lap belt in the rear center designated seating position.

Standard No. 214 *Side Impact Protection*: installation of U.S.-model doorbars in vehicles that are not already so equipped.

The petitioner also states that a vehicle identification plate must be affixed to the vehicle 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 565.

Additionally, the petitioner states that all vehicles will be inspected prior to importation to ensure that they have the requisite part markings to comply with the Theft Prevention Standard at 49 CFR 541.

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: October 14, 1999.

**Marilynne Jacobs,**

*Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-99-6351]

#### Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 1994-1999 Mercedes-Benz E320 Station Wagons Are Eligible for Importation

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 1994-1999 Mercedes-Benz E320 station wagons are eligible for importation.

**SUMMARY:** This document announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that 1994-1999 Mercedes-Benz E320 station wagons 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 November 19, 1999.

**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 am to 5 pm].

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** George Entwistle, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5306).

#### 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**.

J.K. Motors of Baltimore, Maryland ("J.K.") (Registered Importer 90-006) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1994-1999 Mercedes-Benz E320 station wagons are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles which J.K. believes are substantially similar are 1994-1999 Mercedes-Benz E320 station wagons 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 1994-1999 Mercedes-Benz E320 station wagons 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.

J.K. submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that non-U.S. certified 1994-1999 Mercedes-Benz E320 station wagons, 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 1994-1999 Mercedes-Benz E320 station wagons 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*, 116 *Brake Fluid*, 124 *Accelerator Control Systems*, 201 *Occupant Protection in Interior Impact*, 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 Retention, 216 Roof Crush Resistance, 219 Windshield Zone Intrusion, 301 Fuel System Integrity, and 302 Flammability of Interior Materials.*

Additionally, the petitioner states that non-U.S. certified 1994–1999 Mercedes-Benz E320 station wagons comply with the Bumper Standard found in 49 CFR part 581.

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) Substitution of a lens marked "Brake" for a lens with a noncomplying symbol on the brake failure indicator lamp; (b) replacement of the speedometer with one calibrated in miles per hour.

**Standard No. 108 Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment:** (a) Installation of U.S.-model headlamps and front sidemarker lamps; (b) installation of U.S.-model taillamp assemblies which incorporate rear sidemarker lights; (c) installation of a U.S.-model high mounted stop lamp 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.

**Standard No. 114 Theft Protection:** Installation of a warning buzzer and a warning buzzer microswitch in the steering lock assembly.

**Standard No. 118 Power Window Systems:** Installation of a relay in the power window system so that the window transport is inoperative when the ignition is switched off.

**Standard No. 208 Occupant Crash Protection:** (a) Installation of a safety belt warning buzzer, wired to the driver's seat belt latch; (b) replacement of the driver's and passenger's side air bags, control units, sensors, seat belts and knee bolsters with U.S.-model components on vehicles that are not already so equipped. The petitioner states that the vehicles are equipped at the front and rear outboard seating positions with combination lap and shoulder belts that are self tensioning and capable of being released by means of a single red push-button, and with a lap belt in the rear center designated seating position.

**Standard No. 214 Side Impact Protection:** Installation of U.S.-model doorbars in vehicles that are not already so equipped.

The petitioner also states that a vehicle identification plate must be affixed to the vehicle 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.

Additionally, the petitioner states that all vehicles will be inspected prior to importation to ensure that they are equipped with anti-theft devices that comply with the Theft Prevention Standard at 49 CFR part 541.

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: October 15, 1999.

**Marilynne Jacobs,**

*Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.*  
[FR Doc. 99-27408 Filed 10-19-99; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA-98-4029; Notice 4]

#### Pipeline Safety: Damage Prevention "Path Forward"

**AGENCY:** Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA); Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS).

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is to announce a public meeting on RSPA's continuing efforts to prevent damage to underground facilities. RSPA is facilitating the establishment of a non-profit organization to advance underground facility damage

prevention. Participation from all stakeholder organizations in the damage prevention community will be necessary to ensure the most effective forum to share information. Interested parties include excavators, facility locators, railroads, local, state and federal government agencies, and owners and operators of underground facilities, as well as the general public.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on Thursday, October 28, 1999, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel, 101 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. A block of rooms is being held for the "U.S. DOT Damage Prevention Meeting."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eben M. Wyman, (202) 366-0918, or by e-mail at eben.wyman@rspa.dot.gov, regarding the subject matter of this notice.

#### Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact Eben Wyman at the address or phone number listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** as soon as possible.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 30, 1999, RSPA held a public meeting in Washington, DC, to present to the Secretary of Transportation a report on damage prevention best practices, as required by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The "Common Ground Study" was developed by over 160 volunteers who worked for nearly a year to produce this report on best practices in damage prevention. The study identifies and evaluates existing underground damage prevention practices that are most effective in protecting the public, excavators, and the environment. These practices prevent disruptions to public services and damage to underground facilities, such as water, sewer, natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, as well as copper and fiber optic telecommunications cables and electric ductwork and cables. A major point of interest at the June 30th meeting was on the next steps to be taken in damage prevention, also referred to as the "path forward."

A key lesson of Common Ground Study was that full representation and motivated commitment from all key stakeholders is essential. To effectively develop a "path forward," we need input from the full spectrum of stakeholders to ensure that all affected