

eRulemaking Portal: go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

The petition, supporting materials, and all comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated below will be filed and will be considered. All comments and supporting materials received after the closing date will also be filed and will be considered to the extent possible. When the petition is granted or denied, notice of the decision will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

Comment closing date: November 8, 2004.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at CFR 1.50 and 501.8

Issued on: September 30, 2004.

Kenneth N. Weinstein,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 04-22621 Filed 10-7-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2004-19103; Notice 1]

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Receipt of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company (Goodyear) has determined that certain tires it produced in 2004 do not comply with S4.3(e) of 49 CFR 571.109, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 109, "New pneumatic tires." Goodyear has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports."

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), Goodyear has petitioned for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. chapter 301 on the basis that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

This notice of receipt of Goodyear's petition is published under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120 and does not represent any agency decision or other exercise of judgment concerning the merits of the petition.

A total of approximately 3,793 tires are involved. These include approximately 1,075 Kelly Charger HPT 235/45R18 tires manufactured from May 18, 2004 to May 27, 2004 and approximately 2,718 Essenza 210 Type R 235/45R18 tires manufactured from

July 15, 2004 to August 15, 2004. Paragraph S4.3 of FMVSS No. 109 requires "each tire shall have permanently molded into or onto both sidewalls * * * (e) Actual number of plies in the sidewall, and the actual number of plies in the tread area if different." The affected tires are incorrectly labeled to state that there is one nylon ply in the tread area when the actual number of nylon plies is two.

Goodyear believes that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and that no corrective action is warranted, because the mislabeling of these tires creates no unsafe condition. Goodyear states that the tires meet or exceed all applicable FMVSS performance requirements. In addition, Goodyear says that all markings related to tire service, including load capacity and corresponding inflation pressure, are correct. Goodyear has corrected the problem.

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on the petition described above. Comments must refer to the docket and notice number cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted by any of the following methods. Mail: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC. It is requested, but not required, that two copies of the comments be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Federal holidays. Comments may be submitted electronically by logging onto the Docket Management System Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help" to obtain instructions for filing the document electronically. Comments may be faxed to 1-202-493-2251, or may be submitted to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

The petition, supporting materials, and all comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated below will be filed and will be considered. All comments and supporting materials received after the closing date will also be filed and will be considered to the extent possible. When the petition is granted or denied, notice of the decision will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

Comment closing date: November 8, 2004.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at CFR 1.50 and 501.8

Issued on: September 29, 2004.

Kenneth N. Weinstein,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 04-22622 Filed 10-7-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 2004-18714; Notice 2]

Volkswagen of America, Inc., Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Volkswagen of America, Inc. (Volkswagen) has determined that label information on certain vehicles that it produced in 2003 and 2004 does not comply with S5.3 of 49 CFR 571.120, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 120, "Tire selection and rims for motor vehicles other than passenger cars." Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), Volkswagen has petitioned for a determination that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." Notice of receipt of a petition was published, with a 30-day comment period, on August 11, 2004, in the **Federal Register** (69 FR 48907). NHTSA received no comments.

A total of approximately 23,017 Volkswagen Touareg MPV vehicles produced between November 3, 2003 and July 2, 2004 are affected. S5.3 of FMVSS No. 120, "Label information," requires that the certification label or a separate tire information label shall show certain information about the tires and rims, as specified in S5.3.1 and S5.3.2. S5.3.1, "Tires," refers to "The size designation * * * and the recommended cold inflation pressure for those tires * * * ." S5.3.2, "Rims," refers to "The size designation * * * of Rims * * * appropriate for those tires." Volkswagen chose to use a separate label on the affected vehicles that does not contain the rim size markings required by S5.3.2.

Volkswagen believes that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and that no corrective action is warranted. Volkswagen stated the following:

Volkswagen believes that the lack of rim size information on any of the labels does not create a risk to motor vehicle safety because any replacement tires of equivalent size to the factory installed tires or to any factory

option tire would be compatible with the factory installed wheel rims. If an owner purchases wheel rims to replace those installed by Volkswagen, the selling dealer would be responsible for advising the owner on the compatible tire and wheel rim combination.

NHTSA agrees with Volkswagen that this noncompliance will not have an adverse effect on vehicle safety. Since the rim size and type are marked on the wheels of the vehicle, the information needed to ensure that the vehicles are equipped with the proper rims is readily available to potential users. Volkswagen has not received any owner or field complaints regarding the lack of wheel rim size information on the tire pressure information label. Volkswagen has fixed the problem.

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA has decided that the petitioner has met its burden of persuasion that the noncompliance described is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, Volkswagen's petition is granted and the petitioner is exempted from the obligation of providing notification of, and a remedy for, the noncompliance.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at CFR 1.50 and 501.8

Issued on: September 28, 2004.

Kenneth N. Weinstein,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 04-22720 Filed 10-7-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2004-19257; Notice 1]

The Spares Company, Receipt of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

The Spares Company (Spares) has determined that air brake hose assemblies it manufactured from 2000 to 2004 do not comply with S7.2.3 of 49 CFR 571.120, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 106, "Brake Hoses." Spares has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports."

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), Spares has petitioned for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301 on the basis that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

This notice of receipt of Spares' petition is published under 49 U.S.C.

30118 and 30120 and does not represent any agency decision or other exercise of judgment concerning the merits of the petition.

A total of approximately 17,000 aftermarket air brake hose assemblies produced between November 2000 and June 2004 are affected. S7.2.3 of FMVSS No. 106 requires that "each air brake hose assembly made with end fittings that are attached by crimping or swaging * * * shall be labeled by means of a band around the brake hose assembly * * * [with the DOT symbol and the name of the manufacturer] or, at the option of the manufacturer, by means of labeling [of at least one end fitting which is etched, stamped or embossed with a designation that identifies the manufacturer]." The affected brake hoses do not have the manufacturer's label or a designation of the manufacturer as required by S7.2.3.

Spares manufactured these brake hose assemblies from its incorporation date in November 2000 until June 2004, when production was stopped because Spares discovered the noncompliance.

Spares believes that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and that no corrective action is warranted. Spares explains that the units are assembled by Spares using Goodyear-labeled hoses and RB Royal-labeled fittings. Spares states that the "brake hose assemblies meet all functional performance requirements of the standard for the hose, the fittings, and the assembly and therefore will perform exactly as intended."

Spares further states that there have been no complaints from any distributor or consumer concerning the functioning of the brake hose assemblies. Spares has begun notifying all of its distributors of the labeling defect and will provide a band for each noncomplying hose currently remaining in the distributors' possession.

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on the petition described above. Comments must refer to the docket and notice number cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted by any of the following methods. Mail: Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC. It is requested, but not required, that two copies of the comments be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except

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Comment closing date: November 8, 2004.

(Authority 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at CFR 1.50 and 501.8)

Issued on: October 5, 2004.

Kenneth N. Weinstein,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 04-22722 Filed 10-7-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2003-14395]

NHTSA's Activities Under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 1998 Global Agreement

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

ACTION: Notice of activities under the 1998 Global Agreement and request for comments.

SUMMARY: NHTSA is publishing this notice to inform the public of the schedule of meetings of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and its working parties of experts for the period of October 2004 through December 2005. In addition, this notice informs the public about the status of activities under the Program of Work of the 1998 Global Agreement and requests comments on various aspects of these activities, including a proposal from the United States for the development of a global technical regulation (GTR) on head restraints. Publication of this information is in accordance with NHTSA's Statement of Policy regarding