

(4) States the time and place of a public meeting or the deadline for written submission in which the manufacturer and interested persons may present information, views, and arguments respecting the decision.

(d) A transcript of the public meeting is kept and exhibits may be offered. There is no cross-examination of witnesses.

[45 FR 10797, Feb. 19, 1980, as amended at 60 FR 17267, Apr. 5, 1995]

§ 554.11 Final decisions.

(a) The Administrator bases his final decision on the completed investigative file and on information, views, and arguments submitted at the public meeting.

(b) If the Administrator decides that a failure to comply or a safety-related defect exists, he orders the manufacturer to furnish the notification specified in 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30119 and to remedy the defect or failure to comply.

(c) If the Administrator closes an investigation following an initial determination, without making a final determination that a failure to comply or a safety-related defect exists, he or she will so notify the manufacturer and publish a notice of that closing in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(d) A statement of the Administrator's final decision and the reasons for it appears in each completed public file.

[60 FR 17268, Apr. 5, 1995]

PART 555—TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARDS

- Sec.
- 555.1 Scope.
- 555.2 Purpose.
- 555.3 Application.
- 555.4 Definitions.
- 555.5 Petition for exemption.
- 555.6 Basis for petition.
- 555.7 Processing of petitions.
- 555.8 Termination of temporary exemptions.
- 555.9 Temporary exemption labels.
- 555.10 Availability for public inspection.

AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 30113; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

SOURCE: 38 FR 2694, Jan. 29, 1973, unless otherwise noted.

§ 555.1 Scope.

This part establishes requirements for the temporary exemption, by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), of certain motor vehicles from compliance with one or more Federal motor vehicle safety standards in accordance with section 123 of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, 15 U.S.C. 1410.

§ 555.2 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to provide a means by which manufacturers of motor vehicles may obtain temporary exemptions from Federal motor vehicle safety standards on the basis of substantial economic hardship, facilitation of the development of new motor vehicle safety or low-emission engine features, or existence of an equivalent overall level of motor vehicle safety.

§ 555.3 Application.

This part applies to manufacturers of motor vehicles.

§ 555.4 Definitions.

Administrator means the National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator or his delegate.

United States means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Canal Zone, and American Samoa.

§ 555.5 Petition for exemption.

(a) A manufacturer of motor vehicles may petition the NHTSA for a temporary exemption from any Federal motor vehicle safety standard or for a renewal of any exemption on the bases of substantial economic hardship, facilitation of the development of new motor vehicle safety or low-emission engine features, or the existence of an equivalent overall level of motor vehicle safety.

(b) Each petition filed under this part for an exemption or its renewal must—

(1) Be written in the English language;

(2) Be submitted in three copies to: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590;

(3) State the full name and address of the applicant, the nature of its organization (individual, partnership, corporation, etc.) and the name of the State or country under the laws of which it is organized;

(4) State the number and title, and the text or substance of the standard or portion thereof from which the temporary exemption is sought, and the length of time desired for such exemption;

(5) Set forth the basis for the petition and the information required by § 555.6(a), (b), (c), or (d) as appropriate.

(6) Specify any part of the information and data submitted which petitioner requests be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with part 512 of this chapter.

(7) Set forth the reasons why the granting of the exemption would be in the public interest and consistent with the objectives of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

(c) The knowing and willful submission of false, fictitious or fraudulent information will subject the petitioner to the civil and criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001.

[38 FR 2694, Jan. 29, 1973, as amended at 39 FR 5489, Feb. 13, 1974; 46 FR 2063, Jan. 8, 1981]

§ 555.6 Basis for petition.

(a) If the basis of the petition is substantial economic hardship the petitioner shall provide the following information.

(1) Engineering and financial information demonstrating in detail how compliance or failure to obtain an exemption would cause substantial economic hardship, including—

(i) A list or description of each item of motor vehicle equipment that would have to be modified in order to achieve compliance;

(ii) The itemized estimated cost to modify each such item of motor vehicle equipment if compliance were to be achieved—

(A) As soon as possible,

(B) At the end of a 1-year exemption period (if the petition is for 1 year or more),

(C) At the end of a 2-year exemption period (if the petition is for 2 years or more),

(D) At the end of a 3-year exemption period (if the petition is for 3 years),

(iii) The estimated price increase per vehicle to balance the total costs incurred pursuant to paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this section and a statement of the anticipated effect of each such price increase;

(iv) Corporate balance sheets and income statements for the three fiscal years immediately preceding the filing of the application;

(v) Projected balance sheet and income statement for the fiscal year following a denial of the petition; and

(vi) A discussion of any other hardships (e.g., loss of market) that the petitioner desires the agency to consider.

(2) A description of its efforts to comply with the standards, including—

(i) A chronological analysis of such efforts showing its relationship to the rule making history of the standard from which exemption is sought;

(ii) A discussion of alternate means of compliance considered and the reasons for rejection of each;

(iii) A description of the steps to be taken, while the exemption is in effect, and the estimated date by which full compliance will be achieved either by design changes or termination of production of nonconforming vehicles; and

(iv) The total number of motor vehicles produced by or on behalf of the petitioner in the 12-month period prior to filing the petition, and the inclusive dates of the period. (Section 123 of the Act limits eligibility for exemption on the basis of economic hardship to manufacturers whose total motor vehicle production does not exceed 10,000.)

(b) If the basis of the petition is the development or field evaluation of new motor vehicle safety features, the petitioner shall provide the following information:

(1) A description of the safety features, and research, development, and testing documentation establishing the innovational nature of such features.

(2) An analysis establishing that the level of safety of the features is equivalent to or exceeds the level of safety established in the standard from which exemption is sought, including—

(i) A detailed description of how a motor vehicle equipped with the safety

features differs from one that complies with the standard;

(ii) If applicant is presently manufacturing a vehicle conforming to the standard, the results of tests conducted to substantiate certification to the standard; and

(iii) The results of tests conducted on the safety features that demonstrate performance which meets or exceeds the requirements of the standard.

(3) Substantiation that a temporary exemption would facilitate the development or field evaluation of the vehicle.

(4) A statement whether, at the end of the exemption period, the manufacturer intends to conform to the standard, apply for a further exemption, or petition for rulemaking to amend the standard to incorporate the safety features.

(5) A statement that not more than 2,500 exempted vehicles will be sold in the United States in any 12-month period for which an exemption may be granted pursuant to this paragraph. A petition for renewal of such an exemption shall also include the total number of exempted vehicles sold in the United States under the existing exemption.

(c) If the basis of the petition is the development or field evaluation of a low-emission motor vehicle, the petitioner shall provide—

(1) Substantiation that the motor vehicle is a low-emission vehicle as defined by section 123(g) of the Act.

(2) Research, development, and testing documentation establishing that a temporary exemption would not unreasonably degrade the safety of the vehicle, including—

(i) A detailed description of how the motor vehicle equipped with the low-emission engine would, if exempted, differ from one that complies with the standard;

(ii) If applicant is presently manufacturing a vehicle conforming to the standard, the results of tests conducted to substantiate certification to the standard;

(iii) The results of any tests conducted on the vehicle that demonstrate its failure to meet the standard, expressed as comparative performance levels; and

(iv) Reasons why the failure to meet the standard does not unreasonably degrade the safety of the vehicle.

(3) Substantiation that a temporary exemption would facilitate the development or field evaluation of the vehicle.

(4) A statement whether, at the end of the exemption period, the manufacturer intends to conform with the standard.

(5) A statement that not more than 2,500 exempted vehicles will be sold in the United States in any 12-month period for which an exemption may be granted pursuant to this paragraph. A petition for renewal of an exemption shall also include the total number of exempted vehicles sold in the United States under the existing exemption.

(d) If the basis of the petition is that the petitioner is otherwise unable to sell a motor vehicle whose overall level of safety is equivalent to or exceeds the overall level of safety of nonexempted motor vehicles, the petitioner shall provide—

(1) A detailed analysis of how the vehicle provides an overall level of safety equivalent to or exceeding the overall safety of nonexempted vehicles, including—

(i) A detailed description of how the motor vehicle, if exempted, differs from one that conforms to the standard;

(ii) A detailed description of any safety features that the motor vehicle offers as standard equipment that are not required by the Federal motor vehicle safety standards;

(iii) The results of any tests conducted on the vehicle demonstrating that it fails to meet the standard, expressed as comparative performance levels;

(iv) The results of any tests conducted on the vehicle demonstrating that its overall level of safety exceeds that which is achieved by conformity to the standards.

(v) Other arguments that the overall level of safety of the vehicle equals or exceeds the level of safety of nonexempted vehicles.

(2) Substantiation that compliance would prevent the sale of the vehicle.

(3) A statement whether, at the end of the exemption period, the manufacturer intends to comply with the standard.

(4) A statement that not more than 2,500 exempted vehicles will be sold in the United States in any 12-month period for which an exemption may be granted pursuant to this paragraph. A petition for renewal of any exemption shall also include the total number of exempted vehicles sold in the United States under the existing exemption.

[38 FR 2694, Jan. 29, 1973, as amended at 39 FR 5489, Feb. 13, 1974]

§555.7 Processing of petitions.

(a) The NHTSA publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER, affording opportunity for comment, a notice of each petition containing the information required by this part. However, if the NHTSA finds that a petition does not contain the information required by this part, it so informs the petitioner, pointing out the areas of insufficiency and stating that the petition will not receive further consideration until the required information is submitted.

(b) No public hearing, argument, or other formal proceeding is held directly on a petition filed under this part before its disposition under this section.

(c) Any interested person may, upon written request, appear informally before an appropriate official of the NHTSA to discuss a petition for exemption or the action taken in response to a petition.

(d) If the Administrator determines that the petition does not contain adequate justification, he denies it and notifies the petitioner in writing. He also publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of the denial and the reasons for it.

(e) If the Administrator determines that the petition contains adequate justification, he grants it, and notifies the petitioner in writing. He also publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of the grant and the reasons for it.

(f) Unless a later effective date is specified in the notice of the grant, a temporary exemption is effective upon publication of the notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER and exempts vehicles

manufactured on and after the effective date.

[38 FR 2694, Jan. 29, 1973, as amended at 39 FR 5489, Feb. 13, 1974; 39 FR 37988, Oct. 25, 1974]

§555.8 Termination of temporary exemptions.

(a) A temporary exemption from a standard granted on the basis of substantial economic hardship terminates according to its terms but not later than 3 years after the date of issuance unless terminated sooner pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) A temporary exemption from a standard granted on a basis other than substantial economic hardship terminates according to its terms but not later than 2 years after the date of issuance unless terminated sooner pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section.

(c) Any interested person may petition for the termination or modification of an exemption granted under this part. The petition will be processed in accordance with the procedures of part 552 of this chapter.

(d) The Administrator terminates or modifies a temporary exemption if he determines that—

(1) The temporary exemption is no longer consistent with the public interest and the objectives of the Act; or

(2) The temporary exemption was granted on the basis of false, fraudulent, or misleading representations or information.

(e) If a petition for renewal of a temporary exemption that meets the requirements of §555.5 has been filed not later than 60 days before the termination date of an exemption, the exemption does not terminate until the Administrator grants or denies the petition for renewal.

(f) The Administrator publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of:

(1) A petition for termination or modification of an exemption and the action taken in response to it; and

(2) Any termination or modification of an exemption pursuant to the Administrator's own motion.

[38 FR 2694, Jan. 29, 1973, as amended at 39 FR 37989, Oct. 25, 1974; 40 FR 42015, Sept. 10, 1975]

§ 555.9 Temporary exemption labels.

A manufacturer of an exempted vehicle shall—

(a) Submit to the Administrator, within 30 days after receiving notification of the grant of an exemption, a sample of the certification label required by part 567 of this chapter and paragraph (c) of this section;

(b) Affix securely to the windshield or side window of each exempted vehicle a label in the English language containing the statement required by paragraph (c)(1) or (2) of this section, and with the words “Shown above” omitted.

(c) Meet all applicable requirements of part 567 of this chapter, except that—

(1) The statement required by § 567.4(g)(5) of this chapter shall end with the phrase “except for Standards Nos. [listing the standards by number and title for which an exemption has been granted] exempted pursuant to NHTSA Exemption No. _____.”

(2) Instead of the statement required by § 567.5(c)(7)(iii), the following statement shall appear:

THIS VEHICLE CONFORMS TO ALL APPLICABLE FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY (AND BUMPER) STANDARDS IN EFFECT IN [Month, Year] EXCEPT FOR STANDARD NOS. [Listing the standards by number and title for which an exemption has been granted] EXEMPTED PURSUANT TO NHTSA EXEMPTION NO. _____.

(Secs. 114, 119, Pub. L. 89-563, 80 Stat. 718 (15 U.S.C. 1403, 1408); sec. 3, Pub. L. 92-548, 86 Stat. 1159 (15 U.S.C. 1410); secs. 102, 105, Pub. L. 92-513, 86 Stat. 947 (15 U.S.C. 1912, 1915); delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8)

[38 FR 2694, Jan. 29, 1973, as amended at 50 FR 10772, Mar. 18, 1985; 60 FR 1750, Jan. 5, 1995]

§ 555.10 Availability for public inspection.

(a) Information relevant to a petition under this part, including the petition and supporting data, memoranda of informal meetings with the petitioner or any other interested person, and the grant or denial of the petition, is available for public inspection, except as specified in paragraph (b) of this section, in the Docket Section, Room 5109,

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. Copies of available information may be obtained, as provided in Part 7 of the regulations of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (49 CFR part 7).

(b) Except for the release of confidential information authorized by part 512 of this chapter, information made available for inspection under paragraph (a) shall not include materials not relevant to the petition for which confidentiality is requested and granted in accordance with sections 112, 113, and 158 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 1401, 1402, and 1418) and section 552(b) of title 5 of the U.S.C.).

[38 FR 2694, Jan. 29, 1973, as amended at 46 FR 2064, Jan. 8, 1981; 48 FR 44081, Sept. 27, 1983]

PART 556—EXEMPTION FOR INCONSEQUENTIAL DEFECT OR NONCOMPLIANCE

- Sec.
- 556.1 Scope.
- 556.2 Purpose.
- 556.3 Application.
- 556.4 Petition for exemption.
- 556.5 Processing of petition.
- 556.6 Meetings.
- 556.7 Disposition of petition.
- 556.8 Rescission of decision.
- 556.9 Public inspection of relevant information.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 157, Pub. L. 93-492, 88 Stat. 1470 (15 U.S.C. 1417); delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

SOURCE: 42 FR 7145, Feb. 7, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

§ 556.1 Scope.

This part sets forth procedures, pursuant to section 157 of the Act, for exempting manufacturers of motor vehicles and replacement equipment from the Act's notice and remedy requirements when a defect or noncompliance is determined to be inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

§ 556.2 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to enable manufacturers of motor vehicles and replacement equipment to petition the NHTSA for exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of the Act due to the inconsequentiality of