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official notice upon motion of any party or upon its own initiative. The record shall reflect the facts and conclusions which have been officially noticed.

(3) *Opportunity to challenge*. Any party may upon application in writing rebut officially noticed facts and conclusions by supplementing the record. The Presiding Officer shall determine the permissible extent of this challenge; that is, whether to limit the party to presentation of written materials, whether to allow presentation of testimony, whether to allow cross-examination, or whether to allow oral argument. The Presiding Officer shall grant or deny the application on the record.

(f) *Objections and exceptions*. Objections to evidence shall be timely interposed, shall appear on the record, and shall contain the grounds upon which they are based. Rulings on all objections, and the bases therefore, shall appear on the record. Formal exception to an adverse ruling is not required to preserve the question for appeal.

(g) *Offer of proof*. When an objection to proffered testimony or documentary evidence is sustained, the sponsoring party may make a specific offer, either in writing or orally, of what the party expects to prove by the testimony or the document. When an offer of proof is made, any other party may make a specific offer, either in writing or orally, of what the party expects to present to rebut or contradict the offer of proof. Written offers of proof or of rebuttal, adequately marked for identification, shall accompany the record and be available for consideration by any reviewing authority.

§ 511.44 Expert witnesses.

(a) *Definition*. An expert witness is one who, by reason of education, training, experience, or profession, has peculiar knowlege concerning the matter of science or skill to which his or her testimony relates and from which he or she may draw inferences based upon hypothetically stated facts or from facts involving scientific or technical knowledge.

(b) *Method of presenting testimony of expert witness*. Except as may be otherwise ordered by the Presiding Officer, a detailed written statement of the elements of the direct testimony of an expert witness shall be filed on the record and exchanged between the parties no later than 10 days preceding the commencement of the hearing. The statement must contain a full explanation of the methodology underlying any analysis, and a full disclosure of the basis of any opinion. The direct testimony of an expert witness shall not include points not contained in the written statement. A party may waive direct examination of an expert witness by indicating that the written statement be considered the testimony of the witness. In such a case, the written testimony shall be incorporated into the record and shall constitute the testimony of the witness.

(c) *Cross-examination and redirect examination of expert witness*. Cross-examination, redirect examination, and recross-examination of an expert witness will proceed in due course based upon the written testimony and any amplifying oral testimony.

(d) *Failure to file and/or to exchange written statement*. Failure to file and/or to exchange the written statement of an expert witness as provided in this section shall deprive the sponsoring party of the use of the expert witness and of the conclusions which that witness would have presented.

§ 511.45 In camera materials.

(a) *Definition*. *In camera* materials are documents, testimony, or other data which by order of the Presiding Officer or the Administrator, as appropriate under this part, are kept confidential and excluded from the public record. Only materials exempt under the Freedom of Information Act may be kept confidential and excluded from the public record. Pursuant to 49 CFR part 512, the Chief Counsel of the NHTSA is responsible for determining whether an alleged confidential business record is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. The right of the Presiding Officer, the Administrator and reviewing courts to order disclosure of *in camera* materials is specifically reserved.

(b) *In camera treatment of documents and testimony*. The Presiding Officer or the Administrator, as appropriate under this part, shall have authority,

when good cause is found on the record, to order documents or testimony offered in evidence, whether admitted or rejected, to be received and preserved *in camera*. The order shall specify the length of time for *in camera* treatment and shall include:

(1) A description of the documents and/or testimony;

(2) The reasons for granting *in camera* treatment for the specified length of time.

(c) *Access and disclosure to parties*. (1) The Administrator and Presiding Officer, and their immediate advisory staffs shall have complete access to all *in camera* materials. All other parties shall also have complete access to all *in camera* materials, except that these parties may seek access only in accordance with paragraph (c)(2) of this section when:

(i) The *in camera* materials consist of information obtained by the government from persons not parties to the proceeding; or

(ii) The *in camera* materials consist of information provided by one of the parties to the proceeding which is confidential as to the other parties to the proceeding.

(2) Any party desiring access to and/or disclosure of the *in camera* materials specified in paragraph (c)(1) (i) and (ii) of this section for the preparation and presentation of that party's case shall make a motion which sets forth the justification therefor. The Presiding Officer or the Administrator, as appropriate under this part, may grant such motion on the record for substantial good cause shown and shall enter a protective order prohibiting unnecessary disclosure and requiring other necessary safeguards. The Presiding Officer or the Administrator, as appropriate, may examine the *in camera* materials and excise portions thereof before disclosing the materials to the moving party.

(d) *Segregation of* in camera *materials*. *In camera* materials shall be segregated from the public record and protected from public view.

(e) *Public release of* in camera *materials*. *In camera* materials constitute a part of the confidential records of the NHTSA and shall not be released to the public until the expiration of *in camera* treatment.

(f) *Reference to* in camera *materials*. In the submission of proposed findings, conclusions, briefs, or other documents, all parties shall refrain from disclosing specific details of *in camera* materials. Such refraining shall not preclude general references to such materials. To the extent that parties consider it necessary to include specific details of *in camera* materials, the references shall be incorporated into separate proposed findings, briefs, or other documents marked ''CONFIDENTIAL, CONTAINS *IN CAMERA* MATERIAL,'' which shall be placed *in camera* and become part of the *in camera* record. These documents shall be served only on parties accorded access to the *in camera* materials in accordance with paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

§ 511.46 Proposed findings, conclusions, and order.

Within a reasonable time after the closing of the record and receipt of the transcript, all parties and participants may, simultaneously, file post-hearing briefs, including proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and a proposed order, together with reasons therefore. The Presiding Officer shall establish a date certain for the filing of the briefs, which shall not exceed 45 days after the close of the record except in unusual circumstances. The briefs shall be in writing, shall be served upon all parties, and shall contain adequate references to the record and authorities relied on. Replies shall be filed within fifteen (15) days of the date for the filing of briefs unless otherwise established by the Presiding Officer. The parties and participants may waive either or both submissions.

§ 511.47 Record.

(a) *Reporting and transcription*. Hearings shall be recorded and transcribed under the supervision of the Presiding Officer by a reporter appointed by the Administrator. The original transcript shall be a part of the record and the official transcript. Copies of transcripts are available from the reporter at a cost not to exceed the maximum rates fixed by contract between the NHTSA and the reporter.