

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**.

Champagne Imports of Lansdale, Pennsylvania ("Champagne") (Registered Importer 90-009) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1976-1985 Rolls Royce Corniche passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles which Champagne believes are substantially similar are 1976-1985 Rolls Royce Corniche passenger cars 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 1976-1985 Rolls Royce Corniche passenger cars 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.

Champagne submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that non-U.S. certified 1976-1985 Rolls Royce Corniche passenger cars, 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 1976-1985 Rolls Royce Corniche passenger cars are identical to their U.S. certified counterparts with respect to compliance with Standards Nos. 102 *Transmission Shift Lever Sequence*, 103 *Defrosting and Defogging Systems*, 104 *Windshield Wiping and Washing Systems*, 105 *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*, 203 *Impact Protection for the Driver from the Steering Control System*, 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 Anchorage*, 212 *Windshield Retention*, 216 *Roof Crush Resistance*, 219 *Windshield Zone Intrusion*, and 302 *Flammability of Interior Materials*.

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) installation of a seat belt warning lamp that displays the appropriate symbol; (c) recalibration of the speedometer/odometer from kilometers to miles per hour.

Standard No. 108 *Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment*: (a) installation of U.S.-model headlamp assemblies that incorporate headlamps with DOT markings; (b) installation of U.S.-model front and rear sidemarker/reflector assemblies; (c) installation of U.S.-model taillamp assemblies.

Standard No. 110 *Tire Selection and Rims*: installation of a tire information placard.

Standard No. 111 *Rearview Mirror*: replacement of the convex passenger side rearview mirror.

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

Standard No. 118 *Power Window Systems*: rewiring of 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 U.S.-model seat belt in the driver's position, or a belt webbing-actuated microswitch inside the driver's seat belt retractor; (b) installation of an ignition switch-actuated seat belt warning lamp and buzzer. The petitioner states that the vehicles are equipped with combination lap and shoulder restraints that adjust by means of an automatic retractor and release by means of a single push button at both front designated seating positions, and with lap belts at both rear outboard and rear center designated seating positions.

Standard No. 214 *Side Impact Protection*: installation of reinforcing beams.

Standard No. 301 *Fuel System Integrity*: installation of a rollover valve in the fuel tank vent line between the fuel tank and the evaporative emissions collection canister.

Additionally, the petitioner states that the bumpers on the non-U.S. certified

1976-1985 Rolls Royce Corniche passenger cars must be reinforced or U.S.-model bumper components must be installed to comply with the Bumper Standard found in 49 CFR Part 581.

The petitioner also states that a vehicle identification number plate must be affixed to the vehicle to meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 565.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on the petition described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5109, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. 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: April 5, 2000.

Marilynne Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.
[FR Doc. 00-8742 Filed 4-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

Office of Hazardous Materials Safety; Notice of Delays in Processing of Exemption Applications

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: List of applications delayed more than 180 days.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5117(c), RSPA is publishing the following list of exemption applications that have been in process for 180 days or more. The reason(s) for delay and the expected completion date for action on each application is provided in association with each identified application.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: J. Suzanne Hedgepeth, Director, Office of Hazardous Materials, Exemptions and Approvals, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S.

Department of Transportation, 400
Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC
20590-0001, (202) 366-4535

Key to "Reasons for Delay"

1. Awaiting additional information
from applicant.

2. Extensive public comment under
review.

3. Application is technically complex
and is of significant impact or
precedent-setting and requires extensive
analysis.

4. Staff review delayed by other
priority issues or volume of exemption
applications.

Meaning of Application Number
Suffixes.

N—New application
M—Modification request
PM—Party to application with
modification request

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 4,
2000.

J. Suzanne Hedgepeth,
*Director, Office of Hazardous Materials
Exemptions and Approvals.*

NEW EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS

Application No.	Applicant	Reason for delay	Estimated date of completion
11767-N	Ausimont USA, Inc., Thorofare, NJ	1	05/31/2000
11862-N	The BOC Group, Murray Hill, NJ	4	05/31/2000
11927-N	Alaska Marine Lines, Inc., Seattle, WA	4	05/31/2000
12106-N	Air Liquide America Corporation, Houston, TX	4	05/31/2000
12125-N	Mayo Foundation, Rochester, MN	4	05/31/2000
12142-N	Aristech Chemical Corp., Pittsburgh, PA	4	05/31/2000
12146-N	Luxfer Gas Cylinders, Riverside, CA	1	04/28/2000
12148-N	Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, NY	4	05/31/2000
12158-N	Hickson Corporation, Conley, GA	4	05/31/2000
12181-N	Aristech, Pittsburgh, PA	4	05/31/2000
12205-N	Independent Chemical Corp., Glendale, NY	4	04/28/2000
12248-N	Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corp., High Point, NC	4	04/28/2000
12277-N	The Indian Sugar & General Engineering Corp. ISGE, Haryana, IX	1	04/28/2000
12280-N	Combined Tactical Systems, Inc., Jamestown, PA	4	04/28/2000
12281-N	ABS Group, Inc., Houston, TX	4	04/28/2000
12290-N	Savage Industries, Inc., Pottstown, PA	4	04/28/2000
12292-N	Westway Trading Corporation, New Orleans, LA	4	04/28/2000
12293-N	Intercontinental Packaging Corp., Tuckahoe, NY	4	04/28/2000
12297-N	Applied Companies, Valencia, CA	1	05/31/2000
12301-N	Niklor Chemical Co., Long Beach, CA	4	04/28/2000
12307-N	Kern County Dept. of Weights & Measures, Bakersfield, CA	4	05/31/2000
12316-N	The Dow Chemical Co., Channahon, IL	4	04/28/2000
12325-N	Lifeline Technologies, Inc., Sharon Hill, PA	4	04/28/2000
12332-N	Automotive Occupant Restraints Council, Lexington, KY	4	04/28/2000
12333-N	BFI, Atlanta, GA	4	04/28/2000
12338-N	Aeronex, Inc., San Diego, CA	4	04/28/2000
12339-N	BOC Gases, Murray Hill, NJ	4	04/28/2000
12341-N	Space Systems/Loral, Palo Alto, CA	4	06/30/2000
12343-N	City Machine & Welding, Inc. of Amarillo, Amarillo, TX	1	04/28/2000
12350-N	BAC Technologies, Ltd., West Liberty, OH	4	04/28/2000
12351-N	Nalco/Exxon Energy Chemicals, L.P., Freeport, TX	4	05/31/2000
12353-N	Monson Companies, South Portland, ME	4	05/31/2000
12355-N	Union Tank Car Company, East Chicago, IN	4	05/31/2000
12356-N	Memorial Healthcare System, Pembroke Pines, FL	4	05/31/2000
12359-N	Reilly Industries, Inc., Indianapolis, IN	4	04/28/2000
6611-M	Gardner Cryogenics, Lehigh Valley, PA	1	05/31/2000
6765-M	Gardner Cryogenics, Lehigh Valley, PA	1	05/31/2000
7277-M	Structural Composites Industries, Pomona, CA	4	05/31/2000
8308-M	Tradewind Enterprises, Inc., Hillsboro, OR	4	05/31/2000
8556-M	Gardner Cryogenics, Lehigh Valley, PA	4	04/28/2000
9266-M	ERMEWA, Inc., Houston, TX	4	05/31/2000
10480-M	Gardner Cryogenics, Lehigh Valley, PA	1	05/31/2000
10656-M	Conf. of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc., Frankfort, KY	4	05/31/2000
10672-M	Burlington Packaging, Inc., Brooklyn, NY	4	05/31/2000
10821-M	BFI Waste Systems of North America, Inc., Atlanta, GA	4	05/31/2000
10921-M	The Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH	1	05/31/2000
10962-M	International Compliance Center, Mississauga ON L4Z 1X8, CA	4	05/31/2000
10977-M	Federal Industries Corporation, Plymouth, MN	4	05/31/2000
10987-M	Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Allentown, PA	4	04/28/2000
11186-M	Cryenco, Inc., Denver, CO	4	05/31/2000
11248-M	HAZMATPAC, Houston, TX	4	05/31/2000
11327-M	Phoenix Services Limited Partnership, Pasadena, MD	4	05/31/2000
11406-M	Conf. of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc., Frankfort, KY	4	04/28/2000
11537-M	JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc., Milford, VA	4	05/31/2000
11749-M	Union Tank Car Company, East Chicago, IN	4	05/31/2000
11769-M	Great Western Chemical Company, Portland, OR	4	05/31/2000
11769-M	Great Western Chemical Company, Portland, OR	4	04/28/2000
11769-M	Hydrite Chemical Company, Brookfield, WI	4	05/31/2000
11798-M	Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., Allentown, PA	1,4	05/31/2000

NEW EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS—Continued

Application No.	Applicant	Reason for delay	Estimated date of completion
11903-M	Comptank Corporation, Bothwell, Ontario, CA	4	04/28/2000
12074-M	Van Hool NV, B-2500 Lier Koningshooikt, BG	1	04/28/2000
12178-M	STC Technologies, Inc., Bethlehem, PA	1	04/28/2000

[FR Doc. 00-8729 Filed 4-7-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-M

TRADE DEFICIT REVIEW COMMISSION

Notice of Open Public Hearing

AGENCY: U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

ACTION: Notice of open public hearing.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following hearing of the U. S. Trade Deficit Review Commission.

Name: Murray Weidenbaum, Chairman of the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission

The Commission is mandated to report to the Congress and the President on the causes, consequences, and solutions to the U. S. trade deficit. The purpose of this public hearing is to take testimony on (1) agricultural trade: its importance, opportunities, obstacles, and challenges for U.S. farmers and rural communities as well as its impacts; (2) U.S.-Canada trade issues; and (3) international trade for small businesses in the United States: its importance, opportunities, challenges and impacts. Witnesses will also be invited to propose policy changes.

Confirmed witnesses include Governor Mel Carnahan of Missouri and Governor Bill Graves of Kansas; Dr. Thomas M. Hoenig, President, and Dr. Alan Barkema, Vice President, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City; Leland Swenson, President of the National Farmers Union; Daniel Amstutz, President of the North American Export Grain Association; Roger Johnson, North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner; Professors Neil Harl and Dermot Hayes, Iowa State University; Professor Susan Feinberg, University of Maryland; and Professor Peter K. Kresl, Bucknell University.

Background

In fulfilling its statutory mission, the Commission is holding field hearings to collect input from industry and labor leaders, government officials, leading researchers, other informed witnesses, and the public. The Commission has already held hearings in Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle,

Dallas, and New York on various aspects of our trade relations. Information on these hearings can be obtained from the USTDRC website www.ustdrc.gov.

Professor Murray Wiedenbaum of Washington University, St. Louis, who is a former Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, chairs the Commission. The Vice Chairman is Professor Dimitri Papadimitriou, President of The Jerome Levy Economics Institute at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. The Kansas City, MO, hearing will be chaired by Commissioner Wayne D. Angell, Chief Economist and Senior Managing Director of Bear Stearns & Co., Inc., who is a former Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors at the Federal Reserve.

Purpose of Hearing

In light of the ongoing massive trade and current account deficits incurred by the United States, progress in improving U.S. exporters' access to foreign markets is critically important. The failure of the WTO Ministerial in Seattle to come up with a negotiating agenda for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations highlights how the consensus on reducing barriers to trade has fractured. Rebuilding the consensus on trade issues in the United States is of critical importance in addressing the large U. S. trade deficits. The work of the Commission, by analyzing the U.S. trade deficits in a non-partisan manner with the input of leading experts, will provide a reasoned and informed answer on how to respond to the trade deficit and its consequences. The findings of the Commission, while not binding, will likely form the basis for Congressional consensus building on trade policy as we enter the new century.

There will be two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, for presentations by invited witnesses on their views on the interrelationship between the trade deficit and the topics of the hearing. There will be a question and answer period between the Commissioners and the witnesses. Public participation is invited and there will be an open-mike session for public

comment at the conclusion of the afternoon session. Sign-up for the open-mike session will take place in the afternoon and will be on a first come first served basis. Each individual or group making an oral presentation will be limited to a total time of 3 minutes. Because of time constraints, parties with common interests are encouraged to designate a single speaker to represent their views.

DATES AND TIMES: Wednesday, April 26, 2000, 9:00 AM–5:30 PM Central Standard Time inclusive.

ADDRESSES: The hearing will be held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, located at 925 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, Missouri 64198. Public seating is limited to approximately 50 seats and will be on a first come first served basis. Commercial public parking lots are available within the vicinity of the Bank.

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS: The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City is a secure facility and everyone must abide by security procedures. Everyone entering the facility is required to have a picture identification.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the hearing or who wishes to submit oral or written comments should contact Kathy Michels, Administrative Officer for the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 706, Washington, DC 20001; phone 202/624-1409; or via e-mail at: kmichels@ssso.org.

PROVIDING ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMENTS

AT THE KANSAS CITY HEARING: Copies of the draft meeting agenda, when available, may be obtained from the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission by going to the Commission's website at www.ustdrc.gov. The Commission requests that written public statements submitted for the record be brief and concise and limited to two pages in length. Written comments (at least 35 copies) must be received at the USTDRC Headquarters Office in Washington, DC by April 17, 2000. Comments received too close to the hearing date will normally be provided to the Commission Members at its hearing.