

litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this rule under E.O. 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Environment

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this rule and concluded that under figure 2-1, paragraph (32)(e) of Commandant Instruction M16475.1C, this rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation because promulgation of changes to drawbridge regulations have been found to not have a significant effect on the environment. A "Categorical Exclusion Determination" is available in the docket for inspection or copying where indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 117

Bridges.

Regulations

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 117 as follows:

PART 117—DRAWBRIDGE OPERATION REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 117 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 499; 49 CFR 1.46; 33 CFR 1.05-1(g); section 117.255 also issued under the authority of Pub. L. 102-587, 106 Stat. 5039.

§ 117.617 [REMOVED]

2. Section 117.617 is removed.

Dated: January 25, 2000.

R.M. Larrabee,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, First Coast Guard District.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans

CFR Correction

In Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 52 (§§ 52.01 to 52.1018), revised as of July 1, 1999, page

533, § 52.820 is corrected by adding the effective date note following the source note as follows:

§ 52.820 Identification of plan.

* * * * *

Effective Date Note: At 64 FR 25827, May 13, 1999, § 52.820, paragraph (c) was amended by revising the entries for "567-20.2" in Chapter 20, "567-22.1, 567-22.203, and 567-22.300" in Chapter 22, "567-23.1" in Chapter 23, "567-25.1" in Chapter 25, and "567-28.1" in Chapter 28, effective July 12, 1999. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

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[FR Doc. 00-55502 Filed 2-8-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 571

Docket No. NHTSA 2000-6740

RIN 2127-AH64

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Hydraulic and Electric Brake Systems; Passenger Car Brake Systems

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

ACTION: Response to petitions for reconsideration; final rule.

SUMMARY: This document responds to two petitions for reconsideration of amendments we made in September 1997 to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards Nos. 105 and 135 specifying requirements for brake systems on electric vehicles (EV). In response to the petition by Hydro-Quebec of Canada, we are allowing the use, under certain conditions, of a regenerative braking system (RBS) for EV testing in accordance with S7.7 of Standard No. 135. This action is taken to facilitate new technology in the braking system of an EV. We are not amending Standard Nos. 105 and 135 in response to the petition for reconsideration by Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc. Amending the Standards as requested by Toyota may degrade the safety of EVs by reducing the stringency of the thermal tests.

DATES: The final rule is effective March 27, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Samuel Daniel, Vehicle Dynamics Division, Office of Vehicle Safety Standards, NHTSA (phone: 202-366-4921).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Contents

- I. Background
- II. Petitions for Reconsideration
 - A. HQ's Petition for Reconsideration
 - 1. The Petition
 - 2. Design of HQ's EV Brake System
 - 3. Amendments Recommended by HQ
 - 4. Conclusions
 - B. Toyota's Petition for Reconsideration
 - 1. The Petition
 - 2. Comparison of Thermal Tests in FMVSS No. 135 and ECE R13-H
 - 3. Amendments Recommended by Toyota
 - 4. Conclusions
- III. Additional Amendments—RBS Malfunction Indicator Lamp

I. Background

On September 5, 1997, we amended Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) Nos. 105, Hydraulic Brake Systems, and 135, Passenger Car Brake Systems to accommodate EV brake systems. See 62 FR 46907 for full background information on this rule.

Electrically-powered vehicles have unique performance characteristics that do not permit them to be tested for braking performance in the same way that other light-duty vehicles are tested. For example, because of the limited range of EVs and the extensive travel distance specified in several Federal brake test series, we established procedures for re-charging or replacing the propulsion batteries during testing. Most EVs have a feature called a "regenerative braking system" (RBS) designed to extend the range of the vehicle by as much as 10 to 20 percent through conversion of vehicle kinetic energy into electrical energy when the vehicle is being decelerated. When operating, the RBS provides a vehicle deceleration, or braking force. The September 1997 amendments also established procedures for testing EV braking systems and EVs equipped with RBS.

We received two petitions for reconsideration of the final rule, from Hydro-Quebec of Canada (HQ), and from Toyota Motor Sales Corporation USA Inc. (Toyota).

II. Petitions for Reconsideration

A. HQ's Petition for Reconsideration

1. *The petition.* HQ commented that S7.7.3(h) of FMVSS No. 135, which specifies that an EV with an RBS be tested with the RBS inoperative during the S7.7 Stops with Engine Off tests, is inconsistent with other parts of FMVSS No. 135. Specifically, the stopping distance performance requirements of S7.5, Cold Effectiveness and S7.7, Stops with Engine Off, are identical; each test requires that the vehicle be stopped from 100 km/h (62 mph) within a distance of 70 m (230 ft.). However, the