

top of the child restraint in a 30-mph dynamic test. (This document refers to these limits as the head excursion limits.) The head excursion limits are set forth in S5.1.3.2 of FMVSS No. 213, as follows:

S5.1.3.2. Rear-facing child restraint systems. In the case of each rear-facing child restraint system, all portions of the test dummy's torso shall be retained within the system and neither of the target points on either side of the dummy's head and on the transverse axis passing through the center of mass of the dummy's head and perpendicular to the head's midsagittal plane, shall pass through the transverse orthogonal planes whose intersection contains the forward-most and top-most points on the child restraint system surfaces.

The standard permits manufacturers to recommend rear-facing child restraints for children weighing more than 10 kg (22 lb). However, in making its certification of compliance with the standard, a manufacturer must ensure that the restraint meets the requirements of FMVSS No. 213 when tested with the appropriate test dummy (i.e., in the case at hand, the 3-year-old dummy). The test procedure incorporating the dummy has been determined to be a reliable and repeatable method for objectively determining a system's performance in an actual crash. The test procedure meets the need for motor vehicle safety by ensuring that rear-facing child restraints are able to maintain structural integrity when restraining heavy infants and safely limit head excursion of the children in a crash.³

Safeline knew that its product had to meet FMVSS No. 213 when tested with the 3-year-old dummy. On August 18, 1992, in response to a letter from Safeline, the agency sent the manufacturer an interpretation of FMVSS No. 213 affirming that the 3-year-old test dummy must be used to test Safeline's rear-facing restraints. Other agency interpretation letters and **Federal Register** rulemaking documents issued before and after the August 1992 letter have also affirmed use of the 3-year-old test dummy to test child restraints designed for children weighing more than 22 lb (e.g., April 22, 1992 letter to Century Products Company; April 29, 1999 denial of petition for rulemaking from SafetyBelt Safe USA (64 FR 23037)). NHTSA's 1992 letter to Safeline called Safeline's attention to the possibility that the restraint's seat back might be too low to enable the restraint to meet the head excursion limit when dynamically

tested rear-facing with the 3-year-old dummy, and suggested that Safeline consider raising the height of the seat back to avoid any potential compliance problem with the excursion limit. Safeline's decision to forego testing with the 3-year-old dummy following our letter and the test failures led to its noncompliance.

As noted above, in October 1998 we requested that Safeline identify the dummy that was utilized to evaluate the Sit'n'Stroll child restraint and provide a copy of each test report and any engineering analysis that formed the basis of Safeline's certification of the Sit'n'Stroll for recommended usage greater than 22 pounds in the rear-facing configuration. Safeline provided copies of five test reports that documented a series of 12 tests performed at the Calspan Corporation and at the University of Michigan. During these tests, the Sit'n'Stroll was tested seven times in the rear-facing configuration with the 3-year-old dummy conforming to part 572 subpart C as prescribed in FMVSS No. 213. In each instance, there was a structural failure of the lap belt anchor tabs on the child restraint. Because the vehicle lap belt disengaged from the anchor tabs, there was excessive seat back rotation during the dynamic test. These results would have clearly constituted failure of the Sit'n'Stroll to meet the performance criteria of FMVSS No. 213 if they had been conducted as compliance tests.⁴

Given that meeting FMVSS No. 213 is based upon testing conducted with a 3-year-old dummy for child restraints recommended for use by children weighing more than 22 pounds but less than 40 pounds, and that Safeline provided test results showing that the Sit'n'Stroll failed to meet the performance requirements of FMVSS No. 213 in each of seven tests conducted with the Sit'n'Stroll positioned rear-facing, Safeline had a compelling basis upon which to decide that there was a noncompliance and to file a Part 573 report. There are unknown safety consequences at this time in using a weighted 20-pound test dummy to determine the suitability of a restraint for infants weighing up to 25 pounds. The consequences, should the Sit'n'Stroll fail structurally resulting in excessive seat back rotation as was shown in Safeline's own testing, are

potentially serious. The noncompliance engenders concern as to whether the Sit'n'Stroll can maintain structural integrity or adequately limit the head excursion of children weighing up to 25 lb or otherwise protect them. For the aforementioned reasons, we cannot find the noncompliance to be inconsequential to safety.

In consideration of the foregoing, we have decided that the applicant has not met its burden of persuasion that the noncompliances it describes are inconsequential to safety. Accordingly, its applications are hereby denied. Further, Safeline must now fulfill its obligation to notify and remedy under 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h).

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

Issued on: September 20, 2001.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Cooperative Agreement DTRS656-00-H-0004]

Quarterly Performance Review Meeting on The Cooperative Agreement "Better Understanding of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines"

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting cancellation.

As a result of the tragic events of last week, the uncertainty of air travel, and the travel restrictions many companies have placed on their employees, the quarterly performance review meeting to report on progress with research titled "Better Understanding of Mechanical Damage in Pipelines," scheduled for September 27, 2001, is canceled. This work is being managed by the Gas Research Institute (GTI) and performed by Battelle Memorial Institute along with the Southwest Research Institute. The meeting was previously announced in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 39392; July 30, 2001) and was to be held at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel, 3405 Lenox Road, NE., Atlanta, GA beginning at 9 a.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lloyd W. Ulrich, Agreement Officer's Technical Representative, Office of Pipeline Safety, telephone: (202) 366-

³ There are a number of rear-facing restraints on the market today that are recommended for children weighing 25 lb, and sometimes up to 30 lb. The 3-year-old dummy is used to test these restraints.

⁴ The Sit'n'Stroll was tested only three times with a 9-month-old dummy weighted to 25-28 pounds (the 9-month-old dummy typically weighs 20 pounds), twice in the rear-facing configuration and once in the forward-facing configuration. In each of these three tests, the restraint performed acceptably when evaluated in accordance with the procedures of FMVSS No. 213.

4556, FAX: (202) 366-4566, e-mail: lloyd.ulrich@rspa.dot.gov. You may also contact Dr. Keith Leewis, GTI, telephone: (847) 768-0890, e-mail: keith.leewis@gastechnology.org.

Issued in Washington, DC on September 19, 2001.

Jeffrey D. Wiese,

Acting Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0032]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information

needed to ensure loans that were closed on prior approval and automatic basis are in compliance with the law.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before November 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail irmnkess@vba.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0032" in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 273-7079 or FAX (202) 275-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C., 3501-3520), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4)

ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

Title: Report and Certification of Loan Disbursement, VA Form 26-1820.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0032.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA Form 26-1820 is completed by lenders closing VA guaranteed and insured loans under the automatic or prior approval procedures. Lenders are required to submit with the form, a copy of the loan application (showing income, assets, and obligations) which the lender requires the borrower to execute when applying for the loan; original employment and income verifications obtained from the borrower's place of employment; original verification of assets; and original credit report.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 50,000 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

Frequency of Response: One-time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200,000.

Dated: September 11, 2001.

By direction of the Secretary.

Barbara H. Epps,

Management Analyst, Information Management Service.

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