

Intended effective date: October 1, 1996.

Paulette V. Twine,

Chief, Documentary Services Division.

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Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Imperial County, California

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Imperial County, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Glenn C. Clinton, District Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, 980 9th Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, California 95814-2724; telephone: (916) 498-5037. Internet address: CClinton@INTERGATE.DOT.GOV

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct approximately 5.5 miles (8.9 km) of State Route 7 on new location between the existing junction of State Route 7 and State Route 98 to Interstate 8 in Imperial County, California.

Improvements to the corridor are considered necessary to provide for intraregional/international access between the United States/Mexico border crossing at the Calexico East Border Station and Interstate 8. Alternatives under consideration include (1) taking no action; (2) constructing a divided four-lane, controlled access expressway (ultimately to freeway standards) on new location; (3) alignment variations as appropriate to minimize environmental effects of the project.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings will be held in Imperial County between July and August, 1996. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. No

formal scoping meeting is planned at this time.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments, and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above. The views of agencies having knowledge about historic resources potentially affected by the proposal or interested in the effects of the project on historic properties are solicited.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program).

Issued on: July 19, 1996.

C. Glenn Clinton,

District Engineer, Sacramento, California.

[FR Doc. 96-18889 Filed 7-24-96; 8:45 am]

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National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. 96-40; Notice 2]

Decision That Nonconforming 1994 Mercedes-Benz E500 Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

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

ACTION: Notice of decision by NHTSA that nonconforming 1994 Mercedes-Benz E500 passenger cars are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the decision by NHTSA that 1994 Mercedes-Benz E500 passenger cars not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because they are substantially similar to a vehicle originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified by its manufacturer as complying with the safety standards (the U.S.-certified version of the 1994 Mercedes-Benz E500), and they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: This decision is effective July 25, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

George Entwistle, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5306).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) (formerly section 108(c)(3)(A)(i) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (the Act)), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards shall be refused admission into the United States unless NHTSA has decided that the motor vehicle is substantially similar to a motor vehicle originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States, certified under 49 U.S.C. 30115 (formerly section 114 of the Act), and of the same model year as the model of the motor vehicle to be compared, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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, Inc. of Lansdale, Pennsylvania petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1994 Mercedes-Benz E500 passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. NHTSA published notice of the petition on April 24, 1996 (61 FR 18188) to afford an opportunity for public comment. The reader is referred to that notice for a thorough description of the petition. No comments were received in response to the notice. Based on its review of the information submitted by the petitioner, NHTSA has decided to grant the petition.

Vehicle Eligibility Number for Subject Vehicles

The importer of a vehicle admissible under any final decision must indicate on the form HS-7 accompanying entry the appropriate vehicle eligibility number indicating that the vehicle is eligible for entry. VSP-163 is the vehicle eligibility number assigned to vehicles admissible under this decision.

Final Decision

Accordingly, on the basis of the foregoing, NHTSA hereby decides that a

1994 Mercedes-Benz E500 (Model ID 124.036) not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is substantially similar to a 1994 Mercedes-Benz E500 originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. 30115, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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: July 19, 1996.

Marilynne Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 96-18955 Filed 7-24-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 96-75; Notice 1]

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 1993 Mercedes-Benz 600SEC and 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz S600 Coupe Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 1993 Mercedes-Benz 600SEC and 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz S600 Coupe passenger cars are eligible for importation.

SUMMARY: This notice announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that 1993 Mercedes-Benz 600SEC and 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz S600 Coupe passenger cars that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because (1) they are substantially similar to vehicles that were originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and that were certified by their manufacturer as complying with the safety standards, and (2) they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is August 26, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to the docket number and notice number, and be submitted to: Docket Section, Room 5109, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. [Docket hours are from 9:30 am to 4 pm]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George Entwistle, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5306).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) (formerly section 108(c)(3)(A)(i)(I) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (the Act)), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards shall be refused admission into the United States unless NHTSA has decided that the motor vehicle is substantially similar to a motor vehicle originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States, certified under 49 U.S.C. 30115 (formerly section 114 of the Act), and of the same model year as the model of the motor vehicle to be compared, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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.

G&K Automotive Conversion, Inc. of Santa Ana, California ("G&K") (Registered Importer No. R-90-007) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1993 Mercedes-Benz 600SEC and 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz S600 Coupe passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles which G&K believes are substantially similar are the 1993 Mercedes-Benz 600SEC and 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz S600 Coupe that were manufactured for importation into, and sale in the United States, and certified by their manufacturer, Daimler Benz, A.G., as conforming to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The petitioner contends that it carefully compared the non-U.S. certified 1993 Mercedes-Benz 600SEC and 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz S600 Coupe to their U.S. certified counterparts, and found those vehicles to be substantially similar with respect to compliance with most applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

G&K submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that the non-U.S. certified 1993 Mercedes-Benz 600SEC and 1994-1996 Mercedes-

Benz S600 Coupe, 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 the non-U.S. certified 1993 Mercedes-Benz 600SEC and 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz S600 Coupe 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 *Hydraulic Brake Systems*, 106 *Brake Hoses*, 107 *Reflecting Surfaces*, 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 Anchorages*, 211 *Wheel Nuts, Wheel Discs and Hubcaps*, 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) inscription of the word "Brake" on the brake failure indicator lamp lens; (b) placement of the appropriate symbol on the seat belt warning lamp; (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 and front sidemarkers; (b) installation of U.S.- model taillamp assemblies which incorporate rear sidemarkers; (c) installation of a high mounted stop lamp.

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

Standard No. 111 *Rearview Mirrors*: replacement of the passenger side rear view mirror, which is convex, with a U.S.- model component.

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

Standard No. 115 *Vehicle Identification Number*: installation of a