

must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. Specifically, address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the function of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t. Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Dated: December 12, 1997.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

**Joel C. Richard,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-32940 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

#### Research and Development Programs Meeting Agenda

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice provides the agenda for a public meeting at which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will describe and discuss specific research and development projects.

**DATES AND TIMES:** As previously announced, NHTSA will hold a public meeting devoted primarily to presentations of specific research and development projects on December 17, 1997, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ending at approximately 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Clarion Inn, Detroit Metro Airport, 9191 Wickham Road, Romulus, Michigan.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice provides the agenda for the nineteenth in a series of public meetings to provide detailed information about NHTSA's research and development programs. This meeting will be held on December 17, 1997. The meeting was announced on December 3, 1997 (62 FR 64041). For additional information about the meeting, consult that announcement.

Starting at 1:30 p.m. and concluding by 5:00 p.m., NHTSA's Office of

Research and Development will discuss the following topics:

Research and Development Update;  
Crash Injury Research and Engineering Network;  
General Motors Settlement Briefing, Fire Safety Research;  
Update on Crashworthiness Research Activities Including Upgraded Side Crash Protection, Improved Frontal Crash Protection, and Restraint Systems for Rollover Protection;  
Benefits Analysis of the Inflatable Tubular Structure; and  
Update of Research on Family of Dummies.

NHTSA has based its decisions about the agenda, in part, on the suggestions it received in response to the announcement published December 3, 1997.

As announced on December 3, 1997, in the time remaining at the conclusion of the presentations, NHTSA will provide answers to questions on its research and development programs, where those questions have been submitted in writing to Raymond P. Owings, Ph.D., Associate Administrator for Research and Development, NRD-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590. Fax number: 202-366-5930.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rita I. Gibbons, Staff Assistant, Office of Research and Development, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-4862. Fax number: 202-366-5930.

Issued: December 11, 1997.

**Raymond P. Owings,**

*Associate Administrator for Research and Development.*

[FR Doc. 97-32958 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-97-3154]

#### Cooper Tire & Rubber Company; Receipt of Application for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company (Cooper) of Findlay, Ohio has determined that some of its tires fail to comply with the labeling requirements of 49 CFR Part 574 "Tire Identification and Recordkeeping," and has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." Cooper has also applied to be exempted from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C.

Chapter 301—"Motor Vehicle Safety" on the basis that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

Although the applicant expresses noncompliance with Part 574, NHTSA considers this to be a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 119, New pneumatic tires for vehicles other than passenger cars. Paragraph S6.5(b) of FMVSS No. 119 requires each tire to be marked with a "tire identification number" required by Part 574 of this chapter. If a tire lacks this number, it fails to comply with FMVSS No. 119 and is subject to notification and remedy.

This notice of receipt of an application is published under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120 and does not represent any agency decision or other exercise of judgment concerning the merits of the application.

In § 574.5(d) Fourth Grouping—The manufacturer is required to identify the week and year of manufacture using three symbols. The first two symbols identify the week of the year using "01" for the first full calendar week in each year. The third symbol identifies the year. The purpose of this information is to facilitate the notification of purchasers regarding defective or non-conforming tires, pursuant to Sections 30118 and 30119 of Title 49, United States Codes, so that the appropriate action can be taken in the interest of public safety—such as, a safety recall notice.

During the thirty-second production week of 1997, Cooper produced and inadvertently shipped twenty-eight (28) tires without the date code. This occurred after the tires originally were labeled with the correct date code upside-down; Cooper removed the improperly oriented date code by buffing. The tires were then inadvertently shipped with only the identification of "DOT UPOP"—where "UP" is the identification code for Cooper's Findlay plant and "OP" is the identification of the tire size. The subject tires are Cooper SRM Radial LT 215/85R16, Load Range D.

Cooper supports its application for inconsequential noncompliance with the following:

"The incomplete DOT identification code on each tire does not present a safety-related defect."

"The involved tires are capable of being registered with UPOP. They have a unique DOT identification with would permit Cooper to notify the purchasers of these tires, if properly registered, should they be recalled for other reasons."

"The involved tires produced from this mold during the aforementioned production period comply with all other requirements of 49 CFR 571.119 and 574.5."

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on the application of Cooper described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Management, Room Pub. L. 401, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20590. It is requested that two copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated below will be considered. The application and supporting materials, and all comments received after the closing date, will also be filed and will be considered to the extent possible. When the application is granted or denied, the notice will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

Comment closing date: January 16, 1998.

(49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8)

Issued on: December 11, 1997.

**L. Robert Shelton,**

*Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.*

[FR Doc. 97-32882 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB ex Parte No. 558 (Sub-No. 1)]

### Railroad Cost of Capital—1997

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of decision instituting a proceeding to determine the railroads' 1997 cost of capital.

**SUMMARY:** The Board is instituting a proceeding to determine the railroad industry's cost of capital for 1997. The decision solicits comments on: (1) the railroads' 1997 cost of debt capital; (2) the railroads' 1997 current cost of preferred stock equity capital; (3) the railroads' 1997 cost of common stock equity capital; and (4) the 1997 capital structure mix of the railroad industry on a market value basis.

**DATES:** Notices of intent to participate are due no later than December 30, 1997. A service list will then be prepared and issued by January 14, 1998. Statements of the railroads are due by March 20, 1998. Statements of other interested persons are due by

April 10, 1998. Rebuttal statements by the railroads are due by April 24, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Send an original and 10 copies of statements and a copy of the statement on a 3.5 inch disk in WordPerfect 6.1, and an original and 1 copy of the notice of intent to participate to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Leonard J. Blistein, (202) 565-1529. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To obtain a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: Office of the Secretary, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Room 700, Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 565-1650. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 565-1695.] A copy of the decision can also be obtained from the Board's internet site ([www.stb.dot.gov](http://www.stb.dot.gov)).

We preliminarily conclude that the proposed action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 10704(a).

Decided: December 5, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

**Vernon A. Williams,**  
*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-32778 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Customs Service

[T.D. 97-99]

### Customs Approval of V.I.P Cargo Surveys Incorporated as a Commercial Gauger and Accredited Laboratory

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

**ACTION:** Notice of approval and accreditation of V.I.P Cargo Survey, Inc. as a commercial gauger and accredited laboratory.

**SUMMARY:** V.I.P Cargo Surveys, Inc. of Aransas Pass, Texas, has applied to U.S. Customs to extend its approval to gauge petroleum and petroleum products and accreditation to perform petroleum analysis methods under Part 151.13 of the Customs Regulations (19 CAR

151.13) to their Texas City, Texas facility. Customs has determined that this office meets all of the requirements for approval as a commercial gauger. Additionally, Customs has determined that this facility meets all requirements for accreditation as a Commercial Laboratory to perform (1) API Gravity, (2) Water by Distillation, (3) Sediment by Extraction, (4) Saybolt Universal Viscosity, (5) Sediment and Water and (6) Distillation. Therefore, in accordance with Part 151.13(f) of the Customs Regulations, V.I.P Cargo Surveys, Inc., Texas City, Texas, is approved to gauge the products named above and to perform the analysis methods listed above in all Customs ports.

**LOCATION:** V.I.P Cargo Surveys Inc. approved and accredited site is located at: 1442 Texas Avenue, Texas City, Texas 77590.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 20, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ira S. Reese, Senior Science Officer, Laboratories and Scientific Services, U.S. Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 5.5-B, Washington, D.C. 20229 at (202) 927-1060.

Dated: November 25, 1997.

**George D. Heavey,**

*Director, Laboratories and Scientific Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-32858 Filed 12-16-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy Meeting

**AGENCY:** United States Information Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will meet on December 17 in Room 600, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C., from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The Commission will meet with the Honorable Joseph Duffey, Director, U.S. Information Agency, and the Honorable Penn Kemble, Deputy Director, U.S. Information Agency, to discuss legislation, budget, and reorganization matters.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Please call Betty Hayes, (202) 619-4468, if you are interested in attending the meeting. Space is limited and entrance to the building is controlled.