

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

[U.S. DOT Docket Number NHTSA-2000-6887]

**Reports, Forms, and Recordkeeping Requirements**

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Request for public comment on proposed collection of information.

**SUMMARY:** Before a Federal agency can collect certain information from the public, it must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under procedures established by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before seeking OMB approval, Federal agencies must solicit public comment on proposed collections of information, including extensions and reinstatement of previously approved collections. This document describes one collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before December 23, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted in writing to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Docket Management Section, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. It is requested, but not required, that 2 copies of the comment be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Alternatively, comments may be submitted electronically by logging onto the docket management Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help" or "Electronic Submission" to obtain instructions for filing the document electronically. In the submittal, the commenter should refer to the docket number.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information, contact Mr. Joseph Scott, Office of Crash Avoidance Standards, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Mr. Scott's telephone number is (202) 366-8525. His fax number is (202) 493-2739. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Control Number.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must first publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the

public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulation (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(4) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks for public comments on the following proposed collections of information:

*Title:* Tires and Rim Labeling.

*OMB Control Number:* 2127-0503.

*Affected Public:* Tire and Rim Manufacturers.

*Form Number:* The tires and rims are labeled in accordance with the agency's Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSSs) and regulations.

*Abstract:* Each tire manufacturer and rim manufacturer must label their tire or rim with the applicable safety information. These labeling requirements ensure that tires are mounted on the appropriate rims; and that the rims and tires are mounted on the vehicles for which they are intended. This requirement received its latest OMB clearance in the year 2000, and has a current expiration date of September 30, 2003.

The Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act of 2000 mandates a rulemaking proceeding to revise and update the safety performance requirements for tires. In response, NHTSA proposed a new Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard requiring all new tires for use on vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less to meet new and more stringent performance requirements. The new Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 139 is titled "New pneumatic radial tires for motor vehicles with a GVWR of

10,000 pounds or less except motorcycles and low-speed vehicles." Most SUVs, vans, trailers, and pickup trucks will be required to comply with the same tire selection and rim requirements as passenger cars. FMVSS No. 120 continues to apply to vehicles over 10,000 pounds GVWR and motorcycles.

To accommodate the vehicles equipped with tires that comply with FMVSS No. 139, FMVSS No. 110 will be re-titled "Tire selection and rims for motor vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less" and the current non-passenger rim marking requirements of FMVSS No. 120 will be also be placed in FMVSS No. 110. These rim marking requirements mandate that each rim or, at the option of the manufacturer in the case of a single-piece wheel, each wheel disc shall be marked with the following: (1) The designation that indicates the source of the rim's published nominal dimensions, (2) the rim size designation, and in case of multipiece rims, the rim type designation, (3) the symbol DOT, constituting a certification by the manufacturer of the rim that the rim complies with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards, and (4) a designation that identifies the manufacturer of the rim by name, trademark, or symbol, and (5) the month, day and year or the month and year of manufacture, expressed either numerically or by use of a symbol, at the option of the manufacturer.

Any manufacturer that elects to express the date of manufacture by means of a symbol shall notify NHTSA in writing of the full names and addresses of all manufacturers and brand name owners utilizing that symbol and the name and address of the trademark owner of that symbol, if any. The notification shall describe in narrative form and in detail how the month, day, and year or the month and year are depicted by the symbol. Such description shall include an actual size graphic depiction of the symbol, showing and/or explaining the interrelationship of the component parts of the symbol as they will appear on the rim or single piece wheel disc, including dimensional specifications, and where the symbol will be located on the rim or single piece wheel disc. The notification shall be received by NHTSA not less than 60 calendar days before the first use of the symbol. All information provided to NHTSA under this paragraph will be placed in the public docket. Each manufacturer of wheels shall provide an explanation of its date of manufacture symbol to any person upon request.

Based on the facts that these are existing rim labeling requirements that they do not affect either the production or quantity of rims produced, NHTSA believes that this maintenance effort will not result in any net increase in the burden on those parties currently covered by existing regulations; therefore, the estimated annual burden and estimated number of respondents remains unchanged with estimated annual burden of 5,679,585, and estimated number of respondents of 6,673.

Issued on: October 18, 2002.

**Stephen R. Kratzke,**

*Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 2002-12319; Notice 2]

#### Guardian Industries Corporation; Grant of Application for Decision for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance

This notice grants the application by Guardian Industries Corporation (Guardian) of Auburn Hills, Michigan to be exempted from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120 for a noncompliance with 49 CFR 571.205, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 205, "Glazing Materials." Guardian has filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports." Pursuant to 49 CFR part 556, Guardian has also applied to be exempted from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301, "Motor Vehicle Safety." The basis of the grant is that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

Notice of receipt of the application was published June 3, 2002, (67 FR 38315) affording an opportunity for comment. The comment closing date was July 3, 2002. No comments were received.

From November 2000 to February 2001, Guardian manufactured 11,562 tempered glass sunroof parts that do not meet the labeling requirements of paragraph S6 of FMVSS No. 205. The parts were marked with the manufacturer's model number M-934, which corresponds to a tempered glass with 4.0 mm nominal thickness. The correct manufacturer's model number should have been M-937, which is

tempered glass with a 5.0 mm nominal thickness.

FMVSS No. 205, paragraph S6 "Certification and marking," requires that each piece of glazing material shall be marked in accordance with Section 6 of the American National Standard "Safety Code for Safety Glazing Materials for Glazing Materials for Land Highways" Z-26.1-1977, January 26, 1977, as supplemented by Z26.1a, July 3, 1980 (ANS Z26). This specifies all safety glazing materials for use in accordance with this code shall be legibly and permanently marked in letters and numerals at least 0.070 inch (1.78 mm) in height, with the words "American National Standard" or the characters "AS" and, in addition, with a model number that will identify the type of construction of the glazing material.

Guardian submitted a test report indicating the tempered glass parts in question were in full compliance with 49 CFR 571.205 except that the parts were affixed with the incorrect manufacturer's model number. The noncompliance was discovered during a routine in-house quality control inspection.

NHTSA has reviewed Guardian's application and, for the reasons discussed in this paragraph, concludes that the noncompliance of the Guardian tempered glass sunroof parts is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Guardian has provided documentation indicating that the sunroof parts do comply with all other safety performance requirements of the standard except the labeling. In spite of the incorrect labeling being affixed to the tempered glass part described herein, the correct part was sold and shipped for use in the fabrication of the sunroof assemblies. Since the sunroof assemblies would be ordered by its unique part number and not the manufacturer's model number (*i.e.*, M-934), the noncompliance would not result in the wrong part being used in an original equipment manufactured (OEM) application. If there was an attempt to install a mislabeled sunroof part into the sunroof assembly, Guardian confirmed to NHTSA that the glass construction would not properly fit. NHTSA also has determined that the lack of proper labeling of the sunroof parts would not affect driver visibility. The sunroof is not in the driver's normal forward field of view. Since the sunroof parts comply with all other safety performance requirements of the standard except the labeling, NHTSA determined that the noncompliance would not affect the other purposes of

FMVSS No. 205 that include reducing injuries from glazing surfaces or minimizing possibility of occupants being thrown through the vehicle windows in collisions.

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA has decided that the applicant has met its burden of persuasion that the noncompliance it describes is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

Accordingly, the application is granted, and the applicant is exempted from providing the notification of the noncompliance that is required by 49 U.S.C. 30118, and from remedying the noncompliance, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30120.

The applicant is hereby informed that all products manufactured on and after the date it determined the existence of this noncompliance must fully comply with the requirements of FMVSS No. 205.

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

Issued on: October 17, 2002.

**Stephen R. Kratzke,**

*Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34234]

#### Minnesota Prairie Line, Inc.—Modified Rail Certificate

On September 23, 2002, Minnesota Prairie Line, Inc. (MPL)<sup>1</sup> filed a notice for a modified certificate of public convenience and necessity under 49 CFR 1150, Subpart C, *Modified Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity*, to acquire the common carrier obligation for a rail line extending from approximately milepost 51.4, at or near Norwood, MN, to approximately milepost 145.7, at or near Hanley Falls, MN, a total distance of approximately 94 miles.

The line was abandoned in 1982. *Chicago and North Western Transportation Co.—Abandonment Between Norwood and Madison, MN*, ICC Docket No. AB-1 (Sub-No. 142) (ICC served Dec. 2, 1982; corrected decision served Dec. 12, 1982). Subsequently, the Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority (Authority), a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, bought the line. Since the date of the acquisition, several railroads

<sup>1</sup> MPL is a subsidiary of Twin Cities & Western Railroad Company (TCW), a Class III carrier.