

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. Where there is no substantially similar U.S.-certified motor vehicle, 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(B) (formerly section 108(c)(3)(A)(i)(II) of the Act) permits a nonconforming motor vehicle to be admitted into the United States if its safety features comply with, or are capable of being altered to comply with, all applicable safety standards.

Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a) (formerly section 108(c)(3)(C)(i) of the Act), these import eligibility decisions may be made "on the initiative of the Secretary of Transportation or on petition of a manufacturer or importer registered under (49 U.S.C. 30141(c)." The Secretary's authority to make these determinations is delegated to the Administrator of NHTSA under 49 CFR 1.50(a). The Administrator, in turn, delegated to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, under 49 CFR 501.8(g)(3), the responsibility for granting and denying petitions for import eligibility determinations

submitted to the agency by registered importers and manufacturers.

This notice transfers these responsibilities to the Director of NHTSA's Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance. This transfer will eliminate one level of management review for these actions, thereby reducing the processing time for the petitions and some of the costs associated with the importation of the vehicles to which the petitions relate.

The amendment made through this notice relates solely to the organization and assignment of duties within the agency, and has no substantive regulatory effect. It is therefore not subject to the notice and comment and the effective date requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act. This amendment is also not subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12866 or to the Department of Transportation's regulatory policies and procedures. Notice and the opportunity for public comment are therefore not required, and this amendment is effective immediately upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 501

Authority, Delegations.

In consideration of the foregoing, 49 CFR part 501 is amended as follows:

PART 501—ORGANIZATION AND DELEGATION OF POWERS AND DUTIES

1. The authority citation for part 501 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. secs. 105 and 322; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

2. Section 501.8 is amended by removing paragraph (g)(3), and by adding a new paragraph (l), to read as follows:

§ 501.8 Delegations.

* * * * *

(l) *Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, Enforcement.* The Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, Enforcement, is delegated authority to exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Administrator with respect to granting and denying petitions for import eligibility decisions submitted to the NHTSA by motor vehicle manufacturers and registered importers under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1).

Issued on: February 15, 1995.

Ricardo Martinez,
Administrator.

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