

the presentations, NHTSA will provide answers to questions on its research and development programs, where those questions have been submitted in writing by 4:15 p.m. on August 29, 1996, to William A. Boehly, 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, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-4862. Fax number: 202-366-5930.

Issued: September 4, 1996.

William A. Boehly,  
*Associate Administrator for Research and Development.*

[FR Doc. 96-22943 Filed 9-6-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket Nos. 96-045; Notice 2, 96-058; Notice 2, 96-059; Notice 2, 96-060; Notice 2, 96-061; Notice 2, 96-062; Notice 2, 96-063; Notice 2, 96-064; Notice 2]

**Decision That Nonconforming 1992 Jeep Cherokee Multi-Purpose Passenger Vehicles Manufactured for the Venezuelan Market, et al., are Eligible for Importation**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of decision by NHTSA that nonconforming 1992 Jeep Cherokee multi-purpose passenger vehicles manufactured for the Venezuelan market, 1983 Yamaha RD 350 motorcycles, 1993 Mercedes-Benz 420E passenger cars, 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E420 passenger cars, 1993 Mercedes-Benz 280E passenger cars, 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E280 passenger cars, 1992 Mercedes-Benz 250D passenger cars, 1993-1996 Mercedes-Benz 220TE station wagons, 1993 Mercedes-Benz 220E passenger cars, 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E220 passenger cars, and 1993, 1995, and 1996 Porsche Carrera 2-door passenger cars are eligible for importation.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the decision by NHTSA that 1992 Jeep Cherokee multi-purpose passenger vehicles manufactured for the Venezuelan market, 1983 Yamaha RD 350 motorcycles, 1993 Mercedes-Benz 420E passenger cars, 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E420 passenger cars, 1993 Mercedes-Benz 280E passenger cars, 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E280 passenger cars, 1992 Mercedes-Benz 250D passenger cars, 1993-1996

Mercedes-Benz 220TE station wagons, 1993 Mercedes-Benz 220E passenger cars, 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E220 passenger cars, and 1993, 1995, and 1996 Porsche Carrera 2-door 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 vehicles originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified by their manufacturers as complying with the safety standards, and they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

**DATE:** This decision is effective as of September 9, 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.

NHTSA received petitions from registered importers to decide whether 1992 Jeep Cherokee multi-purpose passenger vehicles manufactured for the Venezuelan market, 1983 Yamaha RD 350 motorcycles, 1993 Mercedes-Benz

420E passenger cars, 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E420 passenger cars, 1993 Mercedes-Benz 280E passenger cars, 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E280 passenger cars, 1992 Mercedes-Benz 250D passenger cars, 1993-1996 Mercedes-Benz 220TE station wagons, 1993 Mercedes-Benz 220E passenger cars, 1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E220 passenger cars, and 1993, 1995, and 1996 Porsche Carrera 2-Door passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. To afford an opportunity for public comment, NHTSA published notice of these petitions as follows:

Vehicle	Notice date and cite
1992 Jeep Cherokee	May 10, 1996 (61 FR 21530).
1983 Yamaha RD 350.	June 25, 1996 (61 FR 32891).
1993 Mercedes-Benz 420E.	June 19, 1996 (61 FR 31220).
1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E420.	June 19, 1996 (61 FR 31220).
1993 Mercedes-Benz 280E.	June 12, 1996 (61 FR 29788).
1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E280.	June 12, 1996 (61 FR 29788).
1992 Mercedes-Benz 250D.	June 25, 1996 (61 FR 32892).
1993-1996 Mercedes-Benz 220TE.	June 12, 1996 (61 FR 29793).
1993 Mercedes-Benz 220E.	June 12, 1996 (61 FR 29791).
1994-1996 Mercedes-Benz E220.	June 12, 1996 (61 FR 29791).
1993, 1995 and 1996 Porsche Carrera 2-door.	June 19, 1996 (61 FR 31216).

The reader is referred to those notices for a thorough description of the petitions. No comments were received in response to these notices. Based on its review of the information submitted by the petitioners, NHTSA has decided to grant the petitions.

**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. Vehicle eligibility numbers assigned to vehicles admissible under this decision are as follows:

Vehicle	Vehicle eligibility number
1992 Jeep Cherokee (Venezuelan).	VSP-164.
1983 Yamaha RD 350 .....	VSP-171.
1993 Mercedes-Benz 420E .....	VSP-169.
1994-96 Mercedes-Benz E420 .....	VSP-169.
1993 Mercedes-Benz 280E .....	VSP-166.
1994-96 Mercedes-Benz E280 .....	VSP-166.
1992 Mercedes-Benz 250D .....	VSP-172.

Vehicle	Vehicle eligibility number
1993–96 Mercedes-Benz 220TE	VSP–167.
1993 Mercedes-Benz 220E .....	VSP–168.
1994–96 Mercedes-Benz E220	VSP–168.
1993, 1995 and 1996 Porsche Carrera 2-door.	VSP–165.

#### Final Decision

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

1. A 1992 Jeep Cherokee multi-purpose passenger vehicle manufactured for the Venezuelan market that was not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is substantially similar to a 1992 Jeep Cherokee multi-purpose passenger vehicle originally manufactured for 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;
2. A 1983 Yamaha RD 350 motorcycle not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is substantially similar to a 1983 Yamaha RZ 350 motorcycle 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;
3. A 1993 Mercedes-Benz 420E passenger car not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is substantially similar to a 1993 Mercedes-Benz 400E passenger car 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;
4. 1994–1996 Mercedes-Benz E420 passenger cars not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are substantially similar to 1994–1996 Mercedes-Benz E420 passenger cars originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. § 30115, and are capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards;
5. A 1993 Mercedes-Benz 280E passenger car not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is substantially similar to a 1993 Mercedes-Benz 300E passenger car

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;

6. 1994–1996 Mercedes-Benz E280 passenger cars not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are substantially similar to 1994–1996 Mercedes-Benz E320 passenger cars originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. § 30115, and are capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards;

7. A 1992 Mercedes-Benz 250D passenger car not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is substantially similar to a 1992 Mercedes-Benz 300E passenger car 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;

8. 1993–1996 Mercedes-Benz 220TE station wagons not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are substantially similar to the 1993 Mercedes-Benz 300TE and 1994–1996 Mercedes-Benz E320 station wagons originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. § 30115, and are capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards;

9. A 1993 Mercedes-Benz 220E passenger car not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is substantially similar to a 1993 Mercedes-Benz 300E passenger car 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;

10. 1994–1996 Mercedes-Benz E220 passenger cars not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are substantially similar to 1994–1996 Mercedes-Benz E320 passenger cars originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. § 30115, and are capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards; and

11. 1993, 1995, and 1996 Porsche Carrera 2–Door passenger cars not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are substantially similar to 1993, 1995, and 1996 Porsche Carrera 2–Door passenger cars originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. § 30115, and are 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: September 3, 1996.

Marilynne Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 96–22879 Filed 9–6–96; 8:45 am]

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#### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33021]

#### Atlantic & Western Railway, L.P.— Acquisition Exemption—Lines of Norfolk Southern Railway Company

Atlantic & Western Railway, L.P. (ATW),<sup>1</sup> a Class III rail carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to acquire from Norfolk Southern Railway Company approximately 6.4 route miles of rail line between milepost CF–123.65, at Cumnock, NC, and milepost CF–130.04, at Sanford, NC. ATW will operate the property.

The exemption was effective on August 28, 1996. The parties indicate that consummation of the transaction will occur approximately 90 days after the effective date of the exemption.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of a petition to revoke does not automatically stay the transaction.

An original and 10 copies of all pleadings, referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33021, must be filed with the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20423. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on: Donald G. Avery, Esq., Slover &

<sup>1</sup> The ICC Termination Act of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104–88, 109 Stat. 803, which was enacted on December 29, 1995, and took effect on January 1, 1996, abolished the Interstate Commerce Commission and transferred certain functions to the Surface Transportation Board (Board). This notice relates to functions that are subject to Board jurisdiction pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 10902.