

and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. Notice of final action on the petition will be published in the Federal Register pursuant to the authority indicated below.

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: February 16, 1996.

Marilynne Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 96-4016 Filed 2-21-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 96-11; Notice 1]

Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision That Nonconforming 1990 Porsche 944 S2 2-Door Hatchback Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of petition for decision that nonconforming 1990 Porsche 944 S2 2-door hatchback 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 a 1990 Porsche 944 S2 2-door hatchback that was not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is eligible for importation into the United States because (1) it is substantially similar to a vehicle that was originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and that was certified by its manufacturer as complying with the safety standards, and (2) it is capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is March 25, 1996.

ADDRESS: 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 Street 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.

LPC of New York, Inc. of Ronkonkoma, New York ("LPC") (Registered Importer 96-100) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1990 Porsche 944 S2 2-door hatchback passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicle which LPC believes is substantially similar is the 1990 Porsche 944 S2 2-door hatchback that was manufactured for importation into, and sale in, the United States and certified by its manufacturer as conforming to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The petitioner claims that it carefully compared the non-U.S. certified 1990 Porsche 944 S2 2-door hatchback to its U.S. certified counterpart, and found the two vehicles to be substantially similar with respect to compliance with most Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

LPC submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that the non-U.S. certified 1990 Porsche 944 S2 2-door hatchback, as originally manufactured, conforms to many Federal motor vehicle safety standards in the same manner as its U.S. certified counterpart, or is capable of being readily altered to conform to those standards.

Specifically, the petitioner claims that the non-U.S. certified 1990 Porsche 944 S2 2-door hatchback is identical to its

U.S. certified counterpart 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*, 118 *Power Window Systems*, 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*, 212 *Wheel Discs and Hubcaps*, 212 *Windshield Retention*, 214 *Side Impact Protection*, 216 *Roof Crush Resistance*, 219 *Windshield Zone Intrusion*, 301 *Fuel System Integrity*, and 302 *Flammability of Interior Materials*.

Additionally, the petitioner states that the non-U.S. certified 1990 Porsche 944 S2 2-door hatchback complies with the Bumper Standard found in 49 CFR part 581.

Petitioner also contends that the vehicle is capable of being readily altered to meet the following standards, in the manner indicated:

Standard No. 101 *Controls and Displays*: (a) Placement of the appropriate symbols on the brake failure, parking brake, and seat belt warning lamps; (b) replacement of the speedometer/odometer with a U.S.-model component calibrated in miles per hour.

Standard No. 108 *Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment*: (a) Installation of U.S.-model headlamp assemblies; (b) installation of U.S.-model taillamps; (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 Mirror*: Replacement of the passenger side rearview mirror with a U.S.-model component.

Standard No. 114 *Theft Protection*: Installation of a warning buzzer in the steering lock electrical circuit.

Standard No. 115 *Vehicle Identification Number*: Installation of a VIN plate that can be read from outside the left windshield pillar, and a VIN reference label on the edge of the door or latch post nearest the driver.

Standard No. 208 *Occupant Crash Protection*: Installation of a seat belt warning buzzer. The petitioner states

that the vehicle is equipped with an automatic restraint system consisting of an air bag and knee bolster that have part numbers identical to those on its U.S. certified counterpart.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments on the petition described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5109, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. It is requested but not required that 10 copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be considered, and will be available for examination in the docket at the above address both before and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. Notice of final action on the petition will be published in the Federal Register pursuant to the authority indicated below.

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: February 16, 1996.

Marilynne Jacobs,
Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

[T.D. 96-19]

Request for Public Comments Concerning Dissemination of Existing Information Product and Elimination of Microfiche

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

ACTION: General notice, request for
public comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Customs Service provides rulings and publications on a variety of subjects for the guidance of the importing public. The rulings have been available in the past in a variety of formats, including printed media, diskette and microfiche. The Customs Service would like to provide these rulings, future publications and additional information in two new formats (CD-ROM and the Internet) with built-in search capabilities and "hypertext" links. In addition, the Customs Service would like to receive public comments on the elimination of one format used to supply rulings to the

public by subscription (microfiche). This document invites public comment on the various proposals.

DATES: Comments must be submitted by March 25, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments (preferably in triplicate) may be addressed to the Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs, Franklin Court, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20229. Comments submitted may be inspected at the Regulations Branch, Office of Regulations & Rulings, Franklin Court, 1099 14th Street NW., Suite 4000W, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For contents and technical aspects of the CD-ROM: Howard Plofker, 202-482-7077

For the Internet: Kathy Davis, 202-927-0255

For the microfiche: Thomas Budnik, 202-482-6909

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with OMB Circular A-130 and Section 2 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub.L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. 3506(d)), Customs is soliciting comments from the public on the dissemination of Customs information by CD-ROM (Compact Disc-read only memory) and the Internet and the elimination of microfiche rulings. In the past, the U.S. Customs Service has, pursuant to section 103.4, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 103.4), made its rulings available to the importing community. These rulings have been available in microfiche format, and in ASCII text format on 3.5" and 5.25" diskettes, on an annual subscription basis. They have also been available through a variety of private subscription services, which obtain the rulings from Customs.

CD-ROM

The New York and Headquarters rulings available in an electronic format now number approximately 23,000 rulings and take up a considerable amount of hard disk drive space when loaded on a PC or network. Over the past two years, Customs Office of Regulations & Rulings converted its internal electronic rulings (which had been distributed to the public on diskette, by subscription) into the Folio VIEWS® Infobase format. This format compresses the file size and indexes the records in a file. It has extensive search and query capabilities and is frequently used to disseminate legal and government publications. Customs has also converted the Harmonized Tariff Schedules, Title 19 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 19 of the U.S. Code, the Valuation Encyclopedia and

other documents into this format for internal use.

Last July, the Office of Finance, in partnership with the Offices of Regulations & Rulings and Strategic Trade, began producing an in-house CD-ROM for Customs officers which contained those infobases together with other material. Since that time, material from other Customs offices has been added. This CD-ROM is prepared monthly for dissemination to Customs field offices. The internal CD-ROM utilizes the Windows version of Folio VIEWS® 3.1. Each CD-ROM disk can hold approximately 650 MB of material. The infobases contain "hypertext" jump links so that a researcher who sees a reference to another ruling, a regulation or statute cited within a ruling may "double-click" on the reference and bring up the referenced document, if it is on the CD-ROM. Documents or portions of documents may be cut, copied and pasted to other Windows applications, such as word processors, or printed. Many members of the public who have seen the system in use have recommended that it be made available to the public. Because some of the material on the Customs internal CD-ROM is copyrighted, proprietary or for internal use, that material cannot be distributed to the public.

The Customs Service agrees that in accordance with the "informed compliance" mandate contained in the legislative history of the Customs Modernization Act (Title VI, Public Law 103-182) the broadest dissemination possible should be made of this material. Customs seeks public comment on dissemination of the rulings and related material in a CD-ROM format. Customs would like to offer the CD-ROM in the Folio VIEWS® format, since that format is being used for internal dissemination and minimal additional costs would be incurred in preparing a public version. Customs would include the licensing fee for the program in the price of the CD-ROM. It is expected that CD-ROMs would be offered on an annual subscription basis with an estimated cost of approximately \$240-300 per year for 10-12 CD-ROMs.

It is anticipated that the initial CD-ROMs would contain all the rulings available in electronic format (including all Headquarters Rulings and New York Rulings previously available on diskette). The rulings on CD-ROMs will be cumulative, unlike the current diskette services. In addition the initial CD-ROM will contain 19 CFR, 19 U.S.C., the Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the U.S., and the Valuation Encyclopedia. It is hoped that future CD-ROMs will contain various