

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3168]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: "Salvador Dali: Optical Illusions"

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459), the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority of October 19, 1999, I hereby determine that the objects to be included in the exhibition "Salvador Dali: Optical Illusions," imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, are of cultural significance. These objects are imported pursuant to loan agreements with foreign lenders. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit objects at the The Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut from January 20 to March 26, 2000, and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., from April 19 to June 18, 2000, and is in the national interest. Public Notice of these Determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of exhibit objects, contact Carol B. Epstein, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202/619-6981). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44; 301-4th Street, S.W., Room 700, Washington, D.C. 20547-0001.

Dated: November 24, 1999.

William B. Bader,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 99-31793 Filed 12-7-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-99-6545]

RIN 2127-AF54

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Side Impact Protection; Review: Side Impact Protection, Passenger Cars; Evaluation Report

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

ACTION: Request for comments on technical report.

SUMMARY: This notice announces NHTSA's publication of a Technical Report reviewing and evaluating its existing Safety Standard 214, Side Impact Protection. The report's title is Evaluation of FMVSS 214—Side Impact Protection: Dynamic Performance Requirement; Phase 1: Correlation of TTI(d) with Fatality Risk in Actual Side Impact Collisions of Model Year 1981–1993 Passenger Cars; Plan for Phase 2: Effect of FMVSS 214 and Correlation of TTI(d) with Actual Fatality Risk in Model Year 1992–2000 Passenger Cars.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than April 6, 2000.

ADDRESSES: *Report:* You may obtain a copy of the report free of charge by sending a self-addressed mailing label to Publications Ordering and Distribution Services (NAD-51), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. The executive summary of the report is available on the Internet for viewing on line at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/regrev/evaluate/809004.html. The full report is available on the Internet in PDF format at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/regrev/evaluate/pdf/809004.pdf.

Comments: All comments should refer to the Docket number of this notice. You may submit your comments in writing to: U. S. Department of Transportation Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. You may also submit your comments electronically by logging onto the Dockets Management System website at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help & Information" or "Help/Info" to obtain instructions for filing the document electronically.

You may call Docket Management at 202-366-9324 and visit the Docket from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles J. Kahane, Chief, Evaluation

Division, NPP-22, Plans and Policy, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5208, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: 202-366-2560. FAX: 202-366-2559. E-mail: ckahane@nhtsa.dot.gov.

For information about NHTSA's evaluations of the effectiveness of existing regulations and programs: Visit the NHTSA web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> and click "Regulations & Standards" underneath "Car Safety" on the home page; then click "Regulatory Evaluation" on the "Regulations & Standards" page.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Safety Standard 214 (49 CFR 571.214) was amended in 1990 to assure occupant protection in a dynamic test that simulates a severe right-angle collision (55 FR 45752). It was phased into passenger cars by requiring percentages of cars manufactured during September 1, 1993–August 30, 1996 and all cars manufactured on or after September 1, 1996 for sale in the United States to meet the test. The purpose of Safety Standard 214 is to reduce fatalities and injuries by limiting the force levels on the occupant's thorax and pelvis. The test involves a Moving Deformable Barrier hitting the side of a vehicle. Side Impact Dummies are seated adjacent to the impact point. A Thoracic Trauma Index, TTI(d) and pelvic g's are measured on the dummies.

As required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735), NHTSA reviews existing regulations to determine if they are achieving policy goals. The agency is evaluating the effectiveness, benefits and costs of side impact protection for new passenger cars in two phases, as crash data become available. Phase 1, completed in this report, is a statistical analysis of relationships between front-seat TTI(d) and fatality risk in actual side impacts on the highway, in baseline, pre-standard vehicles of model years 1981–93, based on Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data from late 1980 through early 1998. These baseline-tested make-models have been on the road long enough to accumulate a sufficient crash data base for meaningful statistical analyses.

The principal finding of Phase 1 is a statistically significant association of TTI(d) with side-impact fatality risk in passenger cars of model years 1981–93: the lower the TTI(d), the lower the fatality risk. The observed relationship is stronger, however, in 2-door cars than in 4-door cars. Each reduction of TTI(d)

by one unit is associated with an estimated 0.927 percent reduction of fatality risk in side impacts of 2-door cars. The association between TTI(d) and fatality risk in the corresponding analysis of baseline 4-door cars was not statistically significant. In 2-door cars, TTI(d) has improved from an average of 110 in baseline, model year 1981-90 cars to an average of 74 in model year 1997. In 4-door cars, average TTI(d) has improved from 80 in 1981-90 to 65 in 1997.

The report also presents a plan for Phase 2, a proposed statistical comparison of side-impact fatality and injury rates in cars produced immediately after vs. immediately before the implementation of FMVSS 214. Adequate crash data on those make-models are likely to accumulate by 2001.

How Can I Influence NHTSA's Thinking on This Evaluation?

NHTSA welcomes public review of the technical report and invites the reviewers to submit comments about the data and the statistical methods used in the Phase 1 analyses or proposed for Phase 2. NHTSA will submit to the Docket a response to the comments and, if appropriate, additional analyses that supplement or revise the technical report.

The agency is especially interested in learning of any additional data or information on the following topics:

- Why do the Phase 1 analyses show a stronger correlation of TTI(d) and fatality risk in 2-door cars than in 4-door cars? Is it an artifact of the data or the statistical method, or is there a physical explanation?
- Have baseline crash tests conforming to the FMVSS 214 configuration been run for any other unmodified pre-FMVSS 214 cars?
- The Phase 2 plan (Chapter 8 and Appendix B of the report) gives chronologies of the side-impact test results and side-component modifications of 52 make-model groups of passenger cars. Please correct any omissions or inaccuracies in the chronologies. Specifically, are TTI(d) scores available for any of the make-model-year-body style combinations described as "TTI(d) unknown" in Appendix B?
- Should any of the 52 make-model groups be excluded from the Phase 2 analysis because, for example, the side-structure upgrade coincided with some other redesign that greatly changed crash rates?

How Do I Prepare and Submit Comments?

Your comments must be written and in English. To ensure that your comments are correctly filed in the Docket, please include the Docket number of this document (NHTSA-99-6545) in your comments.

Your primary comments must not be more than 15 pages long (49 CFR 553.21). However, you may attach additional documents to your primary comments. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Please send two paper copies of your comments to Docket Management or submit them electronically. The mailing address is U. S. Department of Transportation Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. If you submit your comments electronically, log onto the Dockets Management System website at <http://dms.dot.gov> and click on "Help & Information" or "Help/Info" to obtain instructions.

We also request, but do not require you to send a copy to Charles J. Kahane, Chief, Evaluation Division, NPP-22, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5208, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 (alternatively, FAX to 202-366-2559 or e-mail to ckahane@nhtsa.dot.gov). He can check if your comments have been received at the Docket and he can expedite their review by NHTSA.

How Can I be Sure That My Comments Were Received?

If you wish Docket Management to notify you upon its receipt of your comments, enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope containing your comments. Upon receiving your comments, Docket Management will return the postcard by mail.

How Do I Submit Confidential Business Information?

If you wish to submit any information under a claim of confidentiality, send three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Chief Counsel, NCC-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590. Include a cover letter supplying the information specified in our confidential business information regulation (49 CFR Part 512).

In addition, send two copies of from which you have deleted the claimed confidential business information to

Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

Will the Agency Consider Late Comments?

In our response, we will consider all comments that Docket Management receives before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above under DATES. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments that Docket Management receives after that date.

Please note that even after the comment closing date, we will continue to file relevant information in the Docket as it becomes available. Further, some people may submit late comments. Accordingly, we recommend that you periodically check the Docket for new material.

How Can I Read the Comments Submitted by Other People?

You may read the comments by visiting Docket Management in person at Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

You may also see the comments on the Internet by taking the following steps:

- (1) Go to the Docket Management System (DMS) Web page of the Department of Transportation (<http://dms.dot.gov>).
- (2) On that page, click on "search."
- (3) On the next page (<http://dms.dot.gov/search/>) type in the four-digit Docket number shown at the beginning of this Notice (6545). Click on "search."
- (4) On the next page, which contains Docket summary information for the Docket you selected, click on the desired comments. You may also download the comments.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30111, 30168; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

William H. Walsh,

Associate Administrator for Plans and Policy.

[FR Doc. 99-31754 Filed 12-7-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Notice of Public Information Collection Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for Review.

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Requesting approval of revision of a currently approved collection.