

20 minutes. Presenters may be questioned by a panel of government officials. Time permitting, audience members may submit written questions for the panel to ask the presenters.

Issued on: May 25, 2000.

Raymond P. Owings,

Associate Administrator for Research and Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2000-7361; Notice 1]

Freightliner Corporation; Receipt of Application for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Freightliner Corporation (Freightliner) of Portland, Oregon, has determined that some of its vehicles fail to meet the brake release time requirements of paragraph S5.3.4.1(b) of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 121, *Air Brake Systems*. On May 8, 1997, Freightliner filed a noncompliance information report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.5. In that report, Freightliner indicated that it would file a petition for inconsequential noncompliance at a future date. Freightliner states that a Petition for Inconsequential Noncompliance dated October 10, 1997 was submitted to the agency but we have no record of it. Subsequently, on February 29, 2000, Freightliner resubmitted its Petition dated October 10, 1997.

This notice of receipt of the application is published under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120, and does not represent an agency decision or other exercise of judgement concerning the merits of the application.

Under the requirements of S5.3.4.1(a) of FMVSS No. 121, each truck equipped with air brakes is required to have a pressure reduction from 95 psi to 5 psi, measured at each brake chamber of the truck, in not more than 0.55 second from the initial movement (release) of the service brake control. In addition, S5.3.4.1(b) requires that a truck which is equipped to tow another air-braked vehicle is required to have a pressure reduction from the initial test pressure equivalent to 95 psi in the truck's brake chambers, to 5 psi in not more than 0.75 second, measured in a 50-cubic-inch test reservoir attached to the control line coupling, upon initial movement (release) of the service brake control. Thus the pressure in the test reservoir

is required to drop from approximately 95 psi to 5 psi in not more than 0.75 second upon release of the service brake control.

Number of Non-Complying Trucks

From January 1994 through April 1996, Freightliner produced approximately 3,145 Model FLD trucks that may not have had a quick-release valve installed at the control line coupling and therefore may not meet the release timing requirements in FMVSS No. 121. Data on the number of vehicles of the 3,145 affected truck population that were built without the quick release valve are as follows. According to Freightliner's noncompliance information report, a field inspection of 34 subject vehicles indicated that 5.9 percent (two trucks) did not have the quick release valves. According to Freightliner's petition for inconsequential noncompliance, an inspection (of an unspecified number) of trucks at the St. Thomas Manufacturing Plant where these vehicles were manufactured indicated that 69 percent were manufactured without the quick release valve. Freightliner also said in its petition that a field inspection of 38 subject trucks indicated that 9 percent did not have the quick release valve installed.

We telephoned Mr. Tony Moore of Freightliner's engineering department and Mr. Larry Winslow of Freightliner's compliance department on April 4, 2000, to clarify the numbers of non-compliant vehicles and two other subjects that are discussed below. The field inspection of 38 trucks indicated in the petition included the 34 trucks identified in the noncompliance information report. When asked about the number of vehicles inspected at the St. Thomas plant, Freightliner indicated that it has documentation showing that 303 trucks were inspected, and 70 trucks or 23 percent did not have quick release valves installed. Freightliner could not locate documentation regarding how the 69 percent number in the petition was derived and believes that this number is incorrect per the documentation it now has.

Brake Release Times of Non-Complying Trucks

FMVSS No. 121, paragraph S5.3.4.1(b), requires that the release timing measured in the test reservoir from initial pressure to 5 psi shall be 0.75 second. In its petition, Freightliner states that it conducted a test program to predict the actual release timing of the subject vehicles. The results are as indicated in the table below:

[Predicted] release timing (seconds)	Vehicle population	Percent of population
0.76-0.80	773	24.5
0.81-0.85	1759	55.9
0.86-0.90	602	19.1
0.91-0.95	1	0.03
0.96-1.00	10	0.3
over 1.00	0	0

In the April 4, 2000 telephone conversation, Freightliner indicated that this prediction of release timing is based upon the length of the air tubing from the treadle valve to the trailer service air line glad hand coupling. The overall length of the air tubing varies with tractor wheelbase and the resulting vehicle population numbers in the table were derived on this basis. Without the quick release valve, the air is released through the treadle valve. As indicated in Freightliner's petition, the installation of the quick release valve releases the air at the tractor end of the trailer service air line.

Freightliner Rationale for Inconsequentiality to Safety

Freightliner does not believe that tractor glad hand timing between 0.75 and 1.00 second poses any risk or compromises highway safety. It states that brake application pressures at a highway speed of 55 mph rarely exceed 20 psi, and that when comparing the release timing from 20 psi on vehicles that would have 0.90 and 0.75 second release timing when tested according to FMVSS No. 121, the actual time differential drops to less than 0.10 second. In the April 4, 2000, telephone conversation, Freightliner clarified that the 0.10 second timing is the time for the pressure to be reduced at the glad hand coupling from 20 psi to 5 psi on trucks with no quick release valve installed. Freightliner also indicated that it did not do a comparable analysis of release timing from 20 psi with the quick release valve installed.

Freightliner believes that glad hand timing requirements were established primarily for the purpose of improving the application timing balance of combination vehicles, not the release timing. Freightliner cites the summary in Docket No. 85-07, Notice 3, as follows:

The purpose of the glad hand timing requirements is to ensure that the air delivery from towing vehicles to towed vehicles is fast enough to apply the brakes of all vehicles in the combination at approximately the same time, thereby avoiding a reduction in the combination stability (e.g., trailer bumping) caused by a slow glad hand.

Freightliner states that release timing is not mentioned, and that some

commenters in the same docket questioned NHTSA's research in justifying the proposed release timing requirement. Freightliner indicates that one commenter stated that it is difficult to determine the effect of trailer release timing and tractor/trailer release differentials on compatibility and suggested testing indicated 0.90 second is sufficient. Freightliner also indicates that another commenter argued that a 1.00 second release timing would be more practical and accomplish the objective of the proposal, and that NHTSA stated that:

A short glad hand release time is not as important for safety and, in fact, it is not desirable to have the glad hand release before the tractor brakes.

Freightliner believes that requiring the rearmost vehicle to release last tends to "stretch" out the unit (vehicle combination) and make it more stable, and that slower than the required release time may actually help overall stability.

Freightliner summarizes its petition by stating that an estimated 280 to 2170 tractors were manufactured without quick release valves such that the glad hand release timing may be slightly higher than the 0.75 second specified in FMVSS No. 121, and that nearly all (99.6 percent) do not exceed 0.90 second. Freightliner believes that this timing difference of 0.0 to 0.15 second has no discernable or measurable effect on braking performance and thus no detrimental effect on highway safety. Therefore, it requests that we grant its petition to exempt it from the notification and remedy requirements of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Comments and Docket Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on Freightliner's petition for inconsequential noncompliance described above. Comments should refer to the Docket Number and be submitted to Docket Management at the address given above under **ADDRESSES**.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated below will be considered. The application, supporting materials, and comments also will be filed in the docket. Comments received after the closing date will also be filed and considered to the extent possible. When the petition is granted or denied, the notice will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below.

Comment closing date: June 30, 2000. (15 U.S.C. 1417; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 49 CFR 501.8)

Issued on: May 23, 2000.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 00-13536 Filed 5-30-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCIES: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury; Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board); and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the OCC, the Board, and the FDIC (the "agencies") may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), of which the agencies are members, has approved the agencies' publication for public comment of proposed revisions to the Consolidated Reports of Condition and Income (Call Report), which are currently approved collections of information. At the end of the comment period, the comments and recommendations received will be analyzed to determine the extent to which the FFIEC should modify the proposed revisions prior to giving its final approval. The agencies will then submit the revisions to OMB for review and approval.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before July 31, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to any or all of the agencies. All comments, which should refer to the OMB control number(s), will be shared among the agencies.

OCC: Written comments should be submitted to the Communications Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW, Third Floor, Attention: 1557-0081, Washington, DC 20219. In addition,

comments may be sent by facsimile transmission to (202) 874-5274, or by electronic mail to regs.comments@occ.treas.gov. Comments will be available for inspection and photocopying at the OCC's Public Reference Room, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on business days. Appointments for inspection of comments may be made by calling (202) 874-5043.

Board: Written comments should be addressed to Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20551, submitted by electronic mail to regs.comments@federalreserve.gov, or delivered to the Board's mail room between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., and to the security control room outside of those hours. Both the mail room and the security control room are accessible from the courtyard entrance on 20th Street between Constitution Avenue and C Street, NW. Comments received may be inspected in room M-P-500 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., except as provided in section 261.12 of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, 12 CFR 261.12(a).

FDIC: Written comments should be addressed to Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary, Attention: Comments/OES, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 550 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20429. Comments may be hand-delivered to the guard station at the rear of the 550 17th Street Building (located on F Street), on business days between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. [FAX number: (202) 898-3838; Internet address: comments@fdic.gov]. Comments may be inspected and photocopied in the FDIC Public Information Center, Room 100, 801 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on business days.

A copy of the comments may also be submitted to the OMB desk officer for the agencies: Alexander T. Hunt, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 3208, Washington, DC 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Draft copies of the two versions of the Call Report forms that are proposed to replace the current four versions of the Call Report may be obtained at the FFIEC's web site (www.ffiec.gov) and at the FDIC's web site.¹ Draft copies of

¹ On the FDIC's web site, draft copies of the proposed Call Report forms will be attachments to the Financial Institution Letter that transmits this proposal to all institutions that file Call Reports.