

31 U.S.C. 1552.) For FTA TIGER VIII projects, that deadline is the end of FY 2024. Accordingly, once ECHO closes for disbursements in late September 2024, all undisbursed funds within FTA TIGER VIII-funded grants will no longer be available to the recipient. These undisbursed funds will be deobligated from the grant. Even if a recipient has incurred costs or disbursed funds prior to the close of ECHO, and the recipient has not drawn down the funds by the time ECHO closes, FTA will be unable to reimburse the recipient. Therefore, recipients with open TIGER VIII grants must ensure project activities are completed and all funds are drawn down before ECHO closes by late September 2024.

Section 109D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 includes an administrative provision for the RAISE program. This provision extends the obligation deadline from September 20, 2024, to September 30, 2027, for FY 2021 RAISE funds that are unobligated on September 30, 2024.

For more information about the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants program, contact Victor Waldron, Office of Transit Programs at (202) 366-5183 or victor.waldron@dot.gov.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. Recipients should refer to applicable regulations and statutes referenced in this document.

Veronica Vanterpool,
Acting Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2018-0104, Notice 2]

Spartan Motors USA, Inc., Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

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

ACTION: Denial of petition.

SUMMARY: Spartan Motors USA, Inc. (Spartan), has determined that certain model year (MY) 2017–2019 Spartan Emergency Response Gladiator and Metro Star chassis cabs do not fully comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 121, *Air Brake Systems*. Spartan filed a noncompliance report dated October 12, 2018, and amended the report on December 26, 2018. Spartan petitioned NHTSA on November 12, 2018, and amended the petition on July 31, 2019, for a decision that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. This document announces and explains the denial of Spartan’s petition.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ahmad Barnes, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), telephone (202) 366-7236, facsimile (202) 366-3081.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Overview

Spartan has determined that certain MY 2017–2019 Spartan Emergency Response Gladiator and Metro Star chassis cabs do not fully comply with paragraph S5.3.3.1(a) of FMVSS No. 121, *Air Brake Systems* (49 CFR 571.121). Spartan filed a noncompliance report dated October 12, 2018, and amended the report on December 26, 2018, pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, *Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports*. Spartan petitioned NHTSA on November 12, 2018, and amended the petition on July 31, 2019, for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. chapter 301 on the basis that this noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h) and 49 CFR part 556, *Exemption for Inconsequential Defect or Noncompliance*.

Notice of receipt of Spartan’s petition was published with a 30-day public comment period, on December 10, 2019, in the **Federal Register** (84 FR 67509). No comments were received. To view the petition and all supporting documents log onto the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) website at <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Then follow the online search instructions to locate docket number “NHTSA-2018-0104.”

II. Chassis Cabs Involved

Approximately 15 MY 2017–2019 Spartan Emergency Response Gladiator and Metro Star chassis cabs manufactured between November 16,

2016, and October 30, 2018, are potentially involved.

III. Noncompliance

Spartan described the noncompliance as the service brake application timing exceeding the 0.45 timing requirement as specified in paragraph S5.3.3.1(a) of FMVSS No. 121.

IV. Rule Requirements

Paragraph S5.3.3 of FMVSS No. 121 includes the requirements relevant to this petition. Each service brake system must meet the requirements of paragraph S5.3.3.1(a). With an initial service reservoir system air pressure of 100 psi, the air pressure in each brake chamber must, when measured from the first movement of the service brake control, reach 60 psi in not more than 0.45 seconds in the case of trucks and buses.

V. Summary of Spartan’s Petition

The following views and arguments presented in this section, “V. Summary of Spartan’s petition,” are the views and arguments provided by Spartan and do not reflect the views of the Agency. Spartan describes the subject noncompliance and contends that the noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

Spartan states that paragraph S5.3.3.1 of FMVSS No. 121 provides that 60 psi is required, in this case, for the front brake chambers and Spartan notes that it requires the pressure in the brake chamber to be achieved in no more than 0.45 seconds. According to Spartan, this part of the requirement “is not interpreted to mean brakes are to be applied at 60 psi but rather a certain pressure at the brake chamber will be achieved.”

Spartan says that it “conducted three tests on a sample chassis cab of similar brake system configuration to those subject to the identified noncompliance.” Spartan found that, on average, the air pressure at the chamber of the sample chassis cab reached 60 psi 0.04 to 0.05 seconds after the required time of 0.45 seconds. Spartan further notes that even when the timing requirement is not being met “the brakes are still being applied irrespective of achieving the 60-psi pressure at the front brake chambers.” Spartan claims that exceeding the required time by the 0.044 to 0.05 seconds observed in its testing “would not impede the capability of the vehicle being able to stop.” It stated that the impact of being 0.044 to 0.05 seconds above the requirement of 0.45 seconds would have very little impact

(approximately 4 feet at 60 mph) to stopping distance of the vehicle.

Spartan then refers to the Driver's License Manual as stating that "stopping distance is impacted by driver perception distance and reaction distance," as well as other factors including speed and gross weight of the vehicle. Spartan argues that those factors "would appear to have a more significant impact on overall stopping distance, than 0.05 seconds of timing, for the air pressure to reach 60 psi at the front brake chambers."

Finally, Spartan explains that at 60 mph, the subject vehicles are required by FMVSS No. 121 to achieve a complete stop in 310 feet. A vehicle meeting this requirement would take approximately 3.52 seconds to stop from a speed of 60 mph. Spartan contends that the subject vehicles are capable of stopping within 310 feet at 60 mph, and, therefore, "would still be able to stop within the required stopping distance."

Presumably because any time delay or degradation in performance resulting from not meeting the timing requirement is small in relation to the time involved in a full stop from 60 mph, Spartan concludes by again contending that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety and that its petition to be exempted from providing notification of the noncompliance, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30118, and a remedy for the noncompliance, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30120, should be granted.

VI. NHTSA's Analysis

In determining inconsequentiality of a noncompliance, NHTSA focuses on the safety risk to individuals who experience the type of event against which a recall would otherwise protect.¹ In general, NHTSA does not consider the absence of complaints or injuries when determining if a noncompliance is inconsequential to safety. The absence of complaints does not mean vehicle occupants have not experienced a safety issue, nor does it mean that there will not be safety issues in the future.² Further, because each

inconsequential noncompliance petition must be evaluated on its own facts and determinations are highly fact-dependent, NHTSA does not consider prior determinations as binding precedent. Petitioners are reminded that they have the burden of persuading NHTSA that the noncompliance is inconsequential to safety.

Arguments that only a small number of vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment are affected have also not justified granting an inconsequentiality petition.³ Similarly, NHTSA has rejected petitions based on the assertion that only a small percentage of vehicles or items of equipment are likely to exhibit a noncompliance. The percentage of potential occupants that could be adversely affected by a noncompliance does not determine the question of inconsequentiality. Rather, the issue to consider is the consequence to an occupant who is exposed to the consequence of that noncompliance.⁴ These considerations are also relevant when considering whether a defect is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

The purpose of standard No. 121, as is the case with all FMVSS, is to establish minimum levels of safety performance. The standard ensures safe braking performance under normal and emergency conditions for trucks, buses, and trailers equipped with air brake systems. One means of establishing that braking performance meets normal and emergency conditions is by requiring air pressure to be available at each service brake chamber within a safe time interval after the service brake control is activated. Section 5.3.3.1 of FMVSS 121 defines the amount of pressure (60 psi)

for, in this case, the front brake chambers of the affected vehicles to ensure the proper braking performance. Further, it also defines a "not to exceed" time (0.45 seconds) in which that pressure at the brake chamber must be achieved. In agreement to Spartan's views, this is not interpreted to mean brakes are required to be applied at 60 psi but rather the time in which the air pressure must be achieved at each brake chamber. Brakes must be applied nearly instantaneously after actuation of the treadle valve. Consequently, the relevant metric is the amount of time required for the pressure at each chamber to reach 60 psi after brake activation.

FMVSS No. 121 requires vehicles to achieve a complete stop in 310 feet from 60 mph. According to Spartan, it would take approximately 3.52 seconds for vehicles to decelerate from this rate of speed to a complete stop. While vehicles affected by the subject noncompliance are capable of stopping within the distance of 310 feet as prescribed by FMVSS No. 121 and the brakes are still being applied irrespective of achieving the 60-psi pressure at the front brake chambers, NHTSA does not concur with Spartan's reasoning that the noncompliance does not impede the capability of all of the manufacturer's vehicles being able to stop within a safe distance.

In determining whether a noncompliance is inconsequential to safety, comparable levels of safety must exist between compliant vehicles and noncompliant vehicles, and in this case, the impact of being 0.044 to 0.05 seconds above the requirement of 0.45 seconds would increase stopping distance by approximately 4 feet. In addition, meeting the minimum required "not to exceed time" of (0.45 seconds) will in most cases, result in a reduction in impact velocity, and hence the severity of a crash. Furthermore, the "not to exceed" time (0.45 seconds) stated in section 5.3.3.1 of FMVSS 121 is intended to assure a minimum level of safety in all circumstances, including emergency or excessive braking events (e.g., driving in congested traffic). In the agency's view, exceeding the 0.45 seconds time interval, particularly given the consequences of impacts between heavy and light vehicles, creates risks with potentially serious safety implications. Moreover, brake responsiveness may also impact vehicle maneuverability in conditions that are less than ideal.

VII. NHTSA's Decision

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA has determined that Spartan

¹ See *Gen. Motors, LLC; Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance*, 78 FR 35355 (June 12, 2013) (finding noncompliance had no effect on occupant safety because it had no effect on the proper operation of the occupant classification system and the correct deployment of an air bag); *Osram Sylvania Prods. Inc.; Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance*, 78 FR 46000 (July 30, 2013) (finding occupant using noncompliant light source would not be exposed to significantly greater risk than occupant using similar compliant light source).

² See *Morgan 3 Wheeler Limited; Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential*

Noncompliance, 81 FR 21663, 21666 (Apr. 12, 2016); see also *United States v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 565 F.2d 754, 759 (D.C. Cir. 1977) (finding defect poses an unreasonable risk when it "results in hazards as potentially dangerous as sudden engine fire, and where there is no dispute that at least some such hazards, in this case fires, can definitely be expected to occur in the future").

³ See *Mercedes-Benz, U.S.A., L.L.C.; Denial of Application for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance*, 66 FR 38342 (July 23, 2001) (rejecting argument that noncompliance was inconsequential because of the small number of vehicles affected); *Aston Martin Lagonda Ltd.; Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance*, 81 FR 41370 (June 24, 2016) (noting that situations involving individuals trapped in motor vehicles—while infrequent—are consequential to safety); *Morgan 3 Wheeler Ltd.; Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance*, 81 FR 21663, 21664 (Apr. 12, 2016) (rejecting argument that petition should be granted because the vehicle was produced in very low numbers and likely to be operated on a limited basis).

⁴ See *Gen. Motors Corp.; Ruling on Petition for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance*, 69 FR 19897, 19900 (Apr. 14, 2004); *Cosco Inc.; Denial of Application for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance*, 64 FR 29408, 29409 (June 1, 1999).

has not met its burden of persuasion that the subject FMVSS No. 121 noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, Spartan's petition is hereby denied, and Spartan is consequently obligated to provide notification of and free remedy for that noncompliance under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120.

(Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; 49 CFR part 556; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.95 and 501.8)

Eileen Sullivan,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 2024-11972 Filed 5-30-24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

Agency Information Collection Activities: Information Collection Renewal; Comment Request; Bank Appeals Follow-Up Questionnaire

AGENCY: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The OCC, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites comment on a continuing information collection as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). In accordance with the requirements of the PRA, the OCC 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 OCC is soliciting comment concerning the renewal of its information collection titled, "Bank Appeals Follow-Up Questionnaire."

DATES: Comments must be received by July 30, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Commenters are encouraged to submit comments by email, if possible. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* prainfo@occ.treas.gov.
- *Mail:* Chief Counsel's Office, Attention: Comment Processing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Attention: 1557-0332, 400 7th Street SW, Suite 3E-218, Washington, DC 20219.
- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* 400 7th Street SW, Suite 3E-218, Washington, DC 20219.
- *Fax:* (571) 293-4835.

Instructions: You must include "OCC" as the agency name and "1557-0332" in your comment. In general, the OCC will publish comments on www.reginfo.gov without change, including any business or personal information provided, such as name and address information, email addresses, or phone numbers. Comments received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Do not include any information in your comment or supporting materials that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

Following the close of this notice's 60-day comment period, the OCC will publish a second notice with a 30-day comment period. You may review comments and other related materials that pertain to this information collection beginning on the date of publication of the second notice for this collection by the method set forth in the next bullet.

- **Viewing Comments Electronically:** Go to www.reginfo.gov. Hover over the "Information Collection Review" tab and click on "Information Collection Review" from the drop-down menu. From the "Currently under Review" drop-down menu, select "Department of Treasury" and then click "submit." This information collection can be located by searching OMB control number "1557-0332" or "Bank Appeals Follow-Up Questionnaire." Upon finding the appropriate information collection, click on the related "ICR Reference Number." On the next screen, select "View Supporting Statement and Other Documents" and then click on the link to any comment listed at the bottom of the screen.

- For assistance in navigating www.reginfo.gov, please contact the Regulatory Information Service Center at (202) 482-7340.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shaquita Merritt, Clearance Officer, (202) 649-5490, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20219. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the OMB for each collection of information that they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) to include agency requests or

requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of title 44 generally requires Federal agencies to provide a 60-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, the OCC is publishing notice of the renewal/revision of this collection.

Title: Bank Appeals Follow-Up Questionnaire.

OMB Control No.: 1557-0332.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit.

Description: The OCC's Office of the Ombudsman (Ombudsman) is committed to assessing its efforts to provide a fair and expeditious appeal process to institutions under OCC supervision. To perform this assessment, it is necessary to obtain feedback from individual appellant institutions on the effectiveness of the Ombudsman's efforts to provide a fair and expeditious appeals process and suggestions on ways to enhance the bank appeals process. For each Bank Appeals Follow-Up Questionnaire submitted, the Ombudsman uses the information gathered to assess the OCC's adherence to OCC Bulletin 2013-15, "Bank Appeals Process," dated June 7, 2013, and to enhance its bank appeals program.

Estimated Burden:

Estimated Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 85.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the OCC, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) The accuracy of the OCC's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (e) Estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation,