DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[DOcket No. NHTSA–2015–0030; Notice 1]

Continental Tire the Americas, LLC, Receipt of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

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

ACTION: Receipt of Petition.

SUMMARY: Continental Tire the Americas, LLC, (CTA), has determined that certain Continental Tire brand TKC80 motorcycle replacement tires do not fully comply with paragraph S6.5(c) of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 119, New Pneumatic Radial Tires for motor vehicles with a GVWR of more than 4,536 Kilograms (10,000 pounds) and Motorcycles. CTA has filed an appropriate report dated February 18, 2015, pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is June 3, 2015.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on this petition. Comments must refer to the docket and notice number cited at the beginning of this notice and submitted by any of the following methods:

• Mail: Send comments by mail addressed to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

• Hand Deliver: Deliver comments by hand to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Federal Holidays.

• Electronically: Submit comments electronically by: logging onto the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Web site at http://www.regulations.gov/. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Comments may also be faxed to (202) 493–2251.

• Field: Comments must be written in the English language, and be no greater than 15 pages in length, although there is no limit to the length of necessary attachments to the comments. If comments are submitted in hard copy form, please ensure that two copies are provided. If you wish to receive confirmation that your comments were received, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the comments. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov.; and be no greater than 15 pages in length, although there is no limit to the length of necessary attachments to the comments. If comments are submitted in hard copy form, please ensure that two copies are provided. If you wish to receive confirmation that your comments were received, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the comments. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov.

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When the petition is granted or denied, notice of the decision will be published in the Federal Register pursuant to the authority indicated below.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. CTA’s Petition

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h) (see implementing rule at 49 CFR part 556), CTA submitted a petition for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301 on the basis that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

This notice of receipt of CTA’s petition is published under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120 and does not represent any agency decision or other exercise of judgment concerning the merits of the petition.

II. Tires Involved

Affected are approximately 1,062 Continental TKC80 size 120/70–19 M/C 60Q diagonal (bias) motorcycle replacement tires manufactured between April 8, 2012 and January 31, 2015.

III. Noncompliance

CTA explains that the noncompliance is that the tire size designation marking on the sidewalls of the subject tires does not contain the correct construction code designator symbol from The Tire and Rim Association yearbook. Therefore, the tires do not fully comply with paragraph S6.5(c) of FMVSS No. 119 because the tire size designation is not as listed in the documents and publications designated in S5.1. Specifically, the tires were marked with the construction code designator “B” indicating bias-belted construction and should have been marked with the designator “.” indicating diagonal (bias) construction.

IV. Rule Text

Paragraph S6.5 of FMVSS No. 119 requires in pertinent part:

S6.5 Tire Markings. Except as specified in paragraphs, each tire shall be marked on each sidewall with the information specified in paragraphs (a) through (j) of this section. . .

(c) The tire size designation as listed in the documents and publications designated in S5.1.

V. Summary of CTA’s Analyses

CTA stated its belief that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety for the following reasons:

(A) CTA notes that the only improper marking on the sidewall of the subject tires is the use of the letter character “B” in the
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–2013–0107, Notice 2]

Decision That Nonconforming Model Year 2010 European Market Ferrari California Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

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

ACTION: Grant of petition.

SUMMARY: This document announces a decision by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that certain Model Year (MY) 2010 Ferrari California passenger cars (PCs) that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) 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 that were certified by their manufacturer as complying with the safety standards (the U.S. certified version of the MY 2010 Ferrari California PC), and they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: This decision became effective on April 28, 2015.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable FMVSS 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 as required under 49 U.S.C. 30115, 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 FMVSS.

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.

J.K. Technologies, LLC, of Baltimore, Maryland (“JK”) [Registered Importer #RI–90–006], petitioned NHTSA to decide whether certain MY 2010 Ferrari California PCs are eligible for importation into the United States. NHTSA published a notice of the petition on March 21, 2014 (79 FR 15800) to afford an opportunity for public comment. The reader is referred to that notice for a thorough description of the petition.

Comments

On April 21, 2014, NHTSA received comments from Ferrari North America (FNA), the vehicle’s original manufacturer. In its comments, Ferrari stated that while it agreed that the U.S. and the non-U.S. versions of the vehicle are “substantially similar” within the meaning of section 30141(a)(1)(A)(i), it strongly disputed JK’s assertions that the non-U.S. version could be readily altered to comply with all applicable FMVSS. FNA elaborated by presenting detailed reasons for its assertions with respect to specific FMVSS.

On May 21, 2014, NHTSA forwarded FNA’s comments to JK and asked that it respond by June, 4, 2014. By letter dated June 10, 2014, JK requested a 45 day extension in order to gather engineering data to adequately address the concerns raised by FNA. NHTSA approved JK’s request for this extension and JK responded on August 15, 2014.

A summary of FNA’s comments, JK’s responses, and the conclusions that NHTSA has reached with regard to the issues raised by the parties is set forth below.

Review of Comments and Conclusions

NHTSA has reviewed the petition, FNA’s comments and JK’s responses to those comments, and has concluded that the vehicles covered by the petition are capable of being readily altered to comply with all applicable FMVSS. However, NHTSA has also decided that an RI who imports or modifies one of these vehicles must include in the statement of conformity and associated documents (referred to as a “conformity package”) it submits to NHTSA under 49 CFR 592.6(d) specific proof to confirm that the vehicle was manufactured to conform to, or was successfully altered to conform to, each of the following standards: