DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–2015–0094, Notice 2]

Decision That Certain Nonconforming Model Year 1996 and 1997 Ferrari F50 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) 1996 and 1997 Ferrari F50 passenger cars (PC) manufactured prior to September 1, 1997 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 those vehicles have safety features that comply with, or are capable of being altered to comply with, all applicable FMVSS.

DATES: This decision became effective on March 21, 2017.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(B), 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 its safety features comply with, or are capable of being altered to comply with, all applicable FMVSS based on destructive test data or such other evidence that NHTSA decides to be adequate.

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 (J.K.), Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland (Registered Importer R–90–006) petitioned NHTSA to decide whether nonconforming 1996 and 1997 Ferrari F50 PCs are eligible for importation into the United States. NHTSA published a notice of the petition on October 16, 2016 (81 FR 72852) to afford an opportunity for public comment. No comments were received in response to this notice. The reader is referred to the notice for a thorough description of the petition.

NHTSA Conclusions

In its petition, J.K. noted that the original manufacturer, Ferrari, S.p.A., certified the MY 1995 Ferrari F50 PCs to all applicable FMVSS and offered those vehicles for sale in the United States. J.K. also contends that the non-U.S.-certified MY 1995 and 1997 Ferrari F50 PCs share the same platform with the U.S.-certified MY 1995 Ferrari F50 PC, and on that basis compares the non-U.S.-certified model to those vehicles to establish its conformity with many applicable FMVSS. Because there is no U.S.-certified counterpart for the MY 1997 Ferrari F50 PC, the petitioner acknowledged that it could not base its petition solely on the substantial similarity of those vehicles to the U.S.-certified MY 1995 Ferrari F50 PC. Instead, the petitioner chose to establish import eligibility on the basis that the vehicles have safety features that comply with, or are capable of being modified to comply with, the FMVSS based on destructive test data or such other evidence that NHTSA decides to be adequate as set forth in 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(B). Nevertheless, the petitioner contends that the non-U.S.-certified MY 1997 Ferrari F50 PCs use the same components as the U.S.-certified MY 1995 Ferrari F50 PCs in virtually all of the systems subject to applicable FMVSS.

NHTSA has reviewed the petition and has concluded that the nonconforming versions of the MY 1996 and 1997 Ferrari F50 PCs are similar to the U.S.-certified versions of the MY 1995 Ferrari F50 PCs and are capable of being readily altered to comply with all applicable FMVSS with respect to all FMVSS applicable prior to September 1, 1997.

NHTSA has limited this decision to vehicles manufactured prior to September 1, 1997, because the U.S.-certified MY 1995 Ferrari F50 PCs that are the basis for this decision were not required to conform to the air bag system requirements of FMVSS No. 208 Occupant Crash Protection and the petitioner made no representation as to compliance with air bag system requirements of FMVSS No. 208 for the subject vehicles.

NHTSA has long taken the position that RIs are not subject to the requirements of standards that are being phased in, but must comply with those requirements once they apply to 100 percent of a manufacturer’s production. The requirement for air bags to be installed at the driver’s and front outboard passenger’s seating position applies to 100 percent of passenger cars manufactured on or after September 1, 1997. As a consequence, an RI can meet the automatic protection requirements of the standard by installing conforming automatic seat belts in passenger cars manufactured prior to that date. Therefore, J.K. or another RI could meet the standard by installing automatic seat belts in 1996 and 1997 Ferrari F50 passenger cars manufactured prior to September 1, 1997. Vehicles manufactured on or after that date would require the installation of U.S.-model air bag systems to meet the standard. The agency further notes that conformity packages submitted for vehicles imported under this decision must demonstrate that the vehicle is equipped with components that allow it to achieve compliance with the standard. Any modification or replacement of components necessary to meet the requirements of the standard must be shown to bring the vehicle into compliance. Such proof must be submitted by an RI as part of any conformity package submitted for nonconforming 1996 and 1997 Ferrari F50 passenger cars.
Decision

Accordingly, on the basis of the foregoing, NHTSA hereby decides that MY 1996 and 1997 Ferrari F50 passenger cars manufactured prior to September 1, 1997 that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable FMVSS, are capable of being altered to conform to all applicable FMVSS.

Vehicle Eligibility Number for Subject Vehicles

The importer of a vehicle admissible under any final decision must indicate on the form HS–7 accompanying entry the appropriate vehicle eligibility number indicating that the vehicle is eligible for entry. VCP–62 is assigned to MY 1996 and 1997 Ferrari F50 eligible for entry. VCP–62 is assigned to number indicating that the vehicle is the appropriate vehicle eligibility on the form HS–7 accompanying entry under any final decision must indicate.

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

Jeffrey M. Giuseppe,
Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–2016–0117; Notice 1]

General Motors, 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: General Motors, LLC (GM), has determined that certain model year (MY) 2016–2017 Cadillac CT6 motor vehicles do not fully comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 108, Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment. GM filed a noncompliance report dated October 26, 2016. GM also petitioned NHTSA on November 18, 2016, for a decision that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is May 11, 2017.

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 in the title 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 Delivery: 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.
- Comments may also be faxed to (202) 493–2251. 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 comments you have submitted by mail were received, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the comments. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to https://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided.
- All comments and supporting materials received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be filed in the docket and will be considered. All comments and supporting materials received after the closing date will also be filed and will be considered to the fullest extent possible.

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

All comments, background documentation, and supporting materials submitted to the docket may be viewed by anyone at the address and times given above. The documents may also be viewed on the Internet at https://www.regulations.gov by following the online instructions for accessing the dockets. The docket ID number for this petition is shown in the heading of this notice.

DOT’s complete Privacy Act Statement is available for review in a Federal Register notice published on April 11, 2000, (65 FR 19477–78).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Overview: General Motors, LLC (GM), has determined that certain model year (MY) 2016–2017 Cadillac CT6 vehicles do not fully comply with paragraph S7.8.13 of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 108, Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment. GM filed a defect report dated October 26, 2016, pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports. GM also petitioned NHTSA on November 18, 2016, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(b) and 49 CFR part 556, 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.

This notice of receipt of GM’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. Vehicles Involved: Approximately 12,475 MY 2016–2017 Cadillac CT6 vehicles manufactured between September 4, 2015, and October 18, 2016, are potentially involved.

III. Noncompliance: GM explains that the noncompliance is that the software in the subject vehicles’ Park/Position lamp’s electronic control unit (ECU) was programmed incorrectly, causing the ECU to misinterpret the signals from the vehicle’s body control module (BCM). This results in higher than expected light output that may exceed the maximum values permitted in paragraph S7.8.13 of FMVSS No. 108. Specifically, the nine failed test points exceeded the maximum allowed value by 2.3% to 74.8%. Eight of the nine failed test points exceeded the maximum allowed value by 25%.

IV. Rule Text: Paragraph S7.8.13 of FMVSS No. 108 states:

S7.8.13 Photometry. Each parking lamp must be designed to conform to the photometry requirements of Table XIV, when tested according to the procedure of S14.2.1, as specified by this section. . .

Table XIV specifies various minimum and maximum photometric intensity requirements for parking lamps at specified test points.

V. Summary of GM’s Petition: GM described the subject noncompliance and stated its belief that the noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

In support of its petition, GM submitted the following reasoning:

(a) The subject vehicles’ parking lamp-headlamp combination does not exceed the maximum permitted glare values for headlamps specified in FMVSS No. 108.