

The Working Group reviewed results of the research and is drafting performance-based standards for freight and passenger locomotives to present to the RSAC for consideration. An accident review task force has evaluated the potential effectiveness of suggested improvements. An NPRM is being prepared, with the Working Group meeting to review the draft. Contact: Sean Mehrvazi (202) 493-6237.

Task 97-2—Evaluating the extent to which environmental, sanitary, and other working conditions in locomotive cabs affect the crew's health and the safe operation of locomotives, proposing standards where appropriate. This Task was accepted June 24, 1997.

(Sanitation). A draft sanitation NPRM was circulated to the Working Group on Cab Working Conditions with ballot requested by November 3, 2000. The NPRM on sanitation was discussed during the full RSAC meeting on September 14, 2000 and published January 2, 2001 (66 FR 136). A public hearing was held April 2, 2001. The Working Group is evaluating the comments from the public hearing. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 21, 2001, to discuss comments in response to the NPRM.

(Noise exposure.) A Task Force has assisted in identifying options for strengthening the occupational noise exposure standard, and the Cab Working Group met in October and November, 2000, and April, 2001, and reached tentative agreement on most of the significant issues related to the noise NPRM. The Cab Working Group held a meeting April 3-5, 2001, to discuss Noise Exposure Standards. Refinement and substantive changes were incorporated into the rule language. A full draft NPRM will be circulated to the working group for consideration. The Cab Working Group has also considered issues related to cab temperature, and is expected to consider additional issues (such as vibration) in the future.

Contact: Brenda Hattery (202) 493-6326.

Task 97-3—Developing event recorder data survivability standards. This Task was accepted on June 24, 1997. The Event Recorder Working Group is completing preparation of an NPRM. The NPRM went to the Working Group on May 21, 2001, for comments, and FRA is reviewing the comments. Contact: Edward Pritchard (202) 493-6247.

Task 97-4 and *Task 97-5*—Defining Positive Train Control (PTC) functionalities, describing available technologies, evaluating costs and benefits of potential systems, and considering implementation opportunities and challenges, including

demonstration and deployment. *Task 97-6*—Revising various regulations to address the safety implications of processor-based signal and train control technologies, including communications-based operating systems. These three tasks were accepted on September 30, 1997, and assigned to a single Working Group. A Data and Implementation Task Force, formed to address issues such as assessment of costs and report was accepted as RSAC's Report to the Administrator at the September 8, 1999, meeting. The Standards Task Force, formed to develop PTC standards, is developing draft recommendations for performance-based standards for processor-based signal and train control standards. The NPRM was approved by consensus at the full RSAC meeting held on September 14, 2000. A meeting of the Working Group was held March 26, 2001, in Las Vegas to discuss updates on the projects. Monitoring of implementation continues. The NPRM was cleared and published in the **Federal Register** on August 10, 2001. Task forces on Human Factors and the Axiomatic Safety-Critical Assessment Process (risk assessment) continue to work. Contact: Grady Cothen (202) 493-6302.

Task 97-7—Determining damages qualifying an event as a reportable train accident. This Task was accepted on September 30, 1997. A working group was formed to address this task and conducted their initial meeting on February 8, 1999. The working group designed a survey form to collect specific data about damages to railroad equipment. The survey started on August 1 and ended January 31, 2001. A statistical analysis, using the survey data, was done to see if a method can be used to calculate property damages. The report was complete by the last week of April, 2001. A meeting was held May 21-23, 2001 to review the report. FRA is developing additional options for consideration by the working group. Contact: Robert Finkelstein (202) 493-6280.

Task 00-1—Determining the need to amend regulations protecting persons who work on, under, or between rolling equipment and persons applying, removing or inspecting rear end marking devices (Blue Signal Protection). A working group has been formed and held its first meeting on October 16-18, 2000. A second meeting was held from February 27-March 1, 2001. The next meeting was held March 19-21, 2001. Additional meetings were held May 1-3, 2001, and June 19-21, 2001. The next meeting is tentatively

scheduled for November 2001. Contact: Doug Taylor (202) 493-6255.

Task 01-1—Developing conformity of FRA's regulations for accident/incident reporting (49 CFR Part 225) to revised regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor, and to make appropriate revisions to the FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports (Reporting Guide). This task was accepted April 23, 2001, by the full RSAC and assigned to the Accident/Incident Working Group. At a meeting of the Working Group, held May 21-23, 2001, the task was discussed and four task forces were set up to review changes and/or modifications. To date, these task forces have identified a series of minor modifications to the Reporting Guide/regulations for consideration. All modifications will be presented to the Working Group for approval. A target of September 15, 2001, was set for reporting the recommended changes.

Please refer to the notice published in the **Federal Register** on March 11, 1996 (61 FR 9740) for more information about the RSAC.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on August 8, 2001.

George A. Gavalla,

Associate Administrator for Safety.

[FR Doc. 01-20395 Filed 8-13-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 2001-10288; Notice 1]

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company; Receipt of Application for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Cooper Tire & Rubber Company (Cooper) has determined that certain Mastercraft, Roadmaster, Starfire and Futura brand tires in the P225/60R15 size do not meet the labeling requirements mandated by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 109, "New Pneumatic Tires." Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), Cooper and Pep Boys, the brand name owner for the Futura tires produced by Cooper, have petitioned for a determination that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and have filed an appropriate report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports."

This notice of receipt of an application 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 application.

FMVSS No. 109 requires that each tire shall have permanently molded into or onto both sidewalls the actual number of plies in the sidewall, and the actual number of plies in the tread area if different (S4.3 (e)). The Tupelo, Mississippi, tire manufacturing facility had nine (9) molds involved in producing tires during the thirteenth through sixteenth production weeks of 2001, in which the number of polyester tread plies was incorrectly stated. According to Cooper, the subject tires were molded "TREAD 2 PLY STEEL + 1 PLY POLYESTER, SIDEWALL 2 PLY POLYESTER." The correct molding to match the actual tire construction should have been "TREAD 2 PLY STEEL + 2 PLY POLYESTER, SIDEWALL 2 PLY POLYESTER."

The incorrect number of polyester tread plies was removed from the molds by buffing and the correct number of polyester tread plies inserted; however, prior to the molds being correctly stamped, 503 tires, of which 40 were Futura tires owned by Pep Boys, were inadvertently shipped marked as having only one polyester tread ply. Cooper states that the incorrect number of polyester tread plies on each tire does not present a safety-related defect. The involved tires, in fact, have two polyester tread plies instead of one. The involved tires produced from these molds during the aforementioned production periods comply with all other requirements of 49 CFR 571.109.

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on the application described above. Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Management, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. It is requested that two copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on the closing date indicated below will be considered. The application and supporting materials, and all comments received after the closing date, will also be filed and will be considered to the extent possible. When the application is granted or denied, the notice will be published in the **Federal Register** pursuant to the authority indicated below. Comment closing date: (30 days after Publication Date).

(49 U.S.C. 301118, 301120; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8)

Issued on: August 8, 2001.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

[FR Doc. 01-20308 Filed 8-13-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0234]

Agency Information Collection Activities Under OMB Review

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C., 3501 et seq.), this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, has submitted the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden; it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATE: Comments must be submitted on or before September 13, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR A COPY OF THE SUBMISSION CONTACT: Denise McLamb, Information Management Service (045A4), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-8030, FAX (202) 273-5981 or e-mail denise.mclamb@mail.va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0234."

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Title: Request to Mortgage Company for Amount of Unpaid Insurance, VA Form Letter 29-712.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0234.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: The form letter is used to request the amount of the veteran's unpaid mortgage from the lending institution with which the veteran carries the mortgage. The information is required by law, title 38, U.S.C., section 2106, and is used by VA to determine Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance premiums.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection

of information was published on April 16, 2001, at pages 19604-19605.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 75 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per

Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 450.

Send comments and recommendations concerning any aspect of the information collection to VA's OMB Desk Officer, OMB Human Resources and Housing Branch, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0234" in any correspondence.

Dated: August 7, 2001.

By direction of the Secretary:

Donald L. Neilson,

Director, Information Management Service.

[FR Doc. 01-20411 Filed 8-13-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0059]

Proposed Information Collection Activity: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on the information needed to determine the relationship of a claimant to a veteran.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before October 15, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20S52), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue,