

compared, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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 published this decision in the Federal Register.

J.K. Motors of Kingsville, Maryland (Registered Importer R-90-006) petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1985 Maserati Bi-Turbo passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. NHTSA published notice of the petition on March 21, 1996 (61 FR 11676) to afford an opportunity for public comment. The reader is referred to that notice for a thorough description of the petition. No comments were received in response to the notice. Based on its review of the information submitted by the petitioner, NHTSA has decided to grant the petition.

#### 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. VSP-155 is the vehicle eligibility number assigned to vehicles admissible under this decision.

#### Final Decision

Accordingly, on the basis of the foregoing, NHTSA hereby decides that a 1985 Maserati Bi-Turbo not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards is substantially similar to a 1985 Maserati Bi-Turbo originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. § 30115, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: May 14, 1996.  
Marilynne Jacobs,  
*Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.*  
[FR Doc. 96-12632 Filed 5-17-96; 8:45 am]  
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#### [Docket No. 98-025; Notice 2]

#### Decision That Nonconforming 1990 Mercedes-Benz 500SEL Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.  
**ACTION:** Notice of decision by NHTSA that nonconforming 1990 Mercedes-Benz 500SEL passenger cars are eligible for importation.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the decision by NHTSA that 1990 Mercedes-Benz 500SEL passenger cars not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because they are substantially similar to a vehicle originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified by its manufacturer as complying with the safety standards (the 1990 Mercedes-Benz 560SEL), and they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 20, 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** George Entwistle, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5306).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Under 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) (formerly section 108(c)(3)(A)(i) of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (the Act)), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards 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 under 49 U.S.C. 30115 (formerly section 114 of the Act), 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 Federal motor vehicles safety standards.

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.

G&K Automotive Conversion, Inc. of Santa Ana, California (Registered Importer R-90-007) petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1990 Mercedes-Benz 500SEL passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. NHTSA published notice of the petition on March 25, 1996 (61 FR 12129) to afford an opportunity for public comment. The reader is referred to that notice for a thorough description of the petition. No comments were received in response to the notice. Based on its review of the information submitted by the petitioner, NHTSA has decided to grant the petition.

#### Vehicle Eligibility Number of 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. VSP-153 is the vehicle eligibility number assigned to vehicles admissible under this notice of final decision.

#### Final Decision

Accordingly, on the basis of the foregoing, NHTSA hereby decides that a 1990 Mercedes-Benz 500SEL is substantially similar to a 1990 Mercedes-Benz 560SEL originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. 30115, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

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Marilynne Jacobs,  
*Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.*  
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#### [Docket No. 96-026; Notice 2]

#### Decision That Nonconforming 1990 Mercedes-Benz 500SE Passenger Cars Are Eligible for Importation

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), DOT.