

A comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Authority: 49 CFR 1.66.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 10, 2004.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Reports, Forms and Record Keeping Requirements; Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) abstracted below has been forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The ICR describes the nature of the information collections and their expected burden. The Federal Register Notice with a 60-day comment period was published on July 29, 2004 [69 FR 45370-45371].

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 18, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: P.L. Moore at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of International Policy, Fuel Economy and Consumer Programs (NVS-131), 400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 5320, Washington, DC 20590. Mr. Moore's telephone number is (202) 366-5222.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Title: 49 CFR Part 575.104; Uniform Tire Quality Grading Standard.

OMB Number: 2127-0519.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: Part 575 requires tire manufacturers and tire brand owners to submit reports to NHTSA regarding the UTQGS grades of all passenger car tire lines they offer for sale in the United States. This information is used by consumers of passenger car tires to compare tire quality in making their purchase decisions. The information is provided in several different ways to

insure that the consumer can readily see and understand the tire grades: (1) The grades are molded into the sidewall of the tire so that they can reviewed on both the new and old tires that are to be replaced; (2) a paper label is affixed to the tread face of the new tires that provides the grades of that particular tireline along with an explanation of the grading system; (3) tire manufacturers provide dealers with brochures for public distribution listing the grades of all tirelines they offer for sale; (4) NHTSA compiles the grading information of all manufacturer's tirelines into a booklet that is available to the public both in printed form and on the website.

Affected Public: All passenger car tire manufacturers and brand name owners offering passenger car tires for sale in the United States.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: NHTSA estimates that 79,650 man-hours are required at a cost of approximately \$4 million to the tire manufacturers to comply with this regulation.

ADDRESSES: Send comments, within 30 days, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20503, Attention NHTSA Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Departments estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

A Comment to OMB is most effective if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 8, 2004.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 04-27683 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Ex Parte No. 656]

Motor Carrier Bureaus—Periodic Review Proceeding

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13703(c), the Surface Transportation Board is instituting a proceeding to conduct its periodic review of motor carrier collective-activities agreements previously approved under 49 U.S.C. 13703. The Board is seeking comments from those motor carrier bureaus that wish to have Board approval for their collective-activities agreements continued. The Board also is seeking comments from all interested persons on how those agreements, as ordered conditioned by the Board, have been working.

DATES: Opening comments may be filed by the bureaus and any interested member of the public by February 15, 2005. Reply comments may be filed by March 17, 2005. Rebuttal comments may be filed by April 6, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Any filing submitted in this proceeding must refer to STB Ex Parte No. 656 and must be submitted either via the Board's e-filing format or in the traditional paper format. Any person using e-filing should comply with the instructions found on the Board's <http://www.stb.dot.gov> Web site, at the "E-FILING" link. Any person submitting a filing in the traditional paper format should send an original and 10 paper copies of the filing (and also an IBM-compatible floppy disk with any textual submission in any version of either Microsoft Word or WordPerfect) to: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20423-0001. Because all comments will be posted to the Board's Web site, persons filing them with the Board need not serve them on other participants but must furnish a hard copy on request to any participant.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1609. [Federal Information Relay Service for the hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under 49 U.S.C. 13703, the Board may authorize motor carriers (including motor carriers of passengers and household goods) to enter into "bureau" agreements for the collective establishment of rates, fares, classifications, and certain ancillary activities. Board authorization immunizes activities taken under the approved agreements from the antitrust laws. Under section 13703(c), the Board must, every 5 years, institute a proceeding to review the motor carrier bureau agreements previously approved under section 13703 and shall change the conditions of approval of an agreement or terminate it when necessary to protect the public interest.