

The words “of the incomplete motor vehicle or item of equipment” are omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement. The words “prescribed under this chapter” are substituted for “Federal” for consistency in this chapter.

§ 30146. Release of motor vehicles and bonds

(a) COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION AND BOND.—(1) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, an importer registered under section 30141(c) of this title may license or register an imported motor vehicle for use on public streets, roads, or highways, or release custody of a motor vehicle imported by the registered importer or imported by an individual under section 30142 of this title and altered by the registered importer to meet applicable motor vehicle safety standards prescribed under this chapter to a person for license or registration for use on public streets, roads, or highways, only after 30 days after the registered importer certifies to the Secretary of Transportation, in the way the Secretary prescribes, that the motor vehicle complies with each standard prescribed in the year the vehicle was manufactured and that applies in that year to that vehicle. A vehicle may not be released if the Secretary gives written notice before the end of the 30-day period that the Secretary will inspect the vehicle under subsection (c) of this section.

(2) The Secretaries of Transportation and the Treasury shall prescribe regulations—

(A) ensuring the release of a motor vehicle and bond required under section 30141(d) of this title at the end of the 30-day period, unless the Secretary of Transportation issues a notice of an inspection under subsection (c) of this section; and

(B) providing that the Secretary of Transportation shall release the vehicle and bond promptly after an inspection under subsection (c) of this section showing compliance with the standards applicable to the vehicle.

(3) Each registered importer shall include on each motor vehicle released under this subsection a label prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation identifying the importer and stating that the vehicle has been altered by the importer to comply with the standards applicable to the vehicle.

(b) RELIANCE ON MANUFACTURER’S CERTIFICATION.—In making a certification under subsection (a)(1) of this section, the registered importer may rely on the manufacturer’s certification for the model to which the motor vehicle involved is substantially similar if the importer certifies that any alteration made by the importer did not affect the compliance of the safety features of the vehicle and the importer keeps records verifying the certification for the period the Secretary of Transportation prescribes.

(c) EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE.—(1) The Secretary of Transportation may require that the certification under subsection (a)(1) of this section be accompanied by evidence of compliance the Secretary considers appropriate or may inspect the certified motor vehicle, or both. If the Secretary gives notice of an inspection, an importer may release the vehicle only after—

(A) an inspection showing the motor vehicle complies with applicable motor vehicle safety

standards prescribed under this chapter for which the inspection was made; and

(B) release of the vehicle by the Secretary.

(2) The Secretary of Transportation shall inspect periodically a representative number of motor vehicles for which certifications have been filed under subsection (a)(1) of this section. In carrying out a motor vehicle testing program under this chapter, the Secretary shall include a representative number of motor vehicles for which certifications have been filed under subsection (a)(1).

(d) CHALLENGING THE CERTIFICATION.—A motor vehicle or bond may not be released under subsection (a) of this section if the Secretary of Transportation, not later than 30 days after receiving a certification under subsection (a)(1) of this section, gives written notice that the Secretary believes or has reason to believe that the certification is false or contains a misrepresentation.¹ The vehicle and bond may be released only after the Secretary is satisfied with the certification and any modification of the certification.

(e) BOND RELEASE.—A release of a bond required under section 30141(d) of this title is deemed an acceptance of a certification or completion of an inspection under this section but is not a decision by the Secretary of Transportation under section 30118(a) or (b) of this title of compliance with applicable motor vehicle safety standards prescribed under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 964.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
30146(a)	15:1397(c)(3)(E)(i) (1st, 3d, last sentences), (vii).	Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89–563, 80 Stat. 718, §108(c)(3)(E); added Oct. 31, 1988, Pub. L. 100–562, §2(b), 102 Stat. 2820.
30146(b)	15:1397(c)(3)(E)(ii).	
30146(c)	15:1397(c)(3)(E)(i) (2d sentence), (iii), (iv).	
30146(d)	15:1397(c)(3)(E)(vi).	
30146(e)	15:1397(c)(3)(E)(v).	

In subsection (a)(1), the words “Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section” are added because of the restatement.

In subsection (a)(2)(B), the words “showing compliance with the standards” are substituted for “showing no such failure to comply” for clarity.

§ 30147. Responsibility for defects and non-compliance

(a) DEEMING DEFECT OR NONCOMPLIANCE TO CERTAIN VEHICLES AND IMPORTER AS MANUFACTURER.—(1) In carrying out sections 30117(b), 30118–30121, and 30166(f) of this title—

(A) for a defect or noncompliance with an applicable motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under this chapter for a motor vehicle originally manufactured for import into the United States, an imported motor vehicle having a valid certification under section 30146(a)(1) of this title and decided to be substantially similar to that motor vehicle shall be deemed as having the same defect or as not complying with the same standard unless the

¹ So in original. Probably should be “misrepresentation.”

manufacturer or importer registered under section 30141(c) of this title demonstrates otherwise to the Secretary of Transportation; and

(B) the registered importer shall be deemed to be the manufacturer of any motor vehicle that the importer imports or brings into compliance with the standards for an individual under section 30142 of this title.

(2) The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of any defect or noncompliance under paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection.

(b) FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall require by regulation each registered importer (including any successor in interest) to provide and maintain evidence, satisfactory to the Secretary, of sufficient financial responsibility to meet its obligations under sections 30117(b), 30118–30121, and 30166(f) of this title.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 966.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
30147(a)	15:1397(d)(1).	Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89–563, 80 Stat. 718, §108(d); added Oct. 31, 1988, Pub. L. 100–562, §2(b), 102 Stat. 2821.
30147(b)	15:1397(d)(2).	

In this section, the words “(relating to discovery, notification, and remedy of motor vehicle defects)” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (a)(1)(A), the words “for a motor vehicle” are substituted for “in, or regarding, any motor vehicle” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (a)(1)(B), the word “compliance” is substituted for “conformity” for consistency in this chapter.

SUBCHAPTER IV—ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE

§ 30161. Judicial review of standards

(a) FILING AND VENUE.—A person adversely affected by an order prescribing a motor vehicle safety standard under this chapter may apply for review of the order by filing a petition for review in the court of appeals of the United States for the circuit in which the person resides or has its principal place of business. The petition must be filed not later than 59 days after the order is issued.

(b) NOTIFYING SECRETARY.—The clerk of the court shall send immediately a copy of the petition to the Secretary of Transportation. The Secretary shall file with the court a record of the proceeding in which the order was prescribed.

(c) ADDITIONAL PROCEEDINGS.—(1) On request of the petitioner, the court may order the Secretary to receive additional evidence and evidence in rebuttal if the court is satisfied that the additional evidence is material and there were reasonable grounds for not presenting the evidence in the proceeding before the Secretary.

(2) The Secretary may modify findings of fact or make new findings because of the additional evidence presented. The Secretary shall file a modified or new finding, a recommendation to modify or set aside the order, and the additional evidence with the court.

(d) CERTIFIED COPIES OF RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS.—The Secretary shall give any interested person a certified copy of the transcript of the record in a proceeding under this section on request and payment of costs. A certified copy of the record of the proceeding is admissible in a proceeding arising out of a matter under this chapter, regardless of whether the proceeding under this section has begun or becomes final.

(e) FINALITY OF JUDGMENT AND SUPREME COURT REVIEW.—A judgment of a court under this section is final and may be reviewed only by the Supreme Court under section 1254 of title 28.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 966.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
30161(a)	15:1394(a)(1) (1st sentence), (3).	Sept. 9, 1966, Pub. L. 89–563, §105(a)(1)–(5), (b), 80 Stat. 720, 721.
30161(b)	15:1394(a)(1) (2d, last sentences).	
30161(c)	15:1394(a)(2).	
30161(d)	15:1394(b).	
30161(e)	15:1394(a)(4), (5).	

In subsection (a), the words “In a case of actual controversy as to the validity of” and “who will be . . . when it is effective” are omitted as surplus. The words “an order prescribing a motor vehicle safety standard under this chapter” are substituted for “any order under section 1392 of this title” for consistency. The words “apply for review” are added for clarity. The words “The petition must be filed” are substituted for “at any time” for clarity. The text of 15:1394(a)(3) is omitted as surplus because 5:ch. 7 applies unless otherwise stated.

In subsection (b), the words “or other officer designated by him for that purpose” are omitted as surplus because of 49:322(b). The words “in which the order was prescribed” are substituted for “on which the Secretary based his order” for consistency. The words “as provided in section 2112 of title 28” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(1), the words “in such manner and upon such terms and conditions as to the court may seem proper” are omitted as surplus. The words “is satisfied” are substituted for “shows to the satisfaction of” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “and to be adduced upon the hearing” are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (c)(2), the words “with the court” are substituted for “the return of” for clarity.

In subsection (d), the words “thereof” and “criminal, exclusion of imports, or other” are omitted as surplus. The words “under this section” are substituted for “with respect to the order” for clarity. The word “previously” is omitted as surplus.

In subsection (e), the words “under this section is final and may be reviewed only” are substituted for “affirming or setting aside, in whole or in part, any such order of the Secretary shall be final, subject to review” to eliminate unnecessary words. The text of 15:1394(a)(5) is omitted because of rule 43 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure (28 App. U.S.C.).

§ 30162. Petitions by interested persons for standards and enforcement

(a) FILING.—Any interested person may file a petition with the Secretary of Transportation requesting the Secretary to begin a proceeding—

- (1) to prescribe a motor vehicle safety standard under this chapter; or
- (2) to decide whether to issue an order under section 30118(b) of this title.

(b) STATEMENT OF FACTS.—A petition under this section must state facts that the person