

locomotive braking systems operate differently than more traditional style MU equipment. The LIRR letter of request indicates that the braking system on this equipment utilizes axle mounted disk brakes which provide 80% of friction braking effort, tread brakes which provide 20% of friction braking effort, and additional dynamic braking effort to a speed of 3 mph. If the waiver is granted, LIRR would treat any failure of dynamic braking system on the EMU equipment as if it were a traditional locomotive with defective dynamic brakes [49 CFR 238.303(e)(15)(ii)].

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (FRA-2003-15638) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.—5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78). The Statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 12, 2003.

Michael J. Logue,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Compliance and Program Implementation.

[FR Doc. 03-21138 Filed 8-18-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

The Yreka Western Railroad Company

[Docket Number FRA-2003-15637]

The Yreka Western Railroad Company (YW) seeks a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Safety Glazing Standards, 49 CFR part 223, that require certified glazing for one locomotive. The YW is located in Yreka, California. The YW states that they operate over seven miles of track in extreme northern California. These seven miles of track have no exposure to any main highway and there is no record of vandalism or rock throwing. Furthermore, it hauls only wood chips and wood products and about eight to ten cars per trip.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA-2003-15637) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as

practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m.—5 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78). The Statement may also be found at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 12, 2003.

Michael J. Logue,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Compliance and Program Implementation.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2003-15145]

Notice of Public Hearing; Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of the proposed discontinuance and removal of the automatic block signal system, between Hettinger, North Dakota, milepost 926.0 and Terry, Montana, milepost 1078.9, on the Montana Division, Hettinger Subdivision, a distance of approximately 153 miles, and govern train movements by Track Warrant Control.

This block signal application proceeding is identified as Docket No. FRA-2003-15145.

The FRA has issued a public notice seeking comments of interested parties and has conducted its own field investigation in this matter. After examining the carrier's proposal and letters of protest, FRA has determined that a public hearing is necessary before a final decision is made on this proposal.

Accordingly, a public hearing is hereby set for 9 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time, on Thursday, September 18, 2003, in the Hettinger Research Extension Center, located at 102 Highway 12 West,

Hettinger, North Dakota 58639.

Interested parties are invited to present oral statements at the hearing.

The hearing will be an informal one and will be conducted in accordance with Rule 25 of the FRA Rules of Practice (49 CFR 211.25), by a representative designated by the FRA.

The hearing will be a non adversary proceeding and, therefore, there will be no cross-examination of persons presenting statements. The FRA representative will make an opening statement outlining the scope of the hearing. After all initial statements have been completed, those persons wishing to make brief rebuttal statements will be given the opportunity to do so in the same order in which they made their initial statements. Additional procedures, if necessary for the conduct of the hearing, will be announced at the hearing.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 12, 2003.

Michael J. Logue,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Compliance and Program Implementation.

[FR Doc. 03-21137 Filed 8-18-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 2003-15701; Notice 1]

Bridgestone/Firestone North America Tire, LLC; Receipt of Application for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Bridgestone/Firestone North America Tire, LLC (BFNT) has determined that approximately 1,228 P235/75R15 Peerless AMBASSADOR tires do not meet the labeling requirement mandated by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 109, "New Pneumatic Tires."

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h), BFNT has petitioned for a determination that this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and has 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.

Bridgestone/Firestone's Oklahoma City, Oklahoma plant produced approximately 1,228 tires with incorrect markings during the U.S. Department of Transportation's weeks of 17, 18, and 19

in 2003 (from April 20, 2003, through May 10, 2003). The tires were marked: "Tread Plies: 1 Polyester + 2 Steel + 1 Polyamide, Sidewall Plies: 1 Polyester." The correct marking required by FMVSS No. 109 is "Tread Plies: 2 Polyester + 2 Steel + 1 Polyamide, Sidewall Plies: 2 Polyester."

The labeling requirements of FMVSS No. 109, *New Pneumatic Tires*, S4.3, paragraphs (d) and (e), mandate that each tire 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.

Bridgestone/Firestone argues that the noncompliance described herein is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. The noncompliant subject tires were constructed with more tread plies than indicated on the sidewall marking (two instead of one). BFNT states that this noncompliance is unlikely to have an adverse impact on motor vehicle safety since the actual construction of the subject tires is more robust than that identified on the sidewall. The noncompliant tires meet or exceed all performance requirements of FMVSS No. 109 and, the noncompliance will have no impact on the operational performance or safety of vehicles on which these tires are mounted.

Interested persons are invited to submit written views, arguments, and data on the application described above. Comments must refer to the docket and notice number cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted by any of the following methods: Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20590-001. Hand Delivery: Room PL-401 on the plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC. It is requested, but not required, that two copies of the comments be provided. The Docket Section is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Federal Holidays. Comments may be submitted electronically by logging onto the Docket Management System Web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>. Click on "Help" to obtain instructions for filing the document electronically. Comments may be faxed to 1-202-493-2251, or may be submitted to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

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: September 18, 2003.

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

Issued on: August 13, 2003.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 03-21220 Filed 8-18-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA 2003-15644; Notice 1]

Freightliner LLC; Receipt of Application for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance

Freightliner LLC (Freightliner), on behalf of Thomas Built Buses, Inc. (Thomas) of High Point, North Carolina, has applied to be exempted from the notification and remedy requirements of the 49 U.S.C. chapter 301 "Motor Vehicle Safety" for a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 205, "Glazing Materials," on the basis that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Freightliner has filed a report of noncompliance pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports."

This notice of receipt of the 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. See 49 U.S.C. 30118 (d) and 30120 (h).

Freightliner submitted the following information in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR part 556, "Exemption for Inconsequential Defect or Noncompliance."

Summary of the Petition

Freightliner has determined that approximately 700 Thomas Built Conventional, MPV-EF, and HDX buses manufactured between September 22, 2002, and February 24, 2003, do not meet the labeling requirements of Paragraph S6 of FMVSS No. 205, "Glazing Materials," specifically section 6 of ANSI Z26 as incorporated by reference. The driver side windows were not marked with the DOT symbol, manufacturer's number, and the AS 2