



29 January 2013

(13-0509)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1.	<b>Notifying Member:</b> <u>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</u> <b>If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):</b>
2.	<b>Agency responsible:</b> National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT) (794) <b>Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:</b>
3.	<b>Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [ ], 5.6.2 [ ], 5.7.1 [ ], other:</b>
4.	<b>Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> Hybrid and electric vehicles (ICS 49.040, 40.120)
5.	<b>Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:</b> Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Minimum Sound Requirements for Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (72 pages, in English)
6.	<b>Description of content:</b> As required by the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act (PSEA) of 2010 this rule proposes to establish a Federal motor vehicle safety standard (FMVSS) setting minimum sound requirements for hybrid and electric vehicles. This new standard would require hybrid and electric passenger cars, light trucks and vans (LTVs), medium and heavy duty, trucks, and buses, low speed vehicles (LSVs), and motorcycles to produce sounds meeting the requirements of this standard. This proposed standard applies to electric vehicles (EVs) and to those hybrid vehicles (HVs) that are capable of propulsion in any forward or reverse gear without the vehicle's internal combustion engine (ICE) operating. This standard would ensure that blind, visually-impaired, and other pedestrians are able to detect and recognize nearby hybrid and electric vehicles, as required by the PSEA, by requiring that hybrid and electric vehicles emit sound that pedestrians would be able to hear in a range of ambient environments and contain acoustic signal content that pedestrians will recognize as being emitted from a vehicle.  The benefit of reducing the pedestrian injury rate per registered vehicle of HVs to ICE vehicles when 4.1% of the fleet is HV and EV would be 2790 fewer pedestrian and pedalcyclist injuries. We also estimate that this proposal will result in 10 fewer pedestrian and pedalcyclist injuries caused by LSVs. Thus, 2800 total injured pedestrians are expected to be avoided due to this proposal representing 35 equivalent lives saved. We do not estimate any quantifiable benefits for EVs because it is our view that EV manufacturers would have installed alert sounds in their cars without passage of the PSEA and this proposed rule. Comparison of costs and benefits expected due to this rule provides a cost of \$0.83 to \$0.99 million per equivalent life saved across the 3 and 7 percent discount levels for the light EV and HV and LSV fleet. According to our present model, a countermeasure that allows a vehicle to meet the proposed minimum sound requirements would be cost effective compared to our comprehensive cost estimate of the value of a statistical life of \$6.3 million.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:</b> Protection of the human life.
<b>8.</b>	<b>Relevant documents:</b> 78 Federal Register (FR) 2797, 14 January 2013; Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 571 and 585.  Draft Environmental Assessment for Rulemaking To Establish Minimum Sound Requirements for Hybrid and Electric Vehicles:  <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-14/html/2013-00361.htm">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-14/html/2013-00361.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-14/pdf/2013-00361.pdf">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-14/pdf/2013-00361.pdf</a>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Proposed date of adoption:</b> <b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b> } To be determined
<b>10.</b>	<b>Final date for comments:</b> 15 March 2013
<b>11.</b>	<b>Text available from: National enquiry point [X], or address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available of the other body:</b>  Internet URLs:  <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-14/html/2013-00359.htm">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-14/html/2013-00359.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-14/pdf/2013-00359.pdf">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-14/pdf/2013-00359.pdf</a>