



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

**[Docket No. NHTSA-2017-0074; Notice 1]**

**Notice of Receipt of Petition for Decision that**

**Nonconforming Model Year 2012 Mercedes Benz CLS 63 AMG Passenger**

**Cars Manufactured for the Mexican Market Are Eligible for**

**Importation**

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

**ACTION:** Receipt of petition.

**SUMMARY:** This document announces receipt by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that certain model year (MY) 2012 Mercedes Benz CLS 63 AMG passenger cars **manufactured for the Mexican market** that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards (FMVSS), are eligible for importation into the United States because they are substantially similar to vehicles that were originally manufactured for sale in the United States and that were certified by their manufacturer as complying with the safety standards (the U.S.-certified version of the 2012 Mercedes Benz CLS 63 AMG passenger cars) and

they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

**DATES:** The closing date for comments on the petition is **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments on this petition. Comments must refer to the docket and notice number cited in the title of this notice and submitted by any of the following methods:

- **Mail:** Send comments by mail addressed to U.S.  
Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30,  
West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New  
Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- **Hand Delivery:** Deliver comments by hand to U.S.  
Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30,  
West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New  
Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket  
Section is open on weekdays from 10 am to 5 pm except  
Federal Holidays.
- **Electronically:** Submit comments electronically by  
logging onto the Federal Docket Management System  
(FDMS) website at <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Follow  
the online instructions for submitting comments.

- Comments may also be faxed to (202) 493-2251.

Comments must be written in the English language, and be no greater than 15 pages in length, although there is no limit to the length of necessary attachments to the comments. If comments are submitted in hard copy form, please ensure that two copies are provided. If you wish to receive confirmation that comments you have submitted by mail were received, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard with the comments. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided.

All comments and supporting materials received before the close of business on the closing date indicated above will be filed in the docket and will be considered. All comments and supporting materials received after the closing date will also be filed and will be considered to the fullest extent possible.

When the petition is granted or denied, notice of the decision will also be published in the Federal Register pursuant to the authority indicated at the end of this notice.

All comments, background documentation, and supporting materials submitted to the docket may be viewed by anyone at the address and times given above. The documents may also be viewed on the Internet at <https://www.regulations.gov> by following the

online instructions for accessing the dockets. The docket ID number for this petition is shown in the heading of this notice.

DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement is available for review in a Federal Register notice published on April 11, 2000, (65 FR 19477-78).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** George Stevens, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202-366-5308).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Background

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30141(a)(1)(A), a motor vehicle that was not originally manufactured to conform to all applicable FMVSS 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, 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 FMVSS.

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.

Wallace Environmental Testing Laboratories (WETL), of Houston, Texas (Registered Importer R-90-005) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether nonconforming MY 2012 Mercedes Benz CLS 63 AMG passenger cars originally manufactured for the Mexican market are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles which WETL believes are substantially similar are MY 2012 Mercedes Benz CLS 63 AMG passenger cars sold in the United States and certified by their manufacturer as conforming to all applicable FMVSS.

The petitioner claims that it compared non-U.S. certified MY 2012 Mercedes Benz CLS 63 AMG passenger cars manufactured for the Mexican market to their U.S.-certified counterparts, and found the vehicles to be substantially similar with respect to compliance with most FMVSS.

WETL submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that those non-U.S. certified MY 2012 Mercedes Benz CLS 63 AMG passenger cars, as originally manufactured, conform to many applicable FMVSS in the same manner as their U.S.-certified

counterparts, or are capable of being readily altered to conform to those standards.

Specifically, the petitioner claims that the non U.S.-certified MY 2012 Mercedes Benz CLS 63 AMG passenger cars, as originally manufactured, conform to: Standard Nos. 102 Transmission Shift Lever Sequence, 103 Windshield Defrosting and Defogging Systems, 104 Windshield Wiping and Washing Systems, 106 Brake Hoses, 113 Hood Latch System, 114 Theft Protection and Rollaway Prevention, 116 Motor Vehicle Brake Fluids, 118 Power-Operated Window, Partition, and Roof Panel Systems, 124 Accelerator Control Systems, 126 Electronic Stability Control Systems, 135 Light Vehicle Brake Systems, 138 Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems, 201 Occupant Protection in Interior Impact, 202 Head Restraints, 203 Impact Protection for the Driver from the Steering Control System, 204 Steering Control Rearward Displacement, 205 Glazing Materials, 206 Door Locks and Door Retention Components, 207 Seating Systems, 208 Occupant Crash Protection, 209 Seat Belt Assemblies, 210 Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages, 212 Windshield Mounting, 214 Side Impact Protection, 216 Roof Crush Resistance, 219 Windshield Zone Intrusion, 225 Child Restraint Anchorage Systems, and 302 Flammability of Interior Materials.

The petitioner also contends that the subject non-U.S. certified passenger cars are capable of being readily altered to meet the following standards, in the manner indicated:

Standard No. 101 Controls and Displays: The instrument cluster can be programmed by the driver to display in metric or standard units as well as multiple languages without hardware or software changes. The brake warning telltale must be modified by replacing the tachometer, changing the faceplate of the current tachometer, or adding a new brake telltale.

Standard No. 108 Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment: The headlamps and taillamps must be removed and replaced with conforming lamps.

Standard No. 110 Tire Selection and Rims and Motor Home/Recreation Vehicle Trailer Load Carrying Capacity Information for Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of 4,536 Kilograms (10,000 pounds) or Less: The vehicle requires addition of a conforming tire and rim information label.

Standard No. 111 Rearview Mirrors: The passenger side mirror must be etched with the phrase "OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR." This will be achieved by applying a photomask template bearing the phrase, and sandblasting the photomasked area with 150 grit aluminum oxide.

Standard No. 301 Fuel System Integrity: The vehicle must be equipped with a rollover valve in the fuel tank vent line between the fuel tank and the evaporative emissions collection canister.

Wallace further states that labels will be affixed to conform the vehicle to the requirements of 49 CFR Parts 565 and 567, VIN Content and Certification, respectively.

This notice of receipt of WETL's petition does not represent any agency decision or other exercise of judgment concerning the merits of the petition. Notice of final action on the petition will be published in the Federal Register pursuant to the authority indicated below.

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.7; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.95 and 501.8.

**Michael A. Cole,**

*Acting Director Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.*

**Billing Code 4910-59-P**

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