FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George Entwistle, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202–366–5306).

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 Federal motor vehicle safety standards 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 Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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**.

J.K. Motors of Kingsville, Maryland (''J.K.'') (Registered Importer 90–006) petitioned NHTSA to decide whether 1992 BMW 7 Series passenger cars are eligible for importation into the United States. NHTSA published notice of the petition on November 10, 1997 (62 FR 60556) to afford an opportunity for public comment. The reader is referred to that notice for a thorough description of the petition.

One comment was received in response to the notice of the petition, from BMW of North America, Inc. (''BMW''), the United States representative of Bayerische Motoren Werke, A.G., the vehicle's manufacturer. In this comment, BMW stated that the petition erroneously claimed that non-U.S. certified 1992 BMW 7 Series passenger cars are equipped in both front seating positions with an automatic belt system identical to that found on the vehicles' U.S. certified counterparts. BMW stated that the company never certified the U.S. version of the 1992 BMW 7 Series to FMVSS No. 208, *Occupant Crash Protection,* through the use of automatic seat belts, and that it installed frontal air bag systems in those vehicles instead. BMW contended that air bags would have to be installed in a non-U.S. certified 1992 BMW 7 Series for that vehicle to comply with FMVSS No. 208.

According to BMW, it would be ''extremely difficult, if not impossible,'' for an air bag system to be properly installed.

NHTSA accorded J.K. an opportunity to respond to BMW's comment. In its response, J.K. acknowledged that the petition was in error to the extent that it described non-U.S. certified 1992 BMW 7 Series passenger cars as being equipped with automatic seat belts. J.K. agreed with BMW's assertion that these vehicles are equipped with air bag systems at both front outboard seating positions. Because the air bags in 1992 BMW 7 Series passenger cars manufactured for the European market are smaller than those furnished on the U.S. certified version of that vehicle, J.K. stated that it would be necessary to replace the air bags in European market vehicles with U.S. model components. J.K. did not address the difficulty of making such a replacement, although it indicated that if there were no existing air bag system in these vehicles, it would be possible to install one by changing the steering column and adding the necessary wiring and sensors to existing mounts.

NHTSA believes that J.K.'s response adequately addresses the issue that BMW has raised regarding its petition. NHTSA further notes that in recent years, air bag systems have been replaced with relative ease on BMWs and other similar vehicles, and that the need for this alteration would not preclude the non-U.S. certified 1992 BMW 7 Series from being found eligible for importation.

NHTSA has accordingly decided to grant the petition.

Vehicle Eligibility Number for Subject Vehicles

The importer of a vehicle admissible under any final decision must indicate on the form HS–7 accompanying entry the appropriate vehicle eligibility number indicating that the vehicle is eligible for entry. VSP–232 is the vehicle eligibility number assigned to vehicles admissible under this notice of final decision.

Final Decision

Accordingly, on the basis of the foregoing, NHTSA hereby decides that a 1992 BMW 7 Series passenger car is substantially similar to a 1992 BMW 7 Series passenger car originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified under 49 U.S.C. § 30115, and is capable of being readily altered to conform to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30141(a)(1)(A) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: January 7, 1998.

Marilynne Jacobs,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

[FR Doc. 98–690 Filed 1–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The United States Information Agency, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on an information collection requirement concerning the public use form entitled ''Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI), United Stated Information Agency, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs''. This request for comment is being made pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 [Pub. L. 104–13; 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)].

USIA is requesting OMB approval for a three-year reinstatement and revision to the currently approved collection under OMB Number 3116–0212 which is scheduled to expire on April 30, 1998. The information collection activity involved with this program is conducted pursuant to the mandate given to the United States Information Agency under the terms and conditions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87–256.

DATES: Comments are due on or before March 13, 1998.

COPIES: Copies of the Request for Clearance (OMB 83–I), supporting statement, and other documents that will be submitted to OMB for approval may be obtained from the USIA Clearance Officer. Comments should be submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, *Attention:* Desk Officer for USIA, and also to the USIA Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Agency Clearance Officer, Ms. Jeannette Giovetti, United States Information

Agency, M/AOL, 301 Fourth Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547, telephone (202) 619–4408, internet address: JGiovett@USIA.GOV; and OMB review: Ms. Victoria Wassmer, Officer of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Docket Library, Room 10202, NEOB, Washington, D.C. 20503, Telephone (202) 395–3176.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public reporting burden for this collection of information (Paper Work Reduction Project: OMB No. 3116–0181) is estimated to average twenty (20) hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Responses are voluntary and respondents will be required to respond only one time.

Comments are requested on the proposed information collection concerning (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information to the United States Information Agency, M/AOL, 301 Fourth Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Docket Library, Room 10202, NEOB, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Current Actions: USIA is requesting OMB approval for a revision to the total annual burden and the reinstatement of this collection for a three-year period.

Title: Proposal Submission Instructions (PSI), United States Information Agency.

Form Numbers: IAP–135, IA–1285, M/KR–13, SF–LLL, M/KR–12, IA–1279, IA–1280 and IAP–100.

Abstract: Information collection from the public will enable the grant review panel and Associate Director to ensure that each application complies with the established procedures and approving and/or disapproving of funding is properly warranted.

Proposed Frequency of Responses: No. of Respondents—700; Recordkeeping Hours—20; Total Annual Burden—14,000.

Dated: January 6, 1998.

Rose Royal,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 98–605 Filed 1–9–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230–01–M