

Paragraph S4.1.2 of the standards requires that "Except for a stoplamp lens or a backup lamp lens (on vehicles manufactured on or after January 1, 1973) each plastic lens shall conform to Section L, 'Warpage Test Devices With Plastic Lenses' of SAE Standard J575d * * *". The referenced SAE standard states that at the conclusion of the test, no warpage shall be evidenced such as will "affect the proper functioning of the device."

There is evidently considerable uncertainty over the question of what objective standard, if any, should be applied to clarify the meaning of "affect the proper functioning." Lens warpage has not come to the attention of the NHTSA as an area of performance deterioration that has caused significant safety problems. If serious problems of this nature should arise in the future, they could be remedially dealt with as safety-related defects under section 113 of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, and steps could be taken to develop and promulgate an objective test. At this time, the cost of regulation appears to outweigh the benefits. For these reasons, it is hereby proposed that the lens warpage tests be deleted from the lighting standard.

In consideration of the foregoing, Standards Nos. 108 and 108a, *Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment*, 49 CFR 571.108 and 571.108a, would be amended as follows:

1. The last two sentences of S4.1.2 would be deleted.

2. A new S5.3 would be added to read: S5.3 Requirements of SAE standards incorporated by reference in this standard shall not include tests for warpage of devices with plastic lenses.

Interested persons are invited to submit data, views, and arguments concerning the proposed amendment. Comments should identify the docket number, and be submitted to: Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5221, 400 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. It is requested, but not required, that 10 copies be submitted.

All comments received before the close of business on September 4, 1972, will be considered and will be available for examination both before and after the closing date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the above date will also be considered by the Administration. However, the rule making action may proceed at any time after that date, and comments received after the closing date and too late for consideration in regard to the action will be treated as suggestions for future rule making. Relevant material will continue to be filed, as it becomes available, in the docket after the closing date, and it is recommended that interested persons continue to examine the docket for new materials.

Proposed effective dates: Standard No. 108: The date of publication of the amendment in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Standard No. 108a: January 1, 1973.

This notice of proposed rule making is issued under the authority of sections 103 and 119 of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 (15 U.S.C. 1392, 1407) and the delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.51 and 49 CFR 501.8.

Issued on June 30, 1972.

ROBERT L. CARTER,
Associate Administrator,
Motor Vehicle Programs.

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Office of Pipeline Safety

[49 CFR Part 192]

[Notice 72-3A; Docket No. OPS-18]

MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSMISSION LINES AND DISTRIBUTION MAINS

Extension of Comment Period

On May 19, 1972, the Department of Transportation issued a notice of proposed rule making, Notice 72-3; Docket OPS-18 (37 F.R. 10578, May 25, 1972) proposing an amendment to Part 192 which would modify the requirements for marking the location of gas transmission lines and establish new marking requirements for distribution mains. The proposed amendment would make the marking requirements for gas pipelines consistent with the requirements of § 195.410 of Title 49 for the marking of liquid pipelines.

The date for return of comments was set as June 30, 1972. Due to the large number of comments being received and since many persons have asked for an extension of time to adequately prepare and submit comments, the date for submission of comments on Notice 72-3 is extended to August 17, 1972.

This notice is issued under the authority of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. sec. 1671, et seq.), Part 1 of the Regulations of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (49 CFR Part 1), and the delegation of authority to the Director, Office of Pipeline Safety, dated November 6, 1968 (33 F.R. 16568).

Issued in Washington, D.C., on June 30, 1972.

JOSEPH C. CALDWELL,
Director,
Office of Pipeline Safety.

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