

the requirement that the right foot pedal operate the brake control. It is also evident from the previous grants of similar petitions that we have repeatedly found that the motorcycles exempted from the brake control location requirement of FMVSS No. 123 have an overall level of safety at least equal to that of nonexempted motorcycles.

In consideration of the foregoing, we hereby find that the petitioner has met its burden of persuasion that to require compliance with FMVSS No. 123 would prevent it from selling a motor vehicle with an overall level of safety at least equal to the overall safety level of nonexempt vehicles. We further find that a temporary exemption is in the public interest and consistent with the objectives of motor vehicle safety. Therefore, Motive Power Industry Co., Ltd. is hereby granted NHTSA Temporary Exemption No. EX03-4 from the requirements of item 11, column 2, table 1 of 49 CFR 571.123 Standard No. 123 *Motorcycle Controls and Displays*, that the rear brakes be operable through the right foot control. This exemption applies only to the following Motive Power models: My BuBu 100; P100DA; My BuBu 125; PA125DA; and T-Rex 150; CP 150D. The exemption will expire on August 1, 2005.

(49 U.S.C. 30113; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50).

Issued on September 17, 2003.

Jeffrey W. Runge,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. RSPA-00-7092 (PD-22(R))]

New Mexico Requirements for the Transportation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Decision on petition for reconsideration of administrative determination of preemption.

Petitioner: Attorney General of New Mexico (New Mexico) on behalf of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department, Construction Industries Division (CID), and the New Mexico Construction Industries Commission.

Local Laws Affected: New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA), Chapter 70, Article 5 (LNG and CNG Act), and New

Mexico Annotated Code (NMAC), Title 19, Chapter 15, Part 4 (LP Gas Standards).

Applicable Federal Requirements: Federal hazardous material transportation law, 49 U.S.C. 5101 *et seq.*, and the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR), 49 C.F.R. Parts 171-180.

Mode Affected: Highway.

SUMMARY: RSPA is modifying its September 20, 2002 determination with respect to the fees specified in New Mexico's LNG and CNG Act and LP Gas Standards for vehicle inspections, employee examinations, and identification cards. Based on additional information in New Mexico's petition for reconsideration about the collection and application of these fees, together with the prior finding that these fees appear to bear some approximation to the work involved in inspecting vehicles and administering examinations and issuing identification cards, RSPA finds that Federal hazardous material transportation law does not preempt: (1) NMAC 19.15.4.14.3(C), with respect to the fees charged for inspecting or reinspecting the cargo container and safety equipment on vehicles based within New Mexico that are used for the transportation of LP gas in bulk quantities, or (2) NMSA 70-5-7(C) and NMAC 19.15.4.15.12 through 19.15.4.15.14 with respect to the fees charged for administering examinations and issuing identification cards to motor vehicle drivers domiciled in New Mexico or non-drivers who dispense liquefied petroleum (LP) gas.

In all other respects, RSPA affirms its prior determination that Federal hazardous material transportation law preempts New Mexico's requirements in:

- NMAC 19.15.4.10.1 for an annual inspection of the cargo container and safety equipment on vehicles used for transportation of LP gas in bulk, as that requirement is applied to vehicles based outside New Mexico;
- NMSA 70-5-7(A) and NMAC 19.15.4.9.1 through 19.15.4.9.5 for examination of, and issuance of an identification card to each person who transports or delivers LP gas, as those requirements are applied to motor vehicle drivers domiciled outside of New Mexico; and
- NMAC 19.15.4.15.1 for payment of an annual license fee to "wholesale, transport and/or deliver" LP gas in vehicles (other than to an ultimate consumer).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In Preemption Determination (PD) No. 22(R), published in the **Federal Register** on September 20, 2002 (67 FR 59396), RSPA considered certain requirements in New Mexico's LPG and CNG Act and CID's implementing LP Gas Standards with respect to companies, their vehicles, and their employees that transport and deliver propane and other liquefied petroleum (LP) gases. These statutory and regulatory requirements, set forth in full in Part II of RSPA's determination (67 FR at 59397), govern:

Licensing: A company must pay an annual fee of \$125 for each of its business locations within New Mexico in order to obtain a license to "wholesale, transport and/or deliver [LP] gas in vehicular units into or out of any location except that of an ultimate consumer." NMAC 19.15.4.15.1. The LPG and CNG Act authorizes the CID's Liquefied and Petroleum Gas Bureau (LPG Bureau) to collect "reasonable license fees," NMSA 70-5-9(A), and provides that "[a]ll fees and money collected under the provisions of [that] Act * * * shall be * * * deposited in the general fund of the state." NMSA 70-5-10.

Vehicle inspections: The "cargo container and safety equipment on each vehicular unit used for transportation of LP gas in bulk quantities" must pass an annual safety inspection by the LPG Bureau. NMAC 19.15.4.10.1. The fee for the annual inspection (or a reinspection) is \$37.50 per vehicle. NMAC 19.15.4.14.3(C).

Driver testing and identification: Any person who "transports or dispenses LP gas" must pass an "appropriate examination." NMSA 70-5-7(A). The applicant must show that he or she is "familiar with minimum safety standards and practices with regard to handling of LP Gas. LP Gas may not be dispensed by any person who has not passed the examination." NMAC 19.15.4.9.1. An individual who passes the examination is issued an "identification card," renewable annually, and valid only "while employed by a licensee." NMAC 19.15.4.9.2-9.4. If an individual holding an identification card is not employed by a licensee for two years, the individual must take a new examination. NMAC 19.15.4.9.5. There is a fee of \$25.00 for an examination (or a re-examination) and \$10.00 for