

Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a petition for a decision that 1999–2003 Ducati 748 and 916 motorcycles that were not originally manufactured to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards are eligible for importation into the United States because (1) they are substantially similar to vehicles that were originally manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and that were certified by their manufacturer as complying with the safety standards, and (2) they are capable of being readily altered to conform to the standards.

DATES: The closing date for comments on the petition is December 18, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments should refer to the docket number and notice number, and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL–401, 400 Seventh St., SW., Washington, DC 20590. [Docket hours are from 9 am to 5 pm.] Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477–78) or you may visit <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Coleman Sachs, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, NHTSA (202–366–3151).

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**.

Superbike Racing, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia (“SRI”)(Registered Importer 1–286) has petitioned NHTSA to decide whether non-U.S. certified 1999–2003 Ducati 748 and 916 motorcycles are eligible for importation into the United States. The vehicles that SRI believes are substantially similar are 1999–2003 Ducati 748 and 916 motorcycles that were manufactured for importation into and sale in the United States and certified by their manufacturer, Ducati Motor S.p.A., as conforming to all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

The petitioner claims that it carefully compared non-U.S. certified 1999–2003 Ducati 748 and 916 motorcycles to their U.S. certified counterparts, and found the vehicles to be substantially similar with respect to compliance with most Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

SRI submitted information with its petition intended to demonstrate that non-U.S. certified 1999–2003 Ducati 748 and 916 motorcycles, as originally manufactured, conform to many Federal motor vehicle safety standards 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 non-U.S. certified 1999–2003 Ducati 748 and 916 motorcycles are identical to their U.S. certified counterparts with respect to compliance with Standard Nos. 106 *Brake Hoses*, 111 *Rearview Mirrors*, 116 *Brake Fluid*, 119 *New Pneumatic Tires for Vehicles other than Passenger Cars*, 122 *Motorcycle Brake Systems*, and 205 *Glazing Materials*.

The petitioner also contends that the vehicles are capable of being readily altered to meet the following standards, in the manner indicated below:

Standard No. 108 *Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment*: (a) Installation of U.S.-model headlamp assemblies, which incorporate DOT certified headlamps; (b) replacement of all stop lamp and directional bulbs with ones that are certified to DOT requirements; (c) replacement of all lenses with ones that are certified to DOT requirements.

Standard No. 120 *Tire Selection and Rims for Vehicles other than Passenger Cars*: Installation of a tire information placard.

Standard No. 123 *Motorcycle Controls and Displays*: Installation of a U.S.-model speedometer reading in miles per

hour and a U.S.-model odometer reading in miles.

Comments should refer to the docket number and be submitted to: Docket Management, Room PL–401, 400 Seventh 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 the closing date indicated above will be considered, and will be available for examination in the docket at the above address both before and after that date. To the extent possible, comments filed after the closing date will also be considered. 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) and (b)(1); 49 CFR 593.8; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 501.8.

Issued on: November 13, 2003.

Kenneth N. Weinstein,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 34428]

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey—Petition for Declaratory Order

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Institution of declaratory order proceeding; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Surface Transportation Board is instituting a declaratory order proceeding and requesting comments on the petition of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (Port Authority) for an order declaring that the construction by petitioner of a connector between the line of the former Staten Island Railroad (SIRR) and the rail lines owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NS), CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX), and Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail), and any operation over this newly constructed connector, do not constitute the extension of a line of railroad and require no Board approval.

DATES: Any interested person may file with the Board written comments concerning the Port Authority's petition by December 18, 2003. Replies will be due on January 7, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Send an original and 10 copies of any comments referring to STB Finance Docket No. 34428 to: Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street,