



Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

Improving commercial motor vehicle safety and enforcement

NHTSA Public Petition Inventory

CVSA supports requiring the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to create an inventory of all petitions received, which also includes disposition information.

Agencies within the Department of Transportation receive petitions requesting changes to the regulations for which the agency is responsible. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration each publish a website listing petitions the agency has received, but there is currently no mechanism requiring that stakeholders and the public be made aware of petitions made to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

CVSA supports requiring NHTSA to create an inventory of all petitions received, which also includes disposition information. The inventory of all petitions may take the form of a publicly accessible website of the department, summarizing all petitions for regulatory action submitted to NHTSA.

Requiring NHTSA to create a public petition inventory would notify stakeholders of areas of interest to others in the regulated community, which can foster conversation that could lead to solutions and consensus building. NHTSA would benefit from stakeholder input it receives on petitions prior to the start of the rulemaking process, and the input could help inform the agency's thinking about the requested changes. Including an inventory of the petitions for rulemaking received by NHTSA would enable the agency to strengthen partnerships with states and other key stakeholders by allowing opportunities for input on decisions that will affect roadway safety.