

purchase of the vehicle or equipment in good faith other than for resale (but this clause does not prohibit a standard from requiring that a vehicle or equipment be manufactured to comply with the standard over a specified period of operation or use); or

(2) a person—

(A) establishing that the person had no reason to know, by exercising reasonable care, that the vehicle or equipment does not comply with the standard; or

(B) holding, without knowing about a non-compliance and before that first purchase, a certificate issued under section 32504 of this title stating that the vehicle or equipment complies with the standard.

(c) **IMPORTING NONCOMPLYING VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.**—(1) The Secretaries of Transportation and the Treasury may prescribe joint regulations authorizing a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment not complying with a standard prescribed under section 32502 of this title to be imported into the United States subject to conditions (including providing a bond) the Secretaries consider appropriate to ensure that the vehicle or equipment will—

(A) comply, after importation, with the standards prescribed under section 32502 of this title;

(B) be exported; or

(C) be abandoned to the United States Government.

(2) The Secretaries may prescribe joint regulations that allow a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment to be imported into the United States after the first purchase in good faith other than for resale.

(d) **LIABILITY UNDER OTHER LAW.**—Compliance with a standard under this chapter does not exempt a person from liability provided by law.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1045; Pub. L. 105–277, div. A, §101(g) [title III, §351(b)(2)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681–439, 2681–476.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32506(a)	15:1916(a).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92–513, §106, 86 Stat. 952.
32506(b)	15:1916(b)(1), (2).	
32506(c)	15:1916(b)(3), (4).	
32506(d)	15:1916(c).	

In subsection (a)(4), the words “required by such subsection to the effect that a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment conforms to all applicable bumper standards” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(1), before clause (A), the word “conditions” is substituted for “such terms and conditions” to eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (A), the words “comply, after importation” are substituted for “brought into conformity” for clarity and consistency.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105–277 inserted “and section 32502 of this title” after “Except as provided in this section” in introductory provisions.

§ 32507. Penalties and enforcement

(a) **CIVIL PENALTY.**—(1) A person that violates section 32506(a) of this title is liable to the

United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each violation. A separate violation occurs for each passenger motor vehicle or item of passenger motor vehicle equipment involved in a violation of section 32506(a)(1) or (4) of this title—

(A) that does not comply with a standard prescribed under section 32502 of this title; or

(B) for which a certificate is not provided, or for which a false or misleading certificate is provided, under section 32504 of this title.

(2) The maximum civil penalty under this subsection for a related series of violations is \$800,000.

(3) The Secretary of Transportation imposes a civil penalty under this subsection. The Attorney General or the Secretary, with the concurrence of the Attorney General, shall bring a civil action in a United States district court to collect the penalty.

(b) **CRIMINAL PENALTY.**—A person knowingly and willfully violating section 32506(a)(1) of this title after receiving a notice of noncompliance from the Secretary shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than one year, or both. If the person is a corporation, the penalties of this subsection also apply to a director, officer, or individual agent of the corporation who, with knowledge of the Secretary’s notice, knowingly and willfully authorizes, orders, or performs an act that is any part of the violation.

(c) **CIVIL ACTIONS TO ENFORCE.**—(1) The Secretary or the Attorney General may bring a civil action in a United States district court to enjoin a violation of this chapter or the sale, offer for sale, introduction or delivery for introduction in interstate commerce, or importation into the United States, of a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment that is found, before the first purchase in good faith other than for resale, not to comply with a standard prescribed under section 32502 of this title.

(2) When practicable, the Secretary shall—

(A) notify a person against whom an action under this subsection is planned;

(B) give the person an opportunity to present that person’s views; and

(C) except for a knowing and willful violation, give the person a reasonable opportunity to comply.

(3) The failure of the Secretary to comply with paragraph (2) of this subsection does not prevent a court from granting appropriate relief.

(d) **JURY TRIAL DEMAND.**—In a trial for criminal contempt for violating an injunction or restraining order issued under subsection (c) of this section, the violation of which is also a violation of this chapter, the defendant may demand a jury trial. The defendant shall be tried as provided in rule 42(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure (18 App. U.S.C.).

(e) **VENUE.**—A civil action under subsection (a) or (c) of this section may be brought in the judicial district in which the violation occurred or the defendant is found, resides, or does business. Process in the action may be served in any other judicial district in which the defendant resides or is found. A subpoena for a witness in the action may be served in any judicial district.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1046.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32507(a)	15:1917(a).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, § 107, 86 Stat. 953.
32507(b)	15:1917(b).	
32507(c)	15:1917(c)(1).	
32507(d)	15:1917(c)(2).	
32507(e)	15:1917(c)(3), (4).	

In subsection (a)(3), the words “by any of the Secretary’s attorneys designated by the Secretary for such purpose” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), the words “fined under title 18” are substituted for “fined not more than \$50,000” for consistency with title 18. The words “If the person is a corporation, the penalties of this subsection also apply” are substituted for “If a corporation violates section 1916(a)(1) of this title after having received notice of noncompliance from the Secretary . . . shall be subject to penalties under this section in addition to the corporation”, the word “act” is substituted for “acts or practices”, and the words “any part of the violation” are substituted for “in whole or in part such violation”, to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (c)(1), the words “may bring a civil action” are substituted for “Upon petition . . . on behalf of the United States . . . have jurisdiction” for consistency with rule 2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 App. U.S.C.) and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “for cause shown and subject to the provisions of rule 65(a) and (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure” are omitted as surplus because the rules apply in the absence of an exemption from them. The word “enjoin” is substituted for “restrain” for consistency.

In subsection (d), the words “the defendant may demand a jury trial” are substituted for “trial shall be by the court, or, upon demand of the accused, by a jury” to eliminate unnecessary words and for consistency in the revised title.

In subsection (e), the words “any act or transaction constituting” are omitted as surplus. The word “resides” is substituted for “is an inhabitant” for consistency and to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 32508. Civil actions by owners of passenger motor vehicles

When an owner of a passenger motor vehicle sustains damages as a result of a motor vehicle accident because the vehicle did not comply with a standard prescribed under section 32502 of this title, the owner may bring a civil action against the manufacturer to recover the damages. The action may be brought in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or in the United States district court for the judicial district in which the owner resides. The action must be brought not later than 3 years after the date of the accident. The court shall award costs and a reasonable attorney’s fee to the owner when a judgment is entered for the owner.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1047.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32508	15:1918.	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §108, 86 Stat. 955.

The words “applicable Federal” are omitted as surplus. The words “when a judgment is entered for the

owner” are substituted for “in the case of any such successful action to recover that amount” to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 32509. Information and assistance from other departments, agencies, and instrumentalities

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Transportation may request information necessary to carry out this chapter from a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government. The head of the department, agency, or instrumentality shall provide the information.

(b) DETAILING PERSONNEL.—The head of a department, agency, or instrumentality may detail, on a reimbursable basis, personnel to assist the Secretary in carrying out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1047.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32509	15:1914(c).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §104(c), 86 Stat. 951.

In subsection (a), the words “he deems” and “his functions under” are omitted as surplus. The words “head of the” are added for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code. The words “cooperate with the Secretary and” and “to the Department of Transportation upon request made by the Secretary” are omitted as surplus.

§ 32510. Repealed. Pub. L. 105-362, title XV, § 1501(e)(1), Nov. 10, 1998, 112 Stat. 3294]

Section, Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1047, related to annual report by Secretary of Transportation to Congress and the President concerning bumper standards.

§ 32511. Relationship to other motor vehicle standards

(a) PREEMPTION.—Except as provided in this section, a State or a political subdivision of a State may prescribe or enforce a bumper standard for a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment only if the standard is identical to a standard prescribed under section 32502 of this title.

(b) ENFORCEMENT.—This chapter and chapter 301 of this title do not affect the authority of a State to enforce a bumper standard about an aspect of performance of a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment not covered by a standard prescribed under section 32502 of this title if the State bumper standard—

- (1) does not conflict with a standard prescribed under chapter 301 of this title; and
- (2) was in effect or prescribed by the State on October 20, 1972.

(c) ADDITIONAL AND HIGHER STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE.—The United States Government, a State, or a political subdivision of a State may prescribe a bumper standard for a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment obtained for its own use that imposes additional or higher standards of performance than a standard prescribed under section 32502 of this title.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1047.)