

(1) inspect and copy records of any person at reasonable times;

(2) order a person to file written reports or answers to specific questions, including reports or answers under oath; and

(3) conduct hearings, administer oaths, take testimony, and require (by subpoena or otherwise) the appearance and testimony of witnesses and the production of records the Secretary considers advisable.

(b) WITNESS FEES AND MILEAGE.—A witness summoned under subsection (a) of this section is entitled to the same fee and mileage the witness would have been paid in a court of the United States.

(c) CIVIL ACTIONS TO ENFORCE.—A civil action to enforce a subpoena or order of the Secretary under subsection (a) of this section may be brought in the United States district court for the judicial district in which the proceeding by the Secretary is conducted. The court may punish a failure to obey an order of the court to comply with the subpoena or order of the Secretary as a contempt of court.

(d) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—Information obtained by the Secretary under this section related to a confidential matter referred to in section 1905 of title 18 may be disclosed only to another officer or employee of the United States Government for use in carrying out this chapter. This subsection does not authorize information to be withheld from a committee of Congress authorized to have the information.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1040.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32307(a)	15:1944(a)-(c).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §204, 86 Stat. 957.
32307(b)	15:1944(e).	
32307(c)	15:1944(d).	
32307(d)	15:1944(f).	

In subsection (a), before clause (1), the words “In carrying out this chapter” are substituted for “For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subchapter”, “In order to carry out the provisions of this subchapter”, and “relating to any function of the Secretary under this subchapter” for consistency. The words “or on the authorization of the Secretary, any officer or employee of the Department of Transportation” and “or his duly authorized agent” are omitted as surplus because of 49:322(b). In clause (1), the words “inspect and copy” are substituted for “have access to, and for the purposes of examination the right to copy”, and the word “records” is substituted for “documentary evidence” and “materials and information”, for consistency and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “relevant to the study authorized by this subchapter” are omitted as surplus. In clause (2), the word “order” is substituted for “require, by general or special orders” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “in such form as the Secretary may prescribe” and “shall be filed with the Secretary within such reasonable period as the Secretary may prescribe” are omitted as surplus because of 49:322(a). In clause (3), the words “sit and act at such times and places” are omitted as being included in “conduct hearings”.

In subsection (c), the words “A civil action to enforce a subpoena or order of the Secretary under subsection (a) of this section may be brought in the United States district court for the judicial district in which the pro-

ceeding by the Secretary is conducted” are substituted for 15:1944(d) (words before semicolon) for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (d), the words “reported to or otherwise” are omitted as surplus. The words “or such officer or employee” are omitted for consistency with subsection (a) of this section. The words “related to a confidential matter referred to” are substituted for “contains or relates to a trade secret or other matter referred to” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “a committee of Congress authorized to have the information” are substituted for “the duly authorized committees of the Congress” for clarity.

§ 32308. General prohibitions, civil penalty, and enforcement

(a) PROHIBITIONS.—A person may not—

(1) fail to provide the Secretary of Transportation with information requested by the Secretary in carrying out this chapter; or

(2) fail to comply with applicable regulations prescribed by the Secretary in carrying out this chapter.

(b) CIVIL PENALTY.—(1) A person that violates subsection (a) of this section is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each violation. Each failure to provide information or comply with a regulation in violation of subsection (a) is a separate violation. The maximum penalty under this subsection for a related series of violations is \$400,000.

(2) The Secretary may compromise the amount of a civil penalty imposed under this section.

(3) In determining the amount of a penalty or compromise, the appropriateness of the penalty or compromise to the size of the business of the person charged and the gravity of the violation shall be considered.

(4) The Government may deduct the amount of a civil penalty imposed or compromised under this section from amounts it owes the person liable for the penalty.

(c) SECTION 32304A.—Any person who fails to comply with the national tire fuel efficiency information program under section 32304A is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$50,000 for each violation.

(d) CIVIL ACTIONS TO ENFORCE.—(1) The Attorney General may bring a civil action in a United States district court to enjoin a violation of subsection (a) of this section.

(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) 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.

(e) VENUE AND SERVICE.—A civil action under 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. 1041; Pub. L. 110-140, title I, §111(b), Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1507.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32308(a)	15:1946.	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §§ 206-208, 86 Stat. 959.
32308(b)(1) ..	15:1948(a).	
32308(b)(2)-(4) ..	15:1948(b).	
32308(c)	15:1947 (1st-3d sentences).	
32308(d)	15:1947 (last sentence).	
	15:1948(c).	

In subsection (a)(1), the words “data or” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b)(1), the words “Each failure to provide information or comply with a regulation” are substituted for “with respect to each failure or refusal to comply with a requirement thereunder” for clarity.

In subsection (c), the words “The Attorney General may bring a civil action” are substituted for “Upon petition by the Attorney General on behalf of the United States” 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” are omitted as surplus. The words “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 exception from them.

Subsection (d) is substituted for 15:1947 (last sentence) and 1948(c) for clarity and consistency in this part by restating 15:1917(c)(3) and (4).

AMENDMENTS

2007—Subsecs. (c) to (e). Pub. L. 110-140 added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsecs. (c) and (d) as (d) and (e), respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2007 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-140 effective on the date that is 1 day after Dec. 19, 2007, see section 1601 of Pub. L. 110-140, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1824 of Title 2, The Congress.

§ 32309. Civil penalty for labeling violations

(a) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions in section 32304 of this title apply to this section.

(b) PENALTIES.—A manufacturer of a passenger motor vehicle distributed in commerce for sale in the United States that willfully fails to attach the label required under section 32304 of this title to a new passenger motor vehicle that the manufacturer manufactures or imports, or a dealer that fails to maintain that label as required under section 32304, is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each violation. Each failure to attach or maintain that label for each vehicle is a separate violation.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1042; Pub. L. 103-429, §6(31), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4380.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
PUB. L. 103-272

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32309(a)	(no source).	
32309(b)	15:1950(e).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, 86 Stat. 947, §210(e); added Oct. 6, 1992, Pub. L. 102-388, §355, 106 Stat. 1557.

Subsection (a) is added to ensure that the definitions in 15:1950(f), restated in section 32304 of the revised title, apply to the source provision restated in this section.

In subsection (b), the words “Each failure to attach or maintain that label” are substituted for “Such failure” for clarity.

PUB. L. 103-429

This amends the catchline for 49:32309 to correct an error in the codification enacted by section 1 of the Act of July 5, 1994 (Public Law 103-272, 108 Stat. 1042).

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-429 substituted “Civil” for “Criminal” in section catchline.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-429 effective July 5, 1994, see section 9 of Pub. L. 103-429, set out as a note under section 321 of this title.

CHAPTER 325—BUMPER STANDARDS

Sec. 32501.	Purpose.
32502.	Bumper standards.
32503.	Judicial review of bumper standards.
32504.	Certificates of compliance.
32505.	Information and compliance requirements.
32506.	Prohibited acts.
32507.	Penalties and enforcement.
32508.	Civil actions by owners of passenger motor vehicles.
32509.	Information and assistance from other departments, agencies, and instrumentalities.
[32510.]	Repealed.]
32511.	Relationship to other motor vehicle standards.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-362, title XV, §1501(e)(2), Nov. 10, 1998, 112 Stat. 3295, struck out item 32510 “Annual report”.

§ 32501. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to reduce economic loss resulting from damage to passenger motor vehicles involved in motor vehicle accidents by providing for the maintenance and enforcement of bumper standards.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1042.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32501	15:1911.	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §101, 86 Stat. 948.

The words “The Congress finds that it is necessary” are omitted as surplus. The word “maintenance” is substituted for “promulgation” for clarity.

§ 32502. Bumper standards

(a) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND NONAPPLICATION.—The Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe by regulation bumper standards for passenger motor vehicles and may prescribe by regulation bumper standards for passenger motor vehicle equipment manufactured in, or imported into, the United States. A standard does not apply to a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment—

- (1) intended only for export;