

(c) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—(1) Information obtained by the Secretary under this chapter related to a confidential matter referred to in section 1905 of title 18 may be disclosed only—

(A) to another officer or employee of the United States Government for use in carrying out this chapter; or

(B) in a proceeding under this chapter.

(2) This subsection does not authorize information to be withheld from a committee of Congress authorized to have the information.

(3) Subject to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Secretary, on request, shall make available to the public at cost information the Secretary submits or receives in carrying out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1044; Pub. L. 103-429, §6(32), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4380.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
PUB. L. 103-272

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32505(a)(1) ..	15:1915(a).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §§104(a), (b), 105(a), (b), 109, 86 Stat. 950, 951, 952, 955.
32505(a)(2) ..	15:1915(b).	
32505(b)(1) ..	15:1914(a)(1)-(3).	
32505(b)(2) ..	15:1914(a)(5).	
32505(b)(3) ..	15:1914(a)(4).	
32505(c)(1), (2).	15:1914(b).	
32505(c)(3) ..	15:1919.	

In subsection (a)(1), before clause (A), the words “To enable the Secretary of Transportation to decide whether . . . is complying” are substituted for “to enable him to determine whether such manufacturer has acted or is acting in compliance” and “determining whether such manufacturer has acted or is acting in compliance” to eliminate unnecessary words. The word “reasonably” is omitted as surplus. In clause (A), the word “keep” is substituted for “establish and maintain” for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (C), the text of 15:1915(a) (2d sentence) is omitted as surplus because of 49:322(a). In clause (D), the words “upon request” and “duly” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (a)(2), the word “enter” is omitted as being as included in “inspect”. The word “facility” is substituted for “factory, warehouse, or establishment” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “shall be commenced and completed” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b)(1), before clause (A), 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”, “relevant to any function of the Secretary under this subchapter”, and “relating to any function of the Secretary under this subchapter” for consistency. In clause (A), the words “inspect and copy” are substituted for “have access to, and for the purposes of examination the right to copy” to eliminate unnecessary words. The word “records” is substituted for “documentary evidence” for consistency. In clause (B), 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 (C), the words “sit and act at such times and places” are omitted as being included in “conduct hearings”.

In subsection (b)(3), the words “A civil action to enforce a subpoena or order of the Secretary under this

subsection may be brought in the United States district court for the judicial district in which the proceeding by the Secretary was conducted” are substituted for 15:1914(a)(4) (words before semicolon) for consistency in the revised title and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (c)(1), before clause (A), the words “reported to or otherwise” are omitted as surplus. The words “or his representative” are omitted for consistency with subsection (b) 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 “shall be considered confidential for the purpose of that section” are omitted as surplus. In clause (A), the words “of the United States Government” are added for clarity. In clause (B) the words “when relevant” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(2), the words “a committee of Congress authorized to have the information” are substituted for “the duly authorized committees of the Congress” for clarity.

In subsection (c)(3), the words “copies of any communications, documents, reports, or other” are omitted as surplus.

PUB. L. 103-429

This amends 49:32505(b)(3) to clarify the restatement of 15:1914(a)(4) by section 1 of the Act of July 5, 1994 (Public Law 103-272, 108 Stat. 1044).

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 103-429 substituted “any judicial district in which the proceeding by the Secretary is conducted” for “the judicial district in which the proceeding by the Secretary was conducted”.

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.

§ 32506. Prohibited acts

(a) GENERAL.—Except as provided in this section and section 32502 of this title, a person may not—

(1) manufacture for sale, sell, offer for sale, introduce or deliver for introduction in interstate commerce, or import into the United States, a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment manufactured on or after the date an applicable standard under section 32502 of this title takes effect, unless it conforms to the standard;

(2) fail to comply with an applicable regulation prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation under this chapter;

(3) fail to keep records, refuse access to or copying of records, fail to make reports or provide items or information, or fail or refuse to allow entry or inspection, as required by this chapter or a regulation prescribed under this chapter; or

(4) fail to provide the certificate required by section 32504 of this title, or provide a certificate that the person knows, or in the exercise of reasonable care has reason to know, is false or misleading in a material respect.

(b) NONAPPLICATION.—Subsection (a)(1) of this section does not apply to—

(1) the sale, offer for sale, or introduction or delivery for introduction in interstate commerce of a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment after the first

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 into 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.