

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1072; Pub. L. 110-140, title I, §112, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1508.)

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.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32912(a)	15:2008(b)(2).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, 86 Stat. 947, §508(b)(1)-(3) (1st sentence); added Dec. 22, 1975, Pub. L. 94-163, §301, 89 Stat. 913; Oct. 10, 1980, Pub. L. 96-425, §§6(c)(1), (3), 8(f), 94 Stat. 1827, 1828, 1829.
32912(b)	15:2008(b)(1).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, 86 Stat. 947, §508(d), (e)(1), (2), (4); added Nov. 9, 1978, Pub. L. 95-619, §402, 92 Stat. 3255, 3256.
32912(c)(1) ..	15:2008(d).	
32912(c)(2), (3).	15:2008(e)(1).	
32912(c)(4) ..	15:2008(e)(2).	
32912(c)(5) ..	15:2008(e)(4).	
32912(d)	15:2008(b)(3) (1st sentence).	

§ 32913. Compromising and remitting civil penalties

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY AND LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary of Transportation may compromise or remit the amount of a civil penalty imposed under section 32912(a) or (b) of this title. However, the amount of a penalty imposed under section 32912(b) may be compromised or remitted only to the extent—

- (1) necessary to prevent the insolvency or bankruptcy of the manufacturer of automobiles;
- (2) the manufacturer shows that the violation was caused by an act of God, a strike, or a fire; or
- (3) the Federal Trade Commission certifies under subsection (b)(1) of this section that a reduction in the penalty is necessary to prevent a substantial lessening of competition.

(b) CERTIFICATION BY COMMISSION.—(1) A manufacturer liable for a civil penalty under section 32912(b) of this title may apply to the Commission for a certification that a reduction in the penalty is necessary to prevent a substantial lessening of competition in the segment of the motor vehicle industry subject to the standard that was violated. The Commission shall make the certification when it finds that reduction is necessary to prevent the lessening. The Commission shall state in the certification the maximum amount by which the penalty may be reduced.

(2) An application under this subsection must be made not later than 30 days after the Secretary decides that the manufacturer has violated section 32911(b) of this title. To the maximum extent practicable, the Commission shall make a decision on an application by the 90th day after the application is filed. A proceeding under this subsection may not delay the manufacturer's liability for the penalty for more than 90 days after the application is filed.

(3) When a civil penalty is collected in a civil action under this chapter before a decision of the Commission under this subsection is final, the payment shall be paid to the court in which the action was brought. The court shall deposit the payment in the general fund of the Treasury on the 90th day after the decision of the Commission becomes final. When the court is holding payment of a penalty reduced under subsection (a)(3) of this section, the Secretary shall direct the court to remit the appropriate amount of the penalty to the manufacturer.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1073; Pub. L. 103-429, §6(41), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4382; Pub. L. 104-287, §6(d)(1)(A), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3399.)

In this section, the words “whom the Secretary determines under subsection (a) of this section” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), before clause (1)(A), the words “Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section” are added for clarity. The words “that violates a standard prescribed for a model year under section 32902 of this title” are substituted for “to have violated a provision of section 2007(a)(1) of this title with respect to any model year” and “to have violated section 2007(a)(2) of this title” to avoid referring, as in the source, to one provision that in turn refers to another provision. In clause (1), the words “calculated under” are substituted for “established under” for clarity. The reference to section 32904(a)(1)(A), which is a reference to the provision under which average fuel economy for nonpassenger automobiles is calculated, is added for clarity. The reference to section 32904(a)(1)(B), which is a reference to the provision under which average fuel economy for passenger automobiles is calculated, is substituted for the reference in the source to 15:2002(a) and (c), which is a reference to the provision under which the average fuel economy standard for those automobiles is established, for clarity. The words “in which the violation occurs” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(1)(A), before clause (i), the words “shall prescribe by regulation” are substituted for “shall, by rule . . . substitute” for consistency in the revised title and because “rule” and “regulation” are synonymous. The words “in accordance with the provisions of this subsection and subsection (e)” are omitted as surplus. The words “be less than \$5.00” are omitted as surplus because under the subsection the Secretary may only raise the amount imposed to \$10, or a \$5 increase. The words “in the absence of such rule” are omitted as surplus. The words “increase in the penalty” are substituted for “additional amount of the civil penalty” for clarity. In clause (ii), the words “subject to subparagraph (B)” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(1)(C), the words “the later of” and the text of 15:2008(d)(3)(A) are omitted as obsolete.

In subsection (c)(2), before clause (A), the words “After the Secretary of Transportation develops a proposed rule pursuant to subsection (d) of this section” are omitted as surplus. In clause (B), the words “written comments or an oral presentation” are substituted for “written or oral presentations” for consistency in the section. The text of 15:2008(e)(1)(B) (last sentence) and (C) is omitted as surplus because of 5:556(d).

In subsection (c)(5), before clause (A), the words “department, agency, or instrumentality” are substituted for “department or agency” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

AMENDMENTS

2007—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 110-140 added subsec. (e).

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
PUB. L. 103-272

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
32913(a)	15:2008(b)(3) (2d sentence).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, 86 Stat. 947, § 508(b)(3) (2d sentence), (4), (5); added Dec. 22, 1975, Pub. L. 94-163, § 301, 89 Stat. 913; Oct. 10, 1980, Pub. L. 96-425, § 6(c)(1), 94 Stat. 1827.
32913(b)	15:2008(b)(4), (5).	

In subsection (a), before clause (1), the words “compromise or remit” are substituted for “compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions” for consistency in the revised title. The words “against any person” are omitted as surplus. The reference to section 32912(b) (a restatement of 15:2008(b)(1)) is used rather than a reference to 32911(b) (a restatement of 15:2007(a)(1) or (2)) to avoid referring, as in the source, to one provision that in turn refers to another provision. In clause (3), the word “reduction” is substituted for “modification” for clarity. The words “as determined under paragraph (4)” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b)(1), the words “the standard that was violated” are substituted for “the standard with respect to which such penalty was assessed”, and the words “The Commission shall make the certification when it finds that reduction” are substituted for “If the manufacturer shows and the Federal Trade Commission determines that modification of the civil penalty for which such manufacturer is otherwise liable . . . the Commission shall so certify”, to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (b)(3), the words “When a civil penalty is collected in a civil action under this chapter” are substituted for “but any payment made” for clarity. The words “action was brought” are substituted for “the penalty is collected” for consistency. The words “and shall (except as otherwise provided in paragraph (5)), be held by such court” are omitted as surplus. The words “When the court is holding payment of a penalty reduced under subsection (a)(3) of this section” are substituted for “Whenever a civil penalty has been assessed and collected from a manufacturer under this section, and is being held by a court in accordance with paragraph (4), and the Secretary subsequently determines to modify such civil penalty pursuant to paragraph (3)(C)” to eliminate unnecessary words.

PUB. L. 103-429

This amends 49:32913(b)(1) to clarify the restatement of 15:2008(b)(4) and (5) by section 1 of the Act of July 5, 1994 (Public Law 103-272, 108 Stat. 1073).

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-287 made technical amendment to directory language of Pub. L. 103-429, § 6(41). See 1994 Amendment notes below.

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-429, § 6(41)(A), as amended by Pub. L. 104-287, substituted “Certification” for “Penalty Reduction” in heading.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 103-429, § 6(41)(B), as amended by Pub. L. 104-287, substituted “a reduction in the penalty is necessary” for “the penalty should be reduced”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-287, § 6(d), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3398, provided that the amendment made by section 6(d)(1)(A) is effective Oct. 31, 1994.

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.

§ 32914. Collecting civil penalties

(a) CIVIL ACTIONS.—If a person does not pay a civil penalty after it becomes a final order of the

Secretary of Transportation or a judgment of a court of appeals of the United States for a circuit, the Attorney General shall bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States to collect the penalty. The validity and appropriateness of the final order imposing the penalty is not reviewable in the action.

(b) PRIORITY OF CLAIMS.—A claim of a creditor against a bankrupt or insolvent manufacturer of automobiles has priority over a claim of the United States Government against the manufacturer for a civil penalty under section 32912(b) of this title when the creditor’s claim is for credit extended before a final judgment (without regard to section 32913(b)(1) and (2) of this title) in an action to collect under subsection (a) of this section.

(Pub. L. 103-272, § 1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1074.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
32914(a)	15:2008(b)(3) (last sentence), (c)(2).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, 86 Stat. 947, § 508(b)(3) (last sentence), (6), (c)(2); added Dec. 22, 1975, Pub. L. 94-163, § 301, 89 Stat. 913, 914.
32914(b)	15:2008(b)(6).	

In subsection (a), the text of 15:2008(b)(3) (last sentence) is omitted as surplus because of 28:516 and 2461(a). The words “an assessment of” and “and unappealable” are omitted as surplus. The words “of the Secretary of Transportation” are added for clarity. The words “for a circuit” are added for consistency. The words “in favor of the Secretary” are omitted as surplus. The words “shall bring a civil action . . . to collect the penalty” are substituted for “shall recover the amount for which the manufacturer is liable” for consistency.

In subsection (b), the words “A claim of a creditor against a bankrupt or insolvent manufacturer of automobiles has priority over a claim of the United States Government against the manufacturer” are substituted for “A claim of the United States . . . against a manufacturer . . . shall, in the case of the bankruptcy or insolvency of such manufacturer, be subordinate to any claim of a creditor of such manufacturer” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “the date on which” are omitted as surplus.

§ 32915. Appealing civil penalties

Any interested person may appeal a decision of the Secretary of Transportation to impose a civil penalty under section 32912(a) or (b) of this title, or of the Federal Trade Commission under section 32913(b)(1) of this title, in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit or in the court of appeals of the United States for the circuit in which the person resides or has its principal place of business. A person appealing a decision must file a notice of appeal with the court not later than 30 days after the decision and, at the same time, send a copy of the notice by certified mail to the Secretary or the Commission. The Secretary or the Commission promptly shall file with the court a certified copy of the record of the proceeding in which the decision was made.

(Pub. L. 103-272, § 1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1074.)