SUMMARY: This document responds to a petition for rulemaking regarding the Federal motor vehicle safety standard for lighting. The Groupe de Travail “Bruxelles 1952” (GTB) and the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Lighting Committee requested that new specifications be added for optional lower beam and upper beam headlamp patterns on the basis they would increase harmonization with European requirements. After completing a technical review of the petition, NHTSA is denying this petition. The agency notes the petitioners did not provide data to demonstrate that the requested new optional specifications would provide safety benefits comparable to those of the existing standard or that any cost savings would be realized without compromising safety. Additionally, NHTSA is pursuing a more comprehensive review of the lighting standard and is currently studying the feasibility of many issues and potential regulatory changes, some of which would address issues raised in this petition.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:


You may send mail to these officials at: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Table of Contents
I. The Petition
II. Agency Technical Evaluation
III. Agency Conclusions

I. The Petition
On July 21, 2004, the SAE Lighting Committee and GTB petitioned the agency to add new specifications to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 108: Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment, for optional upper and lower beam patterns based on specifications pending approval by the United Nations’ Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) under ECE R112. If these requested amendments were adopted, manufacturers of vehicles sold in the U.S. would be able to choose to certify products to either the existing requirements of FMVSS No. 108 or the requested alternative new requirements.

Declarations to the agency’s test procedures were also requested. The petitioners stated that Japan had...