May 30, 2019

U.S. DOT Issues Advanced Notices on Automated Driving Systems

The United States Department of Transportation has issued two separate Advanced Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) regarding automated driving systems. Both notices provide stakeholders with the opportunity to submit comments on any regulatory barriers that may be inhibiting the ability to roll out advanced driving system technologies.

In the first ANPRM, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) requests comment on the near- and long-term challenges of testing and verifying compliance with existing crash avoidance (100-series) Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSSs) for Automated Driving System Dedicated Vehicles (ADS-DVs). These are vehicles that lack traditional manual controls necessary for a human driver to maneuver it and other features intended to facilitate operation of the vehicle by a human driver, but that are otherwise traditional vehicles with typical seating configurations. This ANPRM requests comments on the suitability of approaches that could be used to address compliance verification challenges that exist for crash avoidance standards that either require a manual control or specify the use of manual controls in a compliance test procedure. Members should note that this docket is specific to crash avoidance standards and that NHTSA intends to issue two additional documents to remove barriers in the crashworthiness and “telltales, indicators, and warnings” FMVSSs. Comments to this docket are due by July 29, 2019.

In the second ANPRM, the Federal Motor Carrier Administration requests comment on Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) that may need to be amended, revised, or eliminated to facilitate the safe introduction of automated driving systems (ADS) equipped commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) onto our nation’s roadways. FMCSA is seeking to adapt its regulations to accommodate automated vehicle technologies and is considering changes to its rules to account for significant differences between human operators and ADS. Comments to this docket are due by August 26, 2019.

AAMVA members submitting comments to either docket are encouraged to copy governmentaffairs@aamva.org so that the association may reflect those comments in its own.

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