



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration

OCT 19 2000

400 - Seventh St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

Refer to: MC-PSV

Ms. Melissa Carroll
Marketing and Sales Support
Lighting and Electronic Design, Inc.
141 Cassia Way, Unit C
Henderson, Nevada 89014

Dear Ms. Carroll:

This is in response to your July 28 letter concerning your company's TurboFlare®, an electronic warning light for use around disabled motor vehicles.

You sent the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) a sample of the SOS TurboFlare® for evaluation and testing by the agency and requested that we approve the use of this device as an alternative to fuses.

Generally, the FMCSA does not evaluate or test products for the purpose of approving the use of devices in conjunction with the operation of commercial motor vehicles. Motor carriers may use any products which meet the minimum applicable requirements in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs). Devices need not be approved by the FMCSA in order to be used by motor carriers.

Section 393.95(f)(3) of the FMCSRs currently allows the use of warning devices such as the TurboFlare® but only as a supplement to the required warning devices. We require that all commercial motor vehicles subject to the FMCSRs be equipped with either warning triangles that meet the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's requirements under 49 CFR 571.125, or fuses that meet Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. UL No. 912, Highway Emergency Signals, Fourth Edition, July 30, 1979, (with an amendment dated November 9, 1981). Supplemental devices such as the TurboFlare® may be used in addition to warning triangles or fuses provided it does not decrease the effectiveness of the required warning devices. Based on the information you provided, we believe that it is unlikely that the TurboFlare® would decrease the effectiveness of warning triangles or fuses.

Sincerely

Larry W. Minor
Chief, Vehicle and Roadside
Operations Division