

It is recognized that the proposed Standard does not deal with possible safety hazards that may be caused by sharp protrusions at the rear of vehicles. It is furthermore, possible that - since no minimum height or vertical configuration is specified for the guard line, a conforming guard may be attached that is so close to the ground that it is ineffective, since another vehicle could override it while underriding a higher rear structure. If these problems are found to be significant, they may be countered either with further elaboration of the Standard proposed herein or with a separate Standard in the area of bumper height and effectiveness (Dockets Nos. 1-9 and 1-10, 32 F.R. 14279). Comments are specifically invited in regard to these questions.

Several comments expressed concern that the installation of a guard would interfere with the freedom of operation of some large vehicles during off-road operations. The interests of safety dictate, however, that this protection should be present on public highways where there is extensive mingling of passenger cars with large vehicles. If necessary, the required structure may be made movable or removable for off-road operations.

It is anticipated that the proposed Standard will be amended, after technical studies have been completed, to extend the requirement for underride protection to the sides of large vehicles. It is also anticipated that mobile homes will not be included in the Standard. The Administrator is presently considering rule making that could declare them not to be "motor vehicles" within the coverage of the Act, or could put them into a separate category (Docket No. 26, 33 F.R. 11604).

Interested persons are invited to participate in the making of the proposed reg-