

**TITLE 9: VEHICLE CODE**  
**DIVISION 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§ 1208. Authority to Approve or Reject Applications.**

(a) The bureau shall examine and determine the genuineness, regularity and legality of every application for registration of a vehicle, for a certificate of title, for an operator's license, or of any other application lawfully made to the bureau. The bureau may make necessary investigations or require additional information. The bureau may reject any application if not satisfied of its genuineness, regularity or legality or the truth of any statement contained within it, or for any other reason when authorized by law.

(b) The bureau shall reject any application for registration of a motor vehicle imported into the Commonwealth after the effective date of PL 11-12 which lacks certification as required under 49 U.S.C. § 30115, as amended, and any regulations promulgated thereunder. For purposes of this section, the date of importation is the date of arrival of the vehicle into the Commonwealth as indicated by any of the following documents accompanying the vehicle: the bill of sale, bill of lading, or invoice to the importer.

**Source:** PL 3-61, § 1 (§ 111); amended by PL 11-12, § 4.

**Commission Comment:** PL 11-12, § 4, added a new subsection (b) to this section. The effective date of PL 11-12 is April 30, 1998. Section 1 of PL 11-12 set forth a statement of purpose that states as follows:

Section 1. Statement of Purpose. The Legislature finds that the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, as set forth in 49 U.S.C. § 30101, et seq., as amended, and all regulations promulgated thereunder, apply to the CNMI. Nevertheless, there continues to be motor vehicles imported into, sold and registered in the CNMI in violation of such safety standards. Accordingly, in order to safeguard the health, welfare and safety of the people of the Commonwealth, it is the purpose of this Act to prohibit the importation, sale by a dealer and registration of noncomplying vehicles.