

FIGURE 2—[PART I]—DOT QUALITY GRADES

TREADWEAR
 TRACTION ABC
 TEMPERATURE ABC

[PART II] ALL PASSENGER CAR TIRES MUST CONFORM TO FEDERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS IN ADDITION TO THESE GRADES

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TRACTION

The traction grades, from highest to lowest, are A, B, and C, and they represent the tire's ability to stop on wet pavement as measured under controlled conditions on specified government test surfaces of asphalt and concrete. A tire marked C may have poor traction performance. Warning: The traction grade assigned to this tire is based on braking (straightahead) traction tests and does not include cornering (turning) traction.

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§ 575.105 Utility vehicles.

(a) *Purpose and scope.* This section requires manufacturers of utility vehicles to alert drivers that the particular handling and maneuvering characteristics of utility vehicles require special driving practices when those vehicles are operated on paved roads.

(b) *Application.* This section applies to multipurpose passenger vehicles (other than those which are passenger car derivatives) which have a wheelbase of 110 inches or less and special features for occasional off-road operation ("Utility vehicles").

(c) *Required information.* Each manufacturer shall prepare and affix a vehicle sticker as specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection and shall provide in the vehicle Owner's Manual the information specified in paragraph 2 of this subsection.

(1) A sticker shall be permanently affixed to the instrument panel, windshield frame, driver's side sun visor, or in some other location in each vehicle prominent and visible to the driver. The sticker shall be printed in a typeface and color which are clear and conspicuous. The sticker shall have the following or similar language:

This is a multipurpose passenger vehicle which will handle and maneuver differently from an ordinary passenger car, in driving conditions which may occur on streets and highways and off road. As with other vehicles of this type, if you make sharp turns or abrupt maneuvers, the vehicle may roll over or may go out of control and crash. You should read driving guidelines and instructions in the Owner's Manual, and WEAR YOUR SEAT BELTS AT ALL TIMES.

The language on the sticker required by paragraph (1) and in the Owner's Manual, as required in paragraph (2), may be modified as is desired by the manufacturer to make it appropriate for a specific vehicle design, to ensure that consumers are adequately informed concerning the unique propensities of a particular vehicle model.

(2)(i) The vehicle Owner's Manual shall include the following statement in its introduction.

As with other vehicles of this type, failure to operate this vehicle correctly may result in loss of control or an accident. Be sure to read "on-pavement" and "off-road" driving guidelines which follow.

(ii) The vehicle Owner's Manual shall include the following or similar statement:

Utility vehicles have higher ground clearance and a narrower track to make them capable of performing in a wide variety of off-road applications. Specific design characteristics give them a higher center of gravity than ordinary cars. An advantage of the higher ground clearance is a better view of the road allowing you to anticipate problems. They are not designed for cornering at the same speeds as conventional 2-wheel drive vehicles any more than low-slung sports cars are designed to perform satisfactorily under off-road conditions. If at all possible, avoid sharp turns or abrupt maneuvers. As with other vehicles of this type, failure to operate this vehicle correctly may result in loss of control or vehicle rollover.

[49 FR 20019, May 11, 1984, as amended at 49 FR 32071, Aug. 10, 1984]

PART 576—RECORD RETENTION

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§ 576.1

576.7 Retention.
576.8 Malfunctions covered.

AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 30112, 30115, 30117-121, 30166-167; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

SOURCE: 39 FR 30045, Aug. 20, 1974, unless otherwise noted.

EDITORIAL NOTE: For an interpretation document regarding part 576, see 40 FR 3296, Jan. 21, 1975.

§ 576.1 Scope.

This part establishes requirements for the retention by motor vehicle manufacturers of complaints, reports, and other records concerning motor vehicle malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety.

§ 576.2 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to preserve records that are needed for the proper investigation, and adjudication or other disposition, of possible defects related to motor vehicle safety and instances of nonconformity to the motor vehicle safety standards and associated regulations.

§ 576.3 Application.

This part applies to all manufacturers of motor vehicles, with respect to all records generated or acquired after August 15, 1969.

§ 576.4 Definitions.

All terms in this part that are defined in the Act are used as defined therein.

§ 576.5 Basic requirements.

Each manufacturer of motor vehicles shall retain as specified in § 576.7 all records described in § 576.6 for a period of five years from the date on which they were generated or acquired by the manufacturer.

[61 FR 278, Jan. 4, 1996]

§ 576.6 Records.

Records to be retained by manufacturers under this part include all documentary materials, films, tapes, and other information-storing media that contain information concerning malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety. Such records include, but are not limited to, communications

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from vehicle users and memoranda of user complaints; reports and other documents, including material generated or communicated by computer, telefax or other electronic means, that are related to work performed under, or claims made under, warranties; service reports or similar documents, including electronic transmissions, from dealers or manufacturer's field personnel; and any lists, compilations, analyses, or discussions of such malfunctions contained in internal or external correspondence of the manufacturer, including communications transmitted electronically.

[61 FR 278, Jan. 4, 1996]

§ 576.7 Retention.

Duplicate copies need not be retained. Information may be reproduced or transferred from one storage medium to another (e.g., from paper files to microfilm) as long as no information is lost in the reproduction or transfer, and when so reproduced or transferred the original form may be treated as a duplicate.

§ 576.8 Malfunctions covered.

For purposes of this part, "malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety" shall include, with respect to a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment, any failure or malfunction beyond normal deterioration in use, or any failure of performance, or any flaw or unintended deviation from design specifications, that could in any reasonably foreseeable manner be a causative factor in, or aggravate, an accident or an injury to a person.

PART 577—DEFECT AND NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION

Sec.

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- 577.5 Notification pursuant to a manufacturer's decision.
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- 577.8 Disclaimers.
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