

under 49 U.S.C. 32905, are listed in Table I:

TABLE I—GALLON EQUIVALENT MEASUREMENTS FOR GASEOUS FUELS PER 100 STANDARD CUBIC FEET

Fuel	Gallon equivalent measurement
Compressed Natural Gas .....	0.823
Liquefied Natural Gas .....	0.823
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Grade HD-5)*	0.726
Hydrogen .....	0.259
Hythane (Hy5) .....	0.741

\* Per gallon unit of measure.

**PART 541—FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION STANDARD**

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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 33101, 33102, 33103, 33105; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

SOURCE: 50 FR 43190, Oct. 24, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

EDITORIAL NOTE: The information collection requirements contained in this part 541 will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for its approval. A notice will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER when OMB approval has been obtained.

**§ 541.1 Scope.**

This standard specifies performance requirements for identifying numbers

or symbols to be placed on major parts of certain passenger motor vehicles.

**§ 541.2 Purpose.**

The purpose of this standard is to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle thefts by facilitating the tracing and recovery of parts from stolen vehicles.

**§ 541.3. Application.**

This standard applies to the following:

- (a) Passenger motor vehicle parts identified in § 541.5(a) that are present:
  - (1) In the passenger motor vehicle lines listed in appendix A of this part;
  - (2) Beginning with model year 1997, in passenger motor vehicle lines which NHTSA has finally determined, pursuant to 49 CFR part 542, to be high theft based on the 1990/91 median theft rate; and
  - (3) Beginning with model year 1997, in passenger motor vehicle lines listed in appendix B of this part.
- (b) Replacement parts for passenger motor vehicle lines described in § 541.3(a) (1) and (2), if the part is identified in § 541.5(a).

[59 FR 64168, Dec. 13, 1994]

**§ 541.4 Definitions.**

(a) *Statutory terms.* All terms defined in 49 U.S.C. chapter 331 are used in accordance with their statutory meanings unless otherwise defined in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Other definitions.* (1) *Interior surface* means, with respect to a vehicle part, a surface that is not directly exposed to sun and precipitation.

(2) *Light-duty truck (LDT)* means a motor vehicle, with motive power, except a trailer, designed primarily for the transportation of property or special purpose equipment, that is rated at 6,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or less.

(3) *Line* means a name which a manufacturer applies to a group of motor vehicles of the same make which have the same body or chassis, or otherwise are similar in construction or design. A "line" may, for example, include 2-door, 4-door, station wagon, and hatchback vehicles of the same make.

(4) *1990/91 median theft rate* means 3.5826 thefts per thousand vehicles produced.

(5) *Multipurpose passenger vehicle (MPV)* means a passenger motor vehicle which is constructed either on a truck chassis or with special features for occasional off-road operation and which is rated at 6,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or less.

(6) *Passenger car* is used as defined in § 571.3 of this chapter.

(7) *VIN* means the vehicle identification number required by part 565 of this chapter.

[59 FR 64168, Dec. 13, 1994, as amended at 61 FR 29033, June 7, 1996]

**§ 541.5 Requirements for passenger motor vehicles.**

(a) Each passenger motor vehicle subject to this standard must have an identifying number affixed or inscribed on each of the parts specified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(18) inclusive, if the part is present on the passenger motor vehicle. In the case of passenger motor vehicles not originally manufactured to comply with applicable U.S. vehicle safety and bumper standards, each such motor vehicle subject to this standard must have an identifying number inscribed in a manner which conforms to paragraph (d)(2) of this section, on each of the parts specified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(18), inclusive, if the part is present on the motor vehicle.

- (1) Engine.
- (2) Transmission.
- (3) Right front fender.
- (4) Left front fender.
- (5) Hood.
- (6) Right front door.
- (7) Left front door.
- (8) Right rear door.
- (9) Left rear door.
- (10) Sliding or cargo door(s).
- (11) Front bumper.
- (12) Rear bumper.
- (13) Right rear quarter panel (passenger cars).
- (14) Left rear quarter panel (passenger cars).
- (15) Right-side assembly (MPVs).
- (16) Left-side assembly (MPVs).
- (17) Pickup box, and/or cargo box (LDTs).
- (18) Rear door(s) (both doors in case of double doors), decklid, tailgate, or hatchback (whichever is present).

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(3) of this section, the number required to be inscribed or affixed by paragraph (a) shall be the VIN of the passenger motor vehicle.

(2) In place of the VIN, manufacturers who were marking engines and/or transmissions with a VIN derivative consisting of at least the last eight characters of the VIN on October 24, 1984, may continue to mark engines and/or transmissions with such VIN derivative.

(3) In the case of passenger motor vehicles not originally manufactured to comply with U.S. vehicle safety and bumper standards, the number required to be inscribed by paragraph (a) of this section shall be the original vehicle identification number assigned to the motor vehicle by its original manufacturer in the country where the motor vehicle was originally produced or assembled.

(c) The characteristics of the number required to be affixed or inscribed by paragraph (a) of this section shall satisfy the size and style requirements set forth for vehicle certification labels in § 567.4(g) of this chapter.

(d) The number required by paragraph (a) of this section must be affixed by means that comply with paragraph (d)(1) of this section or inscribed by means that comply with paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(1) *Labels.* (i) The number must be printed indelibly on a label, and the label must be permanently affixed to the passenger motor vehicle's part.

(ii) The number must be placed on each part specified in paragraph (a) of this section in a location such that the number is, if practicable, on an interior surface of the part as installed on the vehicle and in a location where it:

(A) Will not be damaged by the use of any tools necessary to install, adjust, or remove the part and any adjoining parts, or any portions thereof;

(B) Is on a portion of the part not likely to be damaged in a collision; and

(C) Will not be damaged or obscured during normal dealer preparation operations (including rustproofing and undercoating).

(iii) The number must be placed on each part specified in paragraph (a) of this section in a location that is visible

without further disassembly once the part has been removed from the vehicle.

(iv) The number must be placed entirely within the target area specified by the original manufacturer for that part, pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section, on each part specified in paragraph (a) of this section.

(v) Removal of the label must—

(A) Cause the label to self-destruct by tearing or rendering the number on the label illegible, and

(B) Discernibly alter the appearance of that area of the part where the label was affixed by leaving residual parts of the label or adhesive in that area, so that investigators will have evidence that a label was originally present.

(vi) Alteration of the number on the label must leave traces of the original number or otherwise visibly alter the appearance of the label material.

(vii) The label and the number shall be resistant to counterfeiting.

(viii) The logo or some other unique identifier of the vehicle manufacturer must be placed in the material of the label in a manner such that alteration or removal of the logo visibly alters the appearance of the label.

(2) *Other means of identification.* (i) Removal or alteration of any portion of the number must visibly alter the appearance of the section of the vehicle part on which the identification is marked.

(ii) The number must be placed on each part specified in paragraph (a) of this section in a location that is visible without further disassembly once the part has been removed from the vehicle.

(iii) The number must be placed entirely within the target area specified by the original manufacturer for that part, pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section, on each part specified in paragraph (a) of this section.

(e) *Target areas.* (1) Each manufacturer that is the original producer who installs or assembles the covered major parts on a line shall designate a target area for the identifying numbers to be marked on each part specified in paragraph (a) of this section for each of its lines subject to this standard. The target area shall not exceed 50 percent of the surface area on the surface of the

part on which the target area is located.

(2) Each manufacturer subject to paragraph (e)(1) of this section shall, not later than 30 days before the line is introduced into commerce, inform NHTSA in writing of the target areas designated for each line listed in appendix A. The information should be submitted to: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

(3) The target areas designated by the original vehicle manufacturer for a part on a line shall be maintained for the duration of the production of such line, unless a restyling of the part makes it no longer practicable to mark the part within the original target area. If there is such a restyling, the original vehicle manufacturer shall inform NHTSA of that fact and the new target area, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (e)(2) of this section.

[59 FR 64168, Dec. 13, 1994]

#### **§ 541.6 Requirements for replacement parts.**

(a) Each replacement part for a part specified in § 541.5(a) must have the registered trademark of the manufacturer of the replacement part, or some other unique identifier if the manufacturer does not have a registered trademark, and the letter "R" affixed or inscribed on such replacement part by means that comply with § 541.5(d), except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section. In the case of replacement parts subject to the marking requirements of this section, which were not originally manufactured for sale in the United States, the importer of the part shall inscribe its registered trademark, or some other unique identifier if the importer does not have a registered trademark, and the letter "R" on the part by means that comply with § 541.5(d)(2), except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) A replacement part subject to paragraph (a) of this section shall not be marked pursuant to § 541.5.

(c) The trademark and the letter "R" required by paragraph (a) of this section must be at least one centimeter high.

(d) The trademark and the letter “R” required by paragraph (a) of this section must be placed entirely within the target area specified by the vehicle manufacturer, pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section.

(e) *Target areas.* (1) Each manufacturer that is the original producer or assembler of the vehicle for which the replacement part is designed shall designate a target area for the identifying symbols to be marked on each replacement part subject to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section. Such target areas shall not exceed 25 percent of the surface area of the surface on which the replacement part marking will appear.

(2) The boundaries of the target area designated under paragraph (e)(1) of this section shall be at least 10 centimeters at all points from the nearest boundaries of the target area designated for that part under §541.5(e) of this part.

(3) Each manufacturer subject to paragraph (e)(1) of this section shall inform NHTSA in writing of the target areas designated for each replacement part subject to paragraph (a) of this section, at the same time as it informs the agency of the target area designated for the original equipment parts of the line, pursuant to §541.5(e)(2) of this part. The information should be submitted to: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590.

(4) The target area designated by the original vehicle manufacturer for the parts subject to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section shall be maintained for the duration of the production of such replacement part, unless a restyling of the part makes it no longer practicable to mark the part within the original target area. If there is such a restyling, the original vehicle manufacturer shall inform NHTSA of that fact and the new target area, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (e)(3) of this section.

(f) Each replacement part must bear the symbol “DOT” in letters at least one centimeter high within 5 centimeters of the trademark and of the letter “R”, and entirely within the target area specified under paragraph (d) of this section. The symbol “DOT” constitutes the manufacturer’s certification that the replacement part conforms to the applicable theft prevention standard, and shall be inscribed or affixed by means that comply with paragraph (a) of this section. In the case of replacement parts subject to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section, which were not originally manufactured for sale in the United States, the importer shall inscribe the “DOT” symbol before the part is imported into the United States.

APPENDIX A TO PART 541—LINES SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS STANDARD

Manufacturer	Subject lines
ALFA ROMEO .....	Milano 161. 164.
BMW .....	Z3. 6 Car Line.
CHRYSLER .....	Chrysler Cirrus. Chrysler Executive, Sedan/Limousine. Chrysler Fifth Avenue/Newport. Chrysler Laser. Chrysler LeBaron/Town & Country. Chrysler LeBaron GTS. Chrysler’s TC. Chrysler New Yorker Fifth Avenue. Chrysler Sebring. Chrysler Town & Country. Dodge 600. Dodge Aries. Dodge Avenger. Dodge Colt. Dodge Daytona. Dodge Diplomat. Dodge Lancer. Dodge Neon. Dodge Shadow.

Manufacturer	Subject lines
	Dodge Stratus. Dodge Stealth. Eagle Summit. Eagle Talon. Jeep Cherokee (MPV). Jeep Grand Cherokee (MPV). Jeep Wrangler (MPV). Plymouth Caravelle. Plymouth Colt. Plymouth Laser. Plymouth Gran Fury. Plymouth Neon. Plymouth Reliant. Plymouth Sundance. Plymouth Breeze. Consulier GTP.
CONSULIER .....	Mondial 8.
FERRARI .....	308.
	328.
FORD .....	Ford Aspire.
	Ford Crown Victoria.
	Ford Escort.
	Ford Mustang.
	Ford Probe.
	Ford Taurus.
	Ford Thunderbird.
	Lincoln Continental.
	Lincoln Mark.
	Lincoln Town Car.
	Mercury Capri.
	Mercury Cougar.
	Mercury Grand Marquis.
	Mercury Sable.
	Mercury Tracer.
	Merkur Scorpio.
	Merkur XR4Ti.
GENERAL MOTORS .....	Buick Electra.
	Buick Reatta.
	Buick Skylark.
	Chevrolet Astro (MPV).
	Chevrolet Lumina Minivan.
	Chevrolet Malibu. <sup>1</sup>
	Chevrolet Monte Carlo (MYs 1987–88).
	Chevrolet Nova.
	Chevrolet Blazer (MPV).
	Chevrolet Prizm. <sup>2</sup>
	Chevrolet S–10 Pickup.
	Geo Storm.
	Chevrolet Tracker (MPV). <sup>2</sup>
	GMC Jimmy (MPV).
	GMC Safari (MPV).
	GMC Sonoma Pickup.
	Oldsmobile Achieva (MYs 1997–1998). <sup>3</sup>
	Oldsmobile Bravada.
	Oldsmobile Cutlass. <sup>4</sup>
	Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme (MYs 1988–1997). <sup>5</sup>
	Oldsmobile Intrigue.
	Pontiac Fiero.
	Pontiac Grand Am.
	Saturn Sports Coupe.
	Pontiac Grand Prix.
HONDA .....	Accord.
	CRV (MPV).
	Odyssey (MPV). <sup>6</sup>
	Passport.
	Prelude.
	Acura Integra.
HYUNDAI .....	Accent.
	(nameplate to be announced). <sup>6</sup>
	Sonata.
	Tiburon.
ISUZU .....	Impulse.
	Rodeo.
	Stylus.

Manufacturer	Subject lines
JAGUAR .....	Trooper/Trooper II. XJ. XJ-6.
KIA MOTORS .....	XJ-40.
LOTUS .....	S-II.
MASERATI .....	Elan. Biturbo.
MAZDA .....	Quattroporte. 228. GLC. 626. MX-3. MX-5 Miata. MX-6.
MERCEDES-BENZ .....	190 D. 190 E. 250D-T. 260 E. 300 SE. 300 TD. 300 SDL. 300 SEC/500 SEC. 300 SEL/500 SEL. 420 SEL. 560 SEL. 560 SEC. 560 SL.
MITSUBISHI .....	Cordia. Eclipse. Mirage. Montero (MPV). Montero Sport (MPV). Tredia. 3000GT. 240SX. Pathfinder. Sentra/200SX. Stanza/Altima. 405.
NISSAN .....	924S.
PEUGEOT .....	XT.
PORSCHE .....	SVX. Forester.
SUBARU .....	Legacy. X90. Samurai (MPV). Sidekick (MYs 1997-1998). <sup>7</sup> Grand Vitara (MPV). Toyota 4-Runner (MPV). Toyota Avalon. Toyota Camry. Toyota Celica. Toyota Corolla/Corolla Sport. Toyota MR2. Toyota RAV4 (MPV). Toyota Sienna (MPV). Toyota Solara. <sup>8</sup> Toyota Starlet. Toyota Tercel. Lexus RX300 (SUV). <sup>8</sup>
SUZUKI .....	Audi Quattro.
VOLKSWAGEN .....	Volkswagen Rabbit. Volkswagen Scirocco.

<sup>1</sup> Replaced the Chevrolet Corsica beginning with MY 1997.

<sup>2</sup> The Geo make identifier was replaced by the Chevrolet make identifier beginning with MY 1998.

<sup>3</sup> Renamed the Oldsmobile Alero beginning with MY 1999.

<sup>4</sup> Replaced the Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera in MY 1997.

<sup>5</sup> Renamed the Oldsmobile Intrigue beginning with MY 1998.

<sup>6</sup> Lines added for MY 1999.

<sup>7</sup> Renamed the Suzuki Grand Vitara beginning with MY 1999.

<sup>8</sup> Lines added for MY 1999.

APPENDIX A-I—HIGH-THEFT LINES WITH ANTITHEFT DEVICES WHICH ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE PARTS-MARKING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS STANDARD PURSUANT TO 49 CFR PART 543

Manufacturer	Subject lines
AUSTIN ROVER .....	Sterling.
BMW .....	3 Car Line. <sup>1</sup>
	5 Car Line.
	7 Car Line.
	8 Car Line.
CHRYSLER .....	Chrysler Conquest.
	Chrysler Imperial.
GENERAL MOTORS .....	Buick Park Avenue.
	Buick Regal/Century.
	Buick Riviera.
	Cadillac Allante.
	Cadillac Seville.
	Chevrolet Cavalier.
	Chevrolet Corvette.
	Chevrolet Lumina/Monte Carlo.
	Oldsmobile Alero. <sup>1</sup>
	Oldsmobile Aurora.
	Oldsmobile Toronado.
	Pontiac Sunfire.
HONDA .....	Acura CL.
	Acura Legend (MYs 1987–1996). <sup>2</sup>
	Acura NSX.
	Acura RL.
	Acura SLX.
	Acura TL.
	Acura Vigor (MYs 1992–1995). <sup>3</sup>
ISUZU .....	Impulse (MYs 1987–1991).
JAGUAR .....	XK8
MAZDA .....	929.
	RX-7.
	Millenia.
MERCEDES-BENZ .....	124 Car Line (the models within this line are):
	300D.
	300E.
	300CE.
	300TE.
	400E.
	500E.
	129 Car Line (the models within this line are):
	300SL. <sup>4</sup>
	500SL. <sup>5</sup>
	600SL. <sup>6</sup>
	SL320.
	SL500.
	SL600.
	202 Car Line (the models within this line are):
	C220.
	C230.
	C280.
	C36
MITSUBISHI .....	Galant.
	Starion.
	Diamante.
NISSAN .....	Nissan Maxima. <sup>7</sup>
	Nissan 300ZX.
	Infiniti I30.
	Infiniti J30.
	Infiniti M30.
	Infiniti QX4.
	Infiniti Q45.
PORSCHE .....	911.
	928.
	968.
	Boxster.
SAAB .....	900.
	9000.
TOYOTA .....	Toyota Supra.
	Toyota Cressida.
	Lexus ES.

Manufacturer	Subject lines
VOLKSWAGEN .....	Lexus GS. Lexus LS. Lexus SC Audi 5000S. Audi 100. Audi 200. Audi A6. Audi S4. Audi S6. Audi Cabriolet. Volkswagen Cabrio. Volkswagen Corrado. Volkswagen Golf/GTI. Volkswagen Passat. Volkswagen Jetta/Jetta III

<sup>1</sup> Exempted in full beginning with MY 1999.  
<sup>2</sup> Renamed the Acura RL beginning with MY 1997.  
<sup>3</sup> Replaced by the Acura TL beginning with MY 1996.  
<sup>4</sup> Replaced by the SL320 beginning with MY 1997.  
<sup>5</sup> Renamed the SL500 beginning with MY 1994.  
<sup>6</sup> Renamed the SL600 beginning with MY 1994.  
<sup>7</sup> Exempted in full beginning with MY 1999.

[63 FR 38100, July 15, 1998]

APPENDIX A—II TO PART 541—HIGH-THEFT LINES WITH ANTITHEFT DEVICES WHICH ARE EXEMPTED IN-PART FROM THE PARTS-MARKING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS STANDARD PURSUANT TO 49 CFR PART 543

Manufacturers	Subject lines	Parts to be marked
GENERAL MOTORS .....	Buick LeSabre ..... Cadillac Deville ..... Cadillac Eldorado ..... Cadillac Sixty Special <sup>1</sup> ..... Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight ..... Pontiac Bonneville ..... Pontiac Firebird ..... Chevrolet Camaro ..... Oldsmobile Eighty-Eight .....	Engine, Transmission. Engine, Transmission. Engine, Transmission. Engine, Transmission. Engine, Transmission. Engine, Transmission. Engine, Transmission. Engine, Transmission. Engine, Transmission.

<sup>1</sup> Renamed the Cadillac Concours beginning with MY 1994.

[63 FR 38101, July 15, 1998]

APPENDIX B TO PART 541—PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLE LINES (EXCEPT LIGHT DUTY TRUCKS) WITH THEFT RATES BELOW THE 1990/91 MEDIAN THEFT RATE, SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS STANDARD

Manufacturer	Subject lines
Chrysler .....	Dodge Ramcharger (MPV). Dodge Ram Wagon/Van B150.
Ferrari .....	Testarossa.
Ford .....	Crown Victoria. Festiva. Mercury Grand Marquis. Mercury Sable. Taurus.
General Motors .....	Chevrolet Astro (MPV). Chevrolet Celebrity. Chevrolet Sprint. GMC Safari (MPV). Oldsmobile Custom Cruiser.
Honda .....	Civic.
Mazda .....	Navajo.
Nissan .....	Axxess.
Porsche .....	944.

Manufacturer	Subject lines
Rover Group .....	Range Rover (MPV).
Volvo .....	760.
Volkswagen .....	Fox. Passat.

[59 FR 64169, Dec. 13, 1994]

APPENDIX C TO PART 541—CRITERIA FOR SELECTING LINES LIKELY TO HAVE HIGH THEFT RATES

*Scope*

These criteria specify the factors the Administrator will take into account in determining whether a new line is likely to have a high theft rate, and, therefore, whether such line will be subject to the requirements of this theft prevention standard.

*Purpose*

The purpose of these criteria is to enable the Administrator to select, by agreement

with the manufacturer, if possible, those new lines which are likely to have high theft rates.

*Application*

These criteria apply to lines of passenger motor vehicles initially introduced into commerce on or after January 1, 1983.

*Methodology*

These criteria will be applied to each line initially introduced into commerce on or after January 1, 1983. The likely theft rate for such lines will be determined in relation to the national median theft rate for 1983 and 1984. If the line is determined to be likely to have a theft rate above the national median, the Administrator will select such line for coverage under this theft prevention standard.

*Criteria*

1. Retail price of the vehicle line.
2. Vehicle image or marketing strategy.
3. Vehicle lines with which the new line is intended to compete, and the theft rates of such lines.
4. Vehicle line(s), if any, which the new line is intended to replace, and the theft rate(s) of such line(s).
5. Presence or absence of any new theft prevention devices or systems.
6. Preliminary theft rate for the line, if it can be determined on the basis of currently available data.

**PART 542—PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING LINES TO BE COVERED BY THE THEFT PREVENTION STANDARD**

Sec.

542.1 Procedures for selecting new lines that are likely to have high or low theft rates.

542.2 Procedures for selecting low theft new lines with a majority of major parts interchangeable with those of a high theft line.

AUTHORITY: 15 U.S.C. 2021, 2022, and 2023; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

SOURCE: 59 FR 21672, Apr. 26, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 542.1 Procedures for selecting new lines that are likely to have high or low theft rates.**

(a) *Scope.* This section sets forth the procedures for motor vehicle manufacturers and NHTSA to follow in the determination of whether any new vehicle line is likely to have a theft rate above or below the median theft rate.

(b) *Application.* These procedures apply to each manufacturer that plans to introduce a new line into commerce in the United States on or after April 24, 1986, and to each of those new lines.

(c) *Procedures.* (1)(i) For each new line introduced before the 1997 model year, each manufacturer uses the criteria in appendix C of part 541 of this chapter to evaluate each new line and to conclude whether the new line is likely to have a theft rate above or below the median theft rate established for calendar years 1990 and 1991.

(ii) For each new line to be introduced for the 1997 or subsequent model years, each manufacturer shall use the criteria in appendix C of part 541 of this chapter to evaluate each new line and to conclude whether the new line is likely to have a theft rate above or below the median theft rate.

(2)(i) For each new line to be introduced before the 1997 model year, the manufacturer submits its evaluations and conclusions made under paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section, together with the underlying factual information, to NHTSA not less than 18 months before the date of introduction. The manufacturer may request a meeting with the agency to further explain the bases for its evaluations and conclusions.

(ii) For each new line to be introduced for the 1997 or subsequent model years, the manufacturer shall submit its evaluations and conclusions made under paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section, together with the underlying factual information, to NHTSA not less than 15 months before the date of introduction. The manufacturer may request a meeting with the agency during this period to further explain the bases for its evaluations and conclusions.

(3) Within 90 days after its receipt of the manufacturer's submission under paragraph (c)(2) of this section, the agency independently evaluates the new line using the criteria in appendix C of part 541 of this chapter and, on a preliminary basis, determines whether the new line should or should not be subject to § 541.2 of this chapter. NHTSA informs the manufacturer by letter of the agency's evaluations and