

those determinations and its response to the request for reconsideration.

[69 FR 17968, Apr. 6, 2004]

## PART 543—EXEMPTION FROM VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION STANDARD

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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 322, 33101, 33102, 33103, 33104, 33105; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

SOURCE: 52 FR 33829, Sept. 8, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

### § 543.1 Scope.

This part establishes procedures under section 605 of the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act (15 U.S.C. 2025) for filing and processing petitions to exempt lines of passenger motor vehicles from part 541 of this chapter, and procedures for terminating or modifying an exemption.

### § 543.2 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to specify the content and format of petitions which may be filed by manufacturers of passenger motor vehicles to obtain an exemption from the parts-marking requirements of the vehicle theft prevention standard for passenger motor vehicle lines which include, as standard equipment, an anti-theft device if the agency concludes that the device is likely to be as effective in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft as compliance with the parts-marking requirements. This part also provides the procedures that the agency will follow in processing those petitions and in terminating or modifying exemptions.

### § 543.3 Application.

This part applies to manufacturers of vehicles subject to the requirements of part 541 of this chapter, and to any in-

terested person who seeks to have NHTSA terminate an exemption.

[70 FR 28851, May 19, 2005]

### § 543.4 Definitions.

(a) *Statutory terms.* All terms defined in sections 2, 601, and 605 of the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act are used in accordance with their statutory meanings unless otherwise defined in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Other definitions.*

*Line or car 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.

*NHTSA* means the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

### § 543.5 Petition: General requirements.

(a) For each model year, a manufacturer may petition NHTSA for an exemption of one car line from the requirements of part 541 of this chapter. However, for car lines not subject to the requirements of part 541 of this chapter until September 1, 2006, a manufacturer may not petition NHTSA for an exemption for model years before model year 2006.

(b) Each petition filed under this part for an exemption must—

(1) Be written in the English language;

(2) Be submitted in three copies to: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590;

(3) State the full name and address of the petitioner, the nature of its organization (individual, partnership, corporation, etc.), and the name of the State or country under the laws of which it is organized;

(4) Be submitted at least 8 months before the commencement of production of the lines specified under paragraph (5) of § 543.5(b) for the first model year in which the petitioner wishes those lines to be exempted, and identify that model year;

(5) Identify the passenger motor vehicle line or lines for which exemption is sought;

(6) Set forth in full the data, views, and arguments of the petitioner supporting the exemption, including the information specified in § 543.6; and

(7) Specify and segregate any part of the information and data submitted which the petitioner requests be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with part 512, *Confidential Business Information*, of this chapter.

[52 FR 33829, Sept. 8, 1987, as amended at 59 FR 10758, Mar. 8, 1994; 70 FR 28851, May 19, 2005]

**§ 543.6 Petition: Specific content requirements.**

(a) Each petition for exemption filed under this part must include:

(1) A statement that an antitheft device will be installed as standard equipment on all vehicles in the line for which an exemption is sought;

(2) A list naming each component in the antitheft system, and a diagram showing the location of each of those components within the vehicle;

(3) A discussion that explains the means and process by which the device is activated and functions, including any aspect of the device designed to—

(i) Facilitate or encourage its activation by motorists,

(ii) Attract attention to the efforts of an unauthorized person to enter or move a vehicle by means other than a key,

(iii) Prevent defeating or circumventing the device by an unauthorized person attempting to enter a vehicle by means other than a key,

(iv) Prevent the operation of a vehicle which an unauthorized person has entered using means other than a key, and

(v) Ensure the reliability and durability of the device;

(4) The reasons for the petitioner's belief that the antitheft device will be effective in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft, including any theft data and other data that are available to the petitioner and form a basis for that belief;

(5) The reasons for the petitioner's belief that the agency should determine that the antitheft device is likely to be as effective as compliance with the parts-marking requirements of part 541 in reducing and deterring motor ve-

hicle theft, including any statistical data that are available to the petitioner and form a basis for petitioner's belief that a line of passenger motor vehicles equipped with the antitheft device is likely to have a theft rate equal to or less than that of passenger motor vehicles of the same, or a similar, line which have parts marked in compliance with part 541.

(b) Any petitioner submitting data under paragraph (a) (4) or (5) of this section shall submit an explanation of its belief that the data are sufficiently representative and reliable to warrant NHTSA's reliance upon them.

[52 FR 33829, Sept. 8, 1987, as amended at 59 FR 10758, Mar. 8, 1994]

**§ 543.7 Processing an exemption petition.**

(a) NHTSA processes any complete petition. If a manufacturer submits a petition that does not contain all the information required by this part, NHTSA informs the manufacturer of the areas of insufficiency and advises the manufacturer that the agency does not process the petition until it receives the required information.

(b) The agency grants a petition for an exemption from the parts-marking requirements of part 541 either in whole or in part, if it determines that, based upon substantial evidence, the standard equipment antitheft device is likely to be as effective in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft as compliance with the parts-marking requirements of part 541.

(c) The agency issues its decision either to grant or deny an exemption petition not later than 120 days after the date on which a complete petition is filed.

(d) Any exemption granted under this part applies only to the vehicle line or lines that are the subject of the grant, and are equipped with the antitheft device on which the line's exemption was based.

(e) An exemption granted under this part is effective for the model year beginning after the model year in which NHTSA issue the notice of exemption, unless the notice of exemption specifies a later model year.

(f) NHTSA publishes a notice of its decision to grant or deny an exemption

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petition in the FEDERAL REGISTER, and notifies the petitioner in writing of the agency's decision.

### § 543.8 Duration of exemption.

Each exemption under this part continues in effect unless it is modified or terminated under § 543.9, or the manufacturer ceases production of the exempted line.

### § 543.9 Terminating or modifying an exemption.

(a) On its own initiative or in response to a petition, NHTSA may commence a proceeding to terminate or modify any exemption granted under this part.

(b) Any interested person may petition the agency to commence a proceeding to terminate or modify an exemption.

(c)(1) In a petition to terminate an exemption, the petitioner must:

(i) Identify the vehicle line or lines that are the subject of the exemption;

(ii) State the reasons for petitioner's belief that the standard equipment antitheft device installed under the exemption is not as effective as compliance with the parts-marking requirements of part 541 in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft;

(iii) Comply with § 543.5, paragraphs (b) (1) through (3) and (7).

(2) In a petition to modify an exemption, the petitioner must:

(i) Identify the vehicle line or lines that are the subject of the exemption;

(ii) Request permission to use an antitheft device similar to, but different from the standard equipment antitheft device which is installed under the exemption;

(iii) Comply with § 543.5, paragraphs (b) (1) through (3) and (7); and

(iv) Provide the same information for the modified device that is required under § 543.6 for a new device, except that the information specified by § 543.6(a)(3) need be provided only to the extent that the modified device differs from the standard equipment antitheft device installed under the exemption.

(d) NHTSA processes any complete petition. If a person submits a petition under this section that does not contain all the information required by it,

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NHTSA informs the manufacturer of the areas of insufficiency and advises the manufacturer that the agency does not process the petition until it receives the required information.

(e) If NHTSA denies a petition requesting a proceeding to terminate or modify an exemption, the agency notifies the petitioner by letter.

(f) If NHTSA commences a termination proceeding on its own initiative or in response to a petition, the agency provides the manufacturer of the exempted line with a copy of the petition, if any, a written statement of NHTSA's reasons for commencing the proceeding, and an opportunity to present its written views.

(g)(1) The agency terminates an exemption if it determines that the antitheft device installed under the exemption has not been as effective as parts-marking in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (g)(3) of this section, a decision to terminate an exemption under this section takes effect on the later of the following dates:

(i) The last day of the model year in which NHTSA issues the termination decision, or

(ii) Six months after the manufacturer receives written notice of the termination.

(3) If a manufacturer shows good cause why terminating its exemption effective on a date later than the one specified in paragraph (g)(2) of this section is consistent with the public interest and the purposes of the Act, the agency may set such later date.

(h)(1) The agency modifies an exemption if it determines, based on substantial evidence, that the modified antitheft device described in the petition is likely to be as effective in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft as compliance with the parts-marking requirements of part 541.

(2)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (h)(2)(ii) of this section, a decision to modify an exemption under this section takes effect on the first day of the model year following the model year in which NHTSA issued the modification decision.

(ii) If a manufacturer shows good cause why modifying its exemption effective on a date earlier than the one specified in paragraph (h)(2)(i) of this section is consistent with the public interest and the purposes of the Act, the agency may set such earlier date.

(i) [Reserved]

(j) NHTSA publishes notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER of any agency decision terminating or modifying an exemption, and notifies the affected manufacturer in writing.

**PART 544—INSURER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

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APPENDIX A—INSURERS OF MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE POLICIES SUBJECT TO THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN EACH STATE IN WHICH THEY DO BUSINESS

APPENDIX B—ISSUERS OF MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE POLICIES SUBJECT TO THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ONLY IN DESIGNATED STATES

APPENDIX C—MOTOR VEHICLE RENTAL AND LEASING COMPANIES (INCLUDING LICENSEES AND FRANCHISEES) SUBJECT TO THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF PART 544

AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 33112; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

SOURCE: 52 FR 76, Jan. 2, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 544.1 Scope.**

This part sets forth requirements for insurers to report to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration information about motor vehicle thefts and recoveries, the effects of the Federal motor vehicle theft prevention standard on those thefts and recoveries, and related insurance practices.

**§ 544.2 Purpose.**

The purpose of these reporting requirements in this part is to aid in implementing and evaluating the provisions of 49 U.S.C. Chapter 331 Theft Prevention to prevent or discourage the theft of motor vehicles, to prevent

or discourage the sale or distribution in interstate commerce of used parts removed from stolen motor vehicles, and to help reduce the cost to consumers of comprehensive insurance coverage for motor vehicles.

[62 FR 33756, June 23, 1997]

**§ 544.3 Application.**

This part applies to the motor vehicle insurance policy issuers listed in appendices A or B, and to the motor vehicle rental and leasing companies listed in appendix C.

[55 FR 25609, June 22, 1990]

**§ 544.4 Definitions.**

(a) *Statutory terms.* All terms defined in 49 U.S.C. 33101 and 33112 are used in accordance with their statutory meanings unless otherwise defined in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Other definitions.* (1) *Comprehensive insurance coverage* means the indemnification of motor vehicle owners by an insurer against losses due to fire, theft, robbery, pilferage, malicious mischief and vandalism, and damage resulting from floods, water, tornadoes, cyclones, or windstorms.

(2) *Gross vehicle weight rating* is used as defined at § 571.3 of this chapter.

(3) *Heavy truck* means a truck with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds.

(4) *Light truck* means a truck with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less.

(5) *Major part* means—

(i) In the case of passenger motor vehicles, any part listed in § 541.5(a) (1) through (14) of this chapter;

(ii) In the case of light trucks, any part listed in § 541.4(a) (1) through (14) of this chapter, or the cargo bed or transfer case;

(iii) In the case of heavy trucks, any part listed in § 541.5(a) (1) through (14) of this chapter, or the cargo bed, drive axle assembly, fifth wheel, sleeper, or the transfer case;

(iv) In the case of multipurpose passenger vehicles, any part listed in § 541.5(a) (1) through (14) of this chapter, or the cargo bed or transfer case; and