

Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Admin., DOT

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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 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 ve-

hicle 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

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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 30102-103, 30112, 30115, 30117-121, 30166-167; delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.50 and 49 CFR 501.8.

SOURCE: 41 FR 56816, Dec. 30, 1976, unless otherwise noted.

§ 577.1 Scope.

This part sets forth requirements for notification to owners of motor vehicles and replacement equipment about the possibility of a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety or a non-compliance with a Federal motor vehicle safety standard.

§ 577.2 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to ensure that notifications of defects or non-compliances adequately inform and effectively motivate owners of potentially defective or noncomplying motor vehicles or items of replacement equipment to have such vehicles or equipment inspected and, where necessary, remedied as quickly as possible.

§ 577.3 Application.

This part applies to manufacturers of complete motor vehicles, incomplete

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motor vehicles, and replacement equipment. In the case of vehicles manufactured in two or more stages, compliance by either the manufacturer of the incomplete vehicle, any subsequent manufacturer, or the manufacturer of affected replacement equipment, shall be considered compliance by each of those manufacturers.

§ 577.4 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part:

Act means 49 U.S.C. Chapter 30101-30169.

Administrator means the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or his delegate.

First purchaser means the first purchaser in good faith for a purpose other than resale.

Leased motor vehicle means any motor vehicle that is leased to a person for a term of at least four months by a lessor who has leased five or more vehicles in the twelve months preceding the date of notification by the vehicle manufacturer of the existence of a safety-related defect or noncompliance with a Federal motor vehicle safety standard in the motor vehicle.

Lessee means a person who is the lessee of a leased motor vehicle as defined in this section.

Lessor means a person or entity that is the owner, as reflected on the vehicle's title, of any five or more leased vehicles (as defined in this section), as of the date of notification by the manufacturer of the existence of a safety-related defect or noncompliance with a Federal motor vehicle safety standard in one or more of the leased motor vehicles.

Owners includes purchaser.

[41 FR 56816, Dec. 30, 1976, as amended at 60 FR 17270, Apr. 5, 1995]

§ 577.5 Notification pursuant to a manufacturer's decision.

(a) When a manufacturer of motor vehicles or replacement equipment determines that any motor vehicle or item of replacement equipment produced by him contains a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety, or fails to conform to an applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standard, he shall provide notification in accordance with paragraph (a) of § 577.7, unless the man-

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ufacturer is exempted by the Administrator (pursuant to section 157 of the Act) from giving such notification. The notification shall contain the information specified in this section. The information required by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section shall be presented in the form and order specified. The information required by paragraphs (d) through (h) of this section may be presented in any order. The manufacturer shall mark the outside of each envelope in which it sends an owner notification letter with a notation that includes the words "SAFETY," "RECALL," and "NOTICE," all in capital letters and in type that is larger than that used in the address section, and is also distinguishable from the other type in a manner other than size. Except where the format of the envelope has been previously approved by NHTSA, each manufacturer must submit the envelope format it intends to use to NHTSA at least 5 Federal government business days before mailing to owners, in the same manner as is required by § 573.5(c)(9) for owner notification letters. Notification sent to an owner whose address is in either the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or the Canal Zone shall be written in both English and Spanish.

(b) An opening statement: "This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act."

(c) Whichever of the following statements is appropriate:

(1) "(Manufacturer's name or division) has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in (identified motor vehicles, in the case of notification sent by a motor vehicle manufacturer; identified replacement equipment, in the case of notification sent by a replacement equipment manufacturer);" or

(2) "(Manufacturer's name or division) has decided that (identified motor vehicles, in the case of notification sent by a motor vehicle manufacturer; identified replacement equipment, in the case of notification sent by a replacement equipment manufacturer) fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. (number and title of standard)."