

the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Joseph S. Carra,

Associate Administrator for National Center for Statistics and Analysis.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[U.S. DOT Docket Number NHTSA-2007-28138]

Reports, Forms, and Recordkeeping Requirements

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Request for extension of a currently approved collection of information.

SUMMARY: Before a Federal agency can collect certain information from the public, it must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under procedures established by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before seeking OMB approval, Federal agencies must solicit public comment on proposed collections of information, including extensions and reinstatement of previously approved collections.

This document describes one collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before September 18, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Comments must refer to the docket notice numbers cited at the beginning of this notice and be submitted to Docket Management, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590 by any of the following methods.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Agency Web site:* <http://dms.dot.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the Docket Management System.

- *Fax:* (202) 493-2251.

- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Telephone: 1-800-647-5527.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number for this proposed collection of information. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://dms.dot.gov> including any personal information provided.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://dms.dot.gov> at any time or to Room W12-140 on the ground level of the DOT Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Complete copies of each request for collection of information may be obtained at no charge from Hisham T. Mohamed, NHTSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building, Room W43-437 (fourth floor), NVS-131, Washington, DC 20590. Mr. Mohamed's telephone number is (202) 366-0307. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Control Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must first publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information.

The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulation (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following:

(i) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(ii) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(iii) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(iv) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. permitting electronic submission of responses.

In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks for public comments on the following proposed collections of information:

Title: 49 CFR part 575, 104; Uniform Tire Quality Grading Standard.

OMB Control Number: 2127-0519.

Affected Public: All passenger car tire manufacturers and brand name owners offering passenger car tires for sale in the United States.

Form Number: The collection of this information uses no standard form.

Abstract: Part 575 requires tire manufacturers and tire brand owners to submit reports to NHTSA regarding the UTQGS grades of all passenger car tire lines they offer for sale in the United States. This information is used by consumers of passenger car tires to compare tire quality in making their purchase decisions. The information is provided in several different ways to insure that the consumer can readily see and understand the tire grade: (1) The grades are molded into the sidewall of the tire so that they can be reviewed on both the new tire and the old tire that is being replaced; (2) a paper label is affixed to the tread face of the new tire that provides the grade of that particular tire line along with an explanation of the grading system; (3) tire manufacturers provide dealers with brochures for public distribution listing the grades of all of the tirelines they offer for sale; and (4) NHTSA compiles the grading information of all manufacturers' tirelines into a booklet that is available to the public both in printed form and on the Web site.

Estimated Annual Burden: NHTSA estimates that a total of 89,730 man-hours are required to write the brochures, engrave the new passenger car tire molds, and affix the paper labels to the tires. Based on an average hourly rate of \$22 per hour for rubber workers in the United States, the cost to the manufacturers is \$1,974,060 to perform those items listed above. The largest portion of the cost burden imposed by the UTQGS program arises from the testing necessary to determine the grades that should be assigned to the tires. An average of 125 convoys, driven 7,200 miles each, consisting of four vehicles and four drivers, are run each

year for treadwear testing. NHTSA estimates it cost \$0.60 per vehicle mile including salaries, overhead and reports. This brings the annual treadwear testing cost to \$2,160,000. For the traction testing, it is estimated that 1,900 tires are tested annually with an estimated cost of \$38,000 for use of the government test facility. Using a factor of 3.5 times to cover salary and overhead of test contractors, the estimated cost of traction testing is \$133,000. A separate temperature grade testing for tires is required, since the test will not be an extension of the high speed performance test of 49 CFR 571.109 which is required for safety certification. Section 571.109 is replaced by § 571.139, which has different test speeds. For the temperature testing, it is estimated that 1,900 tires are tested annually with an estimated average cost per test of \$423. Therefore, the estimated UTQGS temperature annual testing is \$803,700. Thus the total estimated cost for UTQGS testing is \$3,096,700. The cost of printing the tread labels is approximately 21,890,000 and estimate for printing brochures is at \$999,000. This yields a total annual financial burden of approximately \$25,985,700 (approximately \$26 million) on the tire manufacturers.

Estimated Annual Burden to the Government: The estimated annual cost of UTQGS to the Federal government is \$1,278,000. The cost consists of approximately \$152,000 for data management \$730,000 for enforcement testing, and about \$396,000 for general administration of the program.

Number of Respondents: There are approximately 163 individual tire brands sold in the United States. The actual number of respondents is much less than 163 due to company acquisitions, mergers, and in most cases, the manufacturer will report for the various individual brand names that they produce tires for. The actual number of respondents is about 65 individual responses.

Comments are invited on: Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued on: July 16, 2007.

Stephen R. Kratzke,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Petition for Exemption From the Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Mercedes-Benz

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Grant of petition for exemption.

SUMMARY: This document grants in full the Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC's, (MBUSA) petition for exemption of the C-Line Chassis vehicle line in accordance with 49 CFR part 543, *Exemption from the Theft Prevention Standard*. This petition is granted because the agency has determined that the antitheft device to be placed on the line as standard equipment is likely to be as effective in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft as compliance with the parts-marking requirements of the Theft Prevention Standard (49 CFR part 541).

DATES: The exemption granted by this notice is effective beginning with model year (MY) 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Carlita Ballard, Office of International Vehicle, Fuel Economy and Consumer Standards, NHTSA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., NVS-131, Room W43-439 (4th Floor), Washington, DC 20590. Ms. Ballard's phone number is (202) 366-5222. Her fax number is (202) 493-2990.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a petition dated August 8, 2006, MBUSA requested exemption from the parts-marking requirements of the theft prevention standard (49 CFR part 541) for the C-Line Chassis vehicle line, beginning with the 2008 model year. The petition has been filed pursuant to 49 CFR part 543, *Exemption from Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard*, based on the installation of an antitheft device as standard equipment for an entire vehicle line.

Under § 543.5(a), a manufacturer may petition NHTSA to grant exemptions for one line of its vehicle lines per model year. In its petition, MBUSA provided a detailed description and diagram of the identity, design, and location of the components of the antitheft device for the C-Line Chassis vehicle line. MBUSA stated that all C-Line Chassis vehicles

will be equipped with a passive, transponder-based electronic immobilizer device as standard equipment beginning with MY 2008. Features of the antitheft device will include an electronic key, a passive immobilizer system (FBS III) which includes an electronic ignition starter switch control unit (EIS) and an engine control unit (ECU). The device will also have a visible and audible alarm. The alarm system will provide protection for all four doors, the trunk and the engine hood. If any of the protected areas are violated, the four turn signal lamps and the left and right side turn signal marker lamps will flash, the interior lamps will switch on and the alarm will sound. MBUSA's submission is considered a complete petition as required by 49 CFR 543.7, in that it meets the general requirements contained in § 543.5 and the specific content requirements of § 543.6.

MBUSA stated that the transmitter key, the electronic ignition starter switch control unit and the engine control unit will work collectively to perform the immobilizer function. The immobilizer will prevent the engine from running unless a valid key is used in the ignition switch. Immobilization is activated when the key is removed from the ignition switch, whether the doors are open or closed. Once activated, a valid, coded-key must be inserted into the ignition switch to disable immobilization and permit the vehicle to start.

In addressing the specific content requirements of § 543.6, MBUSA provided information on the reliability and durability of its proposed device. To ensure reliability and durability of the device and to verify its ability to satisfactorily perform under extreme conditions, MBUSA conducted various tests based on its own specified standards. MBUSA provided a detailed list of the various tests conducted and believes that the device is reliable and durable since the device complied with its own specific test conditions.

MBUSA also compared the device proposed for its vehicle line with other devices which NHTSA has determined to be as effective in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft as would compliance with the parts-marking requirements. MBUSA stated that its proposed device is functionally equivalent to the systems used in the S-Line Chassis and E-Line Chassis vehicles which the agency has granted exemptions from the parts-marking requirements of the theft prevention standard. MBUSA concluded that the antitheft device for its C-Line Chassis vehicle line is no less effective than