

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Title: Obtaining Vehicle Information for the General Public.

OMB Control Number: 2127-0629.

Type of Request: Information Collection Renewal.

Affected Public: Manufacturers that sell motor vehicles in the United States that have a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 10,000 pounds or less.

Abstract: NHTSA's mission is to save lives, prevent injury, and reduce motor vehicle crashes. Consumer information programs are an important tool for improving vehicle safety through market forces. For over 30 years, under its New Car Assessment Program, NHTSA has been providing consumers with vehicle safety information such as frontal and side crash results, rollover propensity, and the availability of a wide array of safety features provided on each vehicle model. In addition, the agency has been using this safety feature information when responding to consumer inquiries and analyzing rulemaking petitions that requested the agency to mandate certain safety features.

NHTSA has another information collection to obtain data related to motor vehicle compliance with the agency's Federal motor vehicle safety standards. Although the consumer information collection data is distinct and unique from the compliance data, respondents to both collections are the same. Thus, the consumer information collection is closely coordinated with the compliance collection to enable responders to assemble the data more efficiently. The burden is further made easier by sending out electronic files to the respondents in which the data is entered and electronically returned to the agency.

The consumer information collected will be used on the agency's www.safercar.gov Web site, in the "Purchasing with Safety in Mind: What to look for when buying a new vehicle" and "Buying a Safer Car for Child Passengers" brochures, in other consumer publications, as well as for internal agency analyses and response to consumer inquiries.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 800 hours.

ADDRESSES: Respondents may send comments, within 30 days, regarding the burden estimate, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20503. Attention NHTSA Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on whether the existing collection of information is still necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the existing 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.

Comments to OMB are most effective if OMB receives them within 30 days of publication.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3506(c); delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50

Issued on: March 7, 2013.

Christopher J. Bonanti,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 2013-05750 Filed 3-12-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-59-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Petition for Exemption From the Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Jaguar Land Rover North America Llc

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

ACTION: Grant of petition for exemption.

SUMMARY: This document grants in full the Jaguar Land Rover North America LLC's, (Jaguar) petition for an exemption of the F-Type 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) 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Deborah Mazyck, Office of International Policy, Fuel Economy and Consumer Programs, NHTSA, W43-443, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. Ms. Mazyck's phone number is (202) 366-4139. Her fax number is (202) 493-2990.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a petition dated November 16, 2012,

Jaguar requested an exemption from the parts-marking requirements of the Theft Prevention Standard (49 CFR Part 541) for the MY 2014 Jaguar F-Type vehicle line. The petition requested an exemption from parts-marking 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 an exemption for one vehicle line per model year. In its petition, Jaguar provided a detailed description and diagram of the identity, design, and location of the components of the antitheft device for the F-Type vehicle line. Jaguar stated that the F-Type vehicles will be equipped with a passive, transponder based, electronic engine immobilizer device as standard equipment beginning with the 2014 model year. Key components of its antitheft device will include a power train control module (PCM), instrument cluster, body control module (BCM), remote frequency receiver, Immobilizer Antenna Unit, Smart Key and door control units. Jaguar stated that its antitheft device will also include an audible and visual perimeter alarm system as standard equipment. Jaguar stated that the perimeter alarm can be armed with the Smart Key or programmed to be passively armed. The siren will sound and the vehicle's exterior lights will flash if unauthorized entry is attempted by opening the hood, doors or luggage compartment. Jaguar'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.

The immobilizer device is automatically armed when the Smart Key is removed from the vehicle. Jaguar stated that the Smart key is programmed and synchronized to the vehicle through the means of an identification key code and a randomly generated secret code that are unique to each vehicle.

Jaguar stated that there are three methods to its antitheft device operation. Method one consists of automatic detection of the Smart Key via a remote frequency challenge response sequence. Specifically, when the driver approaches the vehicle and pulls the driver's door handle following authentication of the correct Smart Key, the doors will unlock. When the ignition start button is pressed, a search to find and authenticate the Smart Key commences within the vehicle interior. If successful, this information is passed by a coded data transfer to the BCM via the Remote Function Actuator. The

BCM in turn, will pass the "valid key" status to the instrument cluster, via a coded data transfer. The BCM sends the key valid message to the PCM which initiates a coded data transfer authorizing the engine to start. Method two consists of unlocking the vehicle with the Smart Key unlock button. As the driver approaches the vehicle, the Smart Key unlock button is pressed and the doors will unlock. Once the driver presses the ignition start button, the operation process is the same as method one. Method three involves using the emergency key blade. If the Smart Key has a discharged battery or is damaged, there is an emergency key blade that can be removed from the Smart Key and used to unlock the doors. On pressing the ignition start button, a search is commenced in order to find and authenticate the Smart Key within the vehicle interior. If successful, the Smart Key needs to be docked. Once the Smart Key is placed in the correct position, and the ignition start button is pressed again, the BCM and Smart key enter a coded data exchange via the Immobilizer Antenna Unit. The BCM in turn, passes the valid key status to the instrument cluster, via the Immobilizer Antenna Unit. The BCM then sends the key valid message to the PCM which initiates a coded data transfer. If successful, the engine will then be authorized to start the vehicle.

In addressing the specific content requirements of 543.6, Jaguar provided information on the reliability and durability of its proposed device. To ensure reliability and durability of the device, Jaguar conducted tests based on its own specified standards. Jaguar provided a detailed list of the tests conducted (i.e., temperature and humidity cycling, high and low temperature cycling, mechanical shock, random vibration, thermal stress/shock tests, material resistance tests, dry heat, dust and fluid ingress tests). Jaguar stated that it believes that its device is reliable and durable because it complied with specified requirements for each test. Additionally, Jaguar stated that the key recognition sequence includes in excess of a billion code combinations which include encrypted data that are secure against copying. Jaguar also stated that the coded data transfer between the BCM and the PCM modules use a unique secure identifier, a random number and a secure public algorithm. Furthermore, Jaguar stated that since the F-Type vehicle line will utilize push button vehicle ignition, it does not have a conventional mechanical key barrel. Therefore, there will be no means of

forcibly bypassing the key-locking system.

Jaguar stated that the F-Type is a new vehicle line, therefore no theft data is available. Also, Jaguar stated that the immobilizer is substantially similar to the antitheft device installed on the Jaguar XK, Jaguar XJ, Land Rover LR2 and Land Rover Evoque. Jaguar stated that based on MY 2010 theft information published by NHTSA, the Jaguar Land Rover vehicles equipped with immobilizers had a combined theft rate of 0.60 per thousand vehicles, which is below NHTSA's overall theft rate of 1.17 thefts per thousand. The theft rates for the Jaguar XK, XJ and Land Rover LR2 are 0.9099, 0.0000 and 0.0000, respectively. Theft rate data is not available for the Land Rover Evoque. Jaguar believes these low theft rates demonstrate the effectiveness of the immobilizer device. Additionally, Jaguar notes a Highway Loss Data Institute news release (July 19, 2000) showing approximately a 50% reduction in theft for vehicles installed with an immobilizer device.

Based on the supporting evidence submitted by Jaguar on the device, the agency believes that the antitheft device for the F-Type vehicle line 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). The agency concludes that the device will provide the five types of performance listed in § 543.6(a)(3): Promoting activation; attract attention to the efforts of an unauthorized person to enter or move a vehicle by means other than a key; preventing defeat or circumvention of the device by unauthorized persons; preventing operation of the vehicle by unauthorized entrants; and ensuring the reliability and durability of the device.

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 33106 and 49 CFR 543.7 (b), the agency grants a petition for 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. The agency finds that Jaguar has provided adequate reasons for its belief that the antitheft device for the Jaguar F-Type vehicle line 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). This conclusion is based on the information Jaguar provided about its device.

For the foregoing reasons, the agency hereby grants in full Jaguar's petition for exemption for the Jaguar F-Type vehicle line from the parts-marking requirements of 49 CFR Part 541. The agency notes that 49 CFR Part 541, Appendix A-1, identifies those lines that are exempted from the Theft Prevention Standard for a given model year. 49 CFR Part 543.7(f) contains publication requirements incident to the disposition of all Part 543 petitions. Advanced listing, including the release of future product nameplates, the beginning model year for which the petition is granted and a general description of the antitheft device is necessary in order to notify law enforcement agencies of new vehicle lines exempted from the parts-marking requirements of the Theft Prevention Standard.

If Jaguar decides not to use the exemption for this line, it must formally notify the agency. If such a decision is made, the line must be fully marked according to the requirements under 49 CFR 541.5 and 541.6 (marking of major component parts and replacement parts).

NHTSA notes that if Jaguar wishes in the future to modify the device on which this exemption is based, the company may have to submit a petition to modify the exemption. Section 543.7(d) states that a Part 543 exemption applies only to vehicles that belong to a line exempted under this part and equipped with the antitheft device on which the line's exemption is based. Further, § 543.9(c)(2) provides for the submission of petitions "to modify an exemption to permit the use of an antitheft device similar to but differing from the one specified in that exemption."

The agency wishes to minimize the administrative burden that § 543.9(c)(2) could place on exempted vehicle manufacturers and itself. The agency did not intend in drafting Part 543 to require the submission of a modification petition for every change to the components or design of an antitheft device. The significance of many such changes could be *de minimis*. Therefore, NHTSA suggests that if the manufacturer contemplates making any changes, the effects of which might be characterized as *de minimis*, it should consult the agency before preparing and submitting a petition to modify.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 33106; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

Issued on: March 7, 2013.

Christopher J. Bonanti,

Associate Administrator for Rulemaking.

[FR Doc. 2013-05760 Filed 3-12-13; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2013-0029]

Beall Corporation; Receipt of Petition for Renewal of Temporary Exemption From FMVSS No. 224

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

ACTION: Notice of receipt of a petition for renewal of a temporary exemption from Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 224, *Rear Impact Protection*.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the procedures in 49 CFR Part 555, Beall Corporation, d/b/a Pioneer Truckweld has petitioned the agency for renewal of a temporary exemption from certain requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 224, *Rear Impact Protection*. This notice of receipt of an application for renewal of a temporary exemption is published in accordance with statutory and administrative provisions. NHTSA has made no judgment on the merits of the application.

DATES: You should submit your comments not later than April 12, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William H. Shakely, Office of the Chief Counsel, NCC-112, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building 4th Floor, Room W41-318, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-2992; Fax: (202) 366-3820.

ADDRESSES: We invite you to submit comments on the application described above. You may submit comments identified by docket number at the heading of this notice by any of the following methods:

- *Web Site:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments on the electronic docket site by clicking on "Help and Information" or "Help/Info."

- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

- *Hand Delivery:* 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground

Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

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

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. Please see the Privacy Act discussion below. We will consider all comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments filed after the closing date.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or to 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: (202) 366-9826.

Privacy Act: Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477-78) or you may visit <http://www.dot.gov/privacy.html>.

Confidential Business Information: If you wish to submit any information under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Chief Counsel, NHTSA, at the address given under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. In addition, you should submit a copy, from which you have deleted the claimed confidential business information, to Docket Management at the address given above. When you send a comment containing information claimed to be confidential business information, you should include a cover letter setting forth the information specified in our confidential business information regulation (49 CFR Part 512).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Statutory Basis for Temporary Exemptions

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (Safety Act), codified at 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301, authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to exempt, on a temporary basis and under specified circumstances, motor vehicles from a motor vehicle safety standard or bumper standard. This authority is set forth at 49 U.S.C. 30113. The Secretary has delegated the authority in this section to NHTSA.

NHTSA established 49 CFR Part 555, *Temporary Exemption from Motor Vehicle Safety and Bumper Standards*, to implement the statutory provisions concerning temporary exemptions. A vehicle manufacturer wishing to obtain an exemption from a standard must demonstrate in its application (A) that an exemption would be in the public interest and consistent with the Safety Act and (B) that the manufacturer satisfies one of the following four bases for an exemption: (i) Compliance with the standard would cause substantial economic hardship to a manufacturer that has tried to comply with the standard in good faith; (ii) the exemption would make easier the development or field evaluation of a new motor vehicle safety feature providing a safety level at least equal to the safety level of the standard; (iii) the exemption would make the development or field evaluation of a low-emission motor vehicle easier and would not unreasonably lower the safety level of that vehicle; or (iv) compliance with the standard would prevent the manufacturer from selling a motor vehicle with an overall safety level at least equal to the overall safety level of nonexempt vehicles.

A manufacturer is eligible to apply for a hardship exemption if its total motor vehicle production in its most recent year of production did not exceed 10,000 vehicles, as determined by the NHTSA Administrator (49 U.S.C. 30113).

While 49 U.S.C. 30113(b) states that exemptions from a Safety Act standard are to be granted on a "temporary basis,"¹ the statute also expressly provides for renewal of an exemption on reapplication. Exempted manufacturers seeking renewal must bear in mind that the agency is directed to consider financial hardship as but one factor, along with the manufacturer's ongoing good faith efforts to comply with the regulation, the public interest, consistency with the Safety Act, generally, as well as other such matters

¹ 49 U.S.C. 30113(b)(1).