



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2025-0391]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Request for Comment; Defect and Noncompliance Reporting and Notification

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

ACTION: Notice and request for comment on a reinstatement of a previously approved collection of information.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), this notice announces that the Information Collection Request (ICR) summarized below is being submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The ICR describes the nature of the information collection and its expected burden. NHTSA is seeking approval for a reinstatement of a previously approved ICR titled “Defect and Noncompliance Reporting and Notification”, which covers requirements for manufacturers to notify NHTSA and owners, purchasers, dealers, and distributors of safety-related defects and failures to comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) in products they manufactured. The ICR also covers additional reporting, notification, and recordkeeping requirements related to those notifications and the ensuing free remedy programs. A Federal Register Notice with a 60-day comment period requesting public comments was published on October 26, 2023. No comments were received.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection, including suggestions for reducing burden, should be submitted to the Office of

Management and Budget at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. To find this particular information collection, select “Currently under Review – Open for Public Comment” or use the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or access to background documents, contact Jeremy Gunderson, Recall Management Division (NEF-107), Jeremy.Gunderson@dot.gov, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590. Please identify the relevant collection of information by referring to its OMB Control Number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), a Federal agency must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before it collects certain information from the public and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information by a Federal agency unless the collection displays a valid OMB control number. In compliance with these requirements, this notice announces that the following information collection request will be submitted OMB.

Title: Defect and Noncompliance Reporting and Notification

OMB Control Number: 2127-0004

Form Number(s): N/A

Type of Request: Reinstatement of a previously approved information collection

Type of Review Requested: Regular

Requested Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from the date of approval

Summary of the Collection of Information:

NHTSA is seeking approval for reinstatement of a previously approved information collection request (ICR) with OMB Control No. 2127–0004. This collection covers the information collection requirements found within various statutory provisions of the Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 (Act), 49 U.S.C. 30101, *et seq.*, and NHTSA’s regulations at 49 CFR part 573, *Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports* (Part 573) and 49 CFR 577,

Defect and Noncompliance Notification (Part 577). The provisions require manufacturers to notify NHTSA, and owners, purchasers, dealers, and distributors, of safety-related defects and failures to comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) in products they manufactured. The ICR also covers additional reporting, notification, and recordkeeping requirements related to those notifications and the ensuing free remedy programs. The sections of the Act imposing these requirements include 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30119, 30120, and 30166. Many of these requirements are implemented through, and addressed with more specificity in, 49 CFR parts 573 and 577.

Pursuant to the Act, motor vehicle and motor vehicle equipment manufacturers are obligated to notify, and then provide various information and documents to, NHTSA when a safety defect or noncompliance with FMVSS is identified in products they manufactured. *See* 49 U.S.C. 30118(c) and 49 CFR 573.6. Manufacturers are further required to notify owners, purchasers, dealers, and distributors about the safety defect or noncompliance. *See* 49 U.S.C. 30118(c), 30120(a); 49 CFR 577.7, 577.13. Manufacturers are required to provide to NHTSA with copies of communications about recall campaigns that they issue to owners, purchasers, dealers, and distributors. *See* 49 U.S.C. 30166(f); 49 CFR 573.6(c)(10).

Manufacturers are also required to file with NHTSA a plan explaining how they intend to reimburse owners and purchasers who paid to have their products remedied before being notified of the safety defect or noncompliance, and explain that plan in the notifications they issue to owners and purchasers about the safety defect or noncompliance. *See* 49 U.S.C. 30120(d) and 49 CFR 573.13. Manufacturers are further required to keep lists of the respective owners, purchasers, dealers, distributors, lessors, and lessees of the products determined to be defective or noncompliant and involved in a recall campaign, and are required to provide NHTSA with a minimum of eight quarterly reports and three annual reports reporting on the progress of their recall campaigns. *See* 49 U.S.C. § 30118.

The Act and Part 573 also contain numerous information collection requirements specific to tire recall and remedy campaigns. These requirements relate to the proper disposal of recalled tires, including a requirement that the manufacturer conducting the tire recall submit a plan and provide specific instructions to certain persons (such as dealers and distributors) addressing that disposal, and a requirement that those persons report back to the manufacturer certain deviations from the plan. *See* 49 U.S.C. 30120(d) and 49 CFR 573.6(c)(9). The regulations also require that manufacturers report to NHTSA intentional and knowing sales or leases of defective or noncompliant tires.

49 U.S.C. 30166(n) and its implementing regulation found at 49 CFR 573.10 mandate that anyone who knowingly and willfully sells or leases for use on a motor vehicle a defective tire or a tire that is not compliant with FMVSS, and with actual knowledge that the tire manufacturer has notified its dealers of the defect or noncompliance as required under the Act, is required to report that sale or lease to NHTSA no more than five working days after the person to whom the tire was sold or leased takes possession of it.

Description of the Need for the Information and Proposed Use of the Information:

This information is necessary to enable NHTSA to administer, monitor, and enforce the legal, statutory, and regulatory requirements identified above. These requirements are intended to ensure the safety of the motoring public through the proper and timely notification and remedy of defective or noncompliant motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment.

60-Day Notice:

A Federal Register notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting public comments on the following information collection was published on October 26, 2023 (88 FR 73636). NHTSA received no comments from the public.

Affected Public: Motor vehicle and motor vehicle equipment manufacturers.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

NHTSA receives reports of defects or noncompliance from roughly distinct 240 manufacturers per year. Accordingly, we estimate that there will be 240 distinct manufacturers per year filing defect or noncompliance reports and completing the other information collection responsibilities associated with those filings. Therefore, we estimate that there will be a total of 240 respondents per year associated with OMB No. 2127-0004.

Frequency: As circumstances necessitate.

Estimated Burden:

In the October 2023 60-day notice, NHTSA previously estimated an annual burden for the regulatory requirements (without the additional burden of the Takata ACRO) of 64,966 hours associated with the 49 CFR part 573 and 49 CFR part 577 requirements (of which 456 hours was contemplated for conducting supplemental recall communications under administrative activities), \$96,630,000, and 274 respondents per year. Our prior estimates of the burden hours and cost associated with the requirements covered by this information collection require adjustment as follows.

Based on current information, we estimate 240 distinct manufacturers filing an average of 976 Part 573 Safety Recall Reports each year. This is a change from our previous estimate of 988 Part 573 Safety Recall Reports filed by 249 manufacturers each year. In addition, concerning the metric associated with NHTSA's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Look-up Tool regulation, *see* 49 CFR 573.15, we continue to estimate it takes the 17 major passenger vehicle manufacturers (those that produce more than 25,000 vehicles annually) additional burden hours to complete these Reports to NHTSA, as explored in more detail below. *See* 82 FR 60789 (December 22, 2017). Between 2017 and 2021, the major passenger vehicle manufacturers conducted an average of 355 recalls annually.

We continue to estimate that maintenance of the required owner, purchaser, dealer, and distributors lists requires 8 hours a year per manufacturer. We also continue to estimate it takes a major passenger vehicle manufacturer 40 hours to complete each Part 573 Safety Recall

notification report to NHTSA, and it takes all other manufacturers 4 hours. Accordingly, we estimate the annual burden hours related to the reporting to NHTSA of a safety defect or noncompliance for the 17 major passenger vehicle-manufacturers to be 14,200 hours annually (355 notices × 40 hours/ report), and that all other manufacturers require a total of 2,484 hours annually (621 notices × 4 hours/report) to file their notices. Thus, with estimation input from manufacturers, the estimated annual burden hours related to the reporting to NHTSA of a safety defect or noncompliance is 17,164 hours (14,200 hours + 2,484 hours) + (240 MFRs × 8 hours to maintain purchaser lists).¹

We continue to estimate that an additional 40 hours will be needed to account for major passenger vehicle manufacturers adding details to Part 573 Safety Recall Reports relating to the intended schedule for notifying its dealers and distributors and tailoring its notifications to dealers and distributors in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR 577.13. An additional 2 hours will be needed to account for this obligation in other manufacturers' Safety Recall Reports. This burden is estimated at 15,442 hours annually (621 notices × 2 hours/ notification) + (355 notices × 40 hours/ notification).

49 U.S.C. 30166(f) requires manufacturers to provide to the Agency copies of all communications regarding defects and noncompliances sent to owners, purchasers, and dealerships. Manufacturers must index these communications by the year, make, and model of the vehicle, as well as provide a concise summary of the subject of the communication. We continue to estimate that this burden requires 3 hours for each vehicle recall for the 17 major passenger vehicle manufacturers, and 30 minutes for all other manufacturers for each vehicle recall. This totals an estimated 1,375.5 hours annually (355 recalls × 3 hours for the 17 major passenger vehicle manufacturers) + (621 recalls × .5 for all other manufacturers).

¹ For more information about how we derived these and certain other estimates, please see 81 FR 70269 (October 11, 2016).

In the event a manufacturer supplied the defective or noncompliant product to independent dealers through independent distributors, that manufacturer is required to include in its notifications to those distributors an instruction that the distributors are then to provide copies of the manufacturer's notification of the defect or noncompliance to all known distributors or retail outlets further down the distribution chain within five working days. *See* 49 CFR 577.7(c)(2)(iv). As a practical matter, this requirement would only apply to equipment manufacturers, since vehicle manufacturers generally sell and lease vehicles through a dealer network, and not through independent distributors. We have estimated the burden associated with these notifications (identifying retail outlets, making copies of the manufacturer's notice, and mailing) to be 5 hours per recall campaign. Assuming an average of 3 distributors per equipment item, which is a liberal estimate given that many equipment manufacturers do not use independent distributors, the total number of burden hours associated with this third-party notification requirement is approximately 1,290 hours per year (86 recalls \times 3 distributors \times 5 hours).

As for the burden linked with a manufacturer's preparation of and notification concerning its reimbursement for pre-notification remedies, we continue to estimate that the preparation of a reimbursement plan takes approximately 4 hours annually. We also continue to estimate that an additional 1.5 hours per year is spent by the 17 major passenger vehicle manufacturers adapting the plan to particular defect and noncompliance notifications to NHTSA and adding tailored language about the plan to a particular safety recall's owner notification letters, whereas an additional .5 hours per year is spent on this task by all other manufacturers. And we continue to estimate that an additional 12 hours annually is spent disseminating plan information, for a total of 4,827 annual burden hours ((249 MFRs \times 4 hours to prepare plan) + (355 recalls \times 1.5 hours tailoring plan for each recall) + (621 recalls \times .5 hours) + (249 MFRs \times 12 hours to disseminate plan information)).

The Safety Act and 49 CFR part 573 also contain numerous information collection requirements specific to tire recall and remedy campaigns, as well as a statutory and regulatory reporting requirement that anyone who knowingly and intentionally sells or leases a defective or noncompliant tire notify NHTSA of that activity.

Manufacturers are required to include specific information related to tire disposal in the notifications they provide NHTSA concerning identification of a safety defect or noncompliance with FMVSS in their tires, as well as in the notifications they issue to their dealers or other tire outlets participating in the recall campaign. *See* 49 CFR 573.6(c)(9). We believe our previous estimate of 11 tire recalls remains accurate. We continue to estimate that the inclusion of this additional information will require an additional two hours of effort beyond the subtotal above associated with non-tire recall campaigns. This additional effort consists of one hour for the NHTSA notification and one hour for the dealer notification for a total of 22 burden hours (11 tire recalls a year \times 2 hours per recall).

Manufacturer-owned or controlled dealers are required to notify the manufacturer and provide certain information should they deviate from the manufacturer's disposal plan. Consistent with our previous analysis, we continue to ascribe zero burden hours to this requirement since, to date, no such reports have been provided, and our original expectation that dealers would comply with manufacturers' plans has proven accurate.

Accordingly, we estimate 22 burden hours a year will be spent complying with the tire recall campaign requirements found in 49 CFR 573.6(c)(9).

The agency continues to estimate 1 burden hour annually will be spent preparing and submitting reports of a defective or noncompliant tire being intentionally sold or leased under 49 U.S.C. 30166(n) and its implementing regulation at 49 CFR 573.10.

We continue to expect that nine vehicle manufacturers, who did not operate VIN-based recalls lookup systems prior to August 2013, incur certain recurring burdens on an annual basis. We continue to estimate that 100 burden hours will be spent on system and database

administrator support. These 100 burden hours include: Backup data management and monitoring; database management, updates, and log management; and data transfer, archiving, quality assurance, and cleanup procedures. We continue to estimate another 100 burden hours will be incurred on web/application developer support. These burdens include: Operating system and security patch management; application/web server management; and application server system and log files management. We continue to estimate these burdens will total 1,800 hours each year (9 MFRs × 200 hours).

Changes to 49 CFR part 573 in 2013 required 27 manufacturers to update each recalled vehicle's repair status no less than every 7 days, for 15 years from the date the VIN is known to be included in the recall². This ongoing requirement to update the status of a VIN for 15 years continues to add a recurring burden on top of the one-time burden to implement and operate these online search tools. We continue to estimate that 8 affected motorcycle manufacturers will make recalled VINs available for an average of 2 recalls each year and 19 affected passenger vehicle manufacturers will make recalled VINs available for an average of 8 recalls each year. We believe it will take no more than 1 hour, and potentially less with automated systems, to update the VIN status of vehicles that have been remedied under the manufacturer's remedy program. We continue to estimate this will require 8,736 burden hours per year (1 hour × 2 recalls × 52 weeks × 8 MFRs + 1 hour × 8 recalls × 52 weeks × 19 MFRs) to support the requirement to update the recalls completion status of each VIN in a recall at least weekly for 15 years.

Due to a congressionally-mandated increase in the required number of quarterly reports for each recall,³ the number of quarterly reports that track the completion of safety recalls has also increased. Our previous estimate of 4,498 quarterly reports received annually is now revised upwards to 5,875 quarter reports received annually. We continue to estimate it takes

² For more information, please see 78 FR 51421 (August 20, 2013).

³ 49 U.S.C. § 30118(f)(1)(A).

manufacturers 1 hour to gather the pertinent information for each quarterly report, and 10 additional hours for the 17 major passenger vehicle manufacturers to submit electronic reports. We therefore now estimate that the quarterly reporting burden pursuant to 49 U.S.C.A. § 30118 totals 6,045 hours ((5,875 quarterly reports × 1 hour/report) + (17 MFRs × 10 hours for electronic submission)).

We continue to estimate a small burden of 2 hours annually in order to set up a manufacturer's online recalls portal account with the pertinent contact information and maintaining/ updating their account information as needed. We estimate this will require a total of 480 hours annually (2 hours × 240 MFRs).

We continue to estimate that 20 percent of Part 573 reports will involve a change or addition regarding recall components, and that at two hours per amended report, this totals 390 burden hours per year (976 recalls × .20 = 195 recalls; 195 × 2 = 390 hours).

Additionally, manufacturers are now required to submit three (3) annual recall completion rate reports following the completion of the last date for which a quarterly report for the recall is submitted.⁴ NHTSA estimates that it will receive an average of 316 such reports yearly from manufacturers. We estimate it will take manufacturers 2 hours to complete each annual report, including 1.5 hours to gather pertinent information for each report, and .5 hours for the 17 major passenger vehicle manufacturers to submit the electronic reports. We therefore estimate that the annual reporting burden pursuant to 49 USC 30118 totals 632 hours ((316 annual reports x 1.5 hours) + (17 MFRs x .5 hours for electronic submission)). We continue to estimate that 20 percent of Part 573 reports will involve a change or addition regarding recall components, and that at two hours per amended report, this totals 390 burden hours per year (976 recalls × .20 = 195 recalls; 195 × 2 = 390 hours).

As to the requirement that manufacturers notify NHTSA in the event of a bankruptcy, we expect this notification to take an estimated 2 hours to draft and submit to NHTSA. We continue

⁴ 49 U.S.C. § 30118(f)(1)(B).

to estimate that only 10 manufacturers might submit such a notice to NHTSA each year, so we calculate the total burden at 20 hours (10 MFRs × 2 hours).

We continue to estimate that it takes the 17 major passenger vehicle manufacturers an average of 11 hours to draft their notification letters, submit them to NHTSA for review, and then finalize them for mailing to their affected owners and purchasers. We also continue to estimate it takes 8 hours for all other manufacturers to perform this task. Accordingly, we estimate that the 49 CFR part 577 requirements result in 8,873 burden hours annually (11 hours per recall × 355 recalls per year) + (8 hours per recall × 621 recalls per year).

We previously calculated that about 12 percent of past recalls require an interim notification mailing, but recent trends show that 3 percent of recalls require an interim owner notification mailing. We continue to estimate the preparation of an interim notification can take up to 10 hours. We therefore estimate that 1,250 burden hours are associated with the 60-day interim notification requirement (976 recalls × .03 = 34 recalls; 34 recalls times 10 hours per recall = 340 hours).

Because of the forgoing burden estimates, we are revising the burden estimate associated with this collection. The 49 CFR part 573 and 49 CFR part 577 requirements found in today's notice will require 68,879 hours each year. NHTSA estimates the labor cost for compiling and submitting the required information under 49 CFR parts 573 and 577 to be \$44.71 per hour using the Bureau of Labor's mean hourly wage estimate for technical writers in the motor vehicle manufacturing industry (Standard Occupational Classification # 27-3042).⁵ NHTSA thus estimates that it will cost vehicle manufacturers \$3,079,580.09 in wage costs annually to comply with the Part 573 and 577 requirements. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that for private

⁵ National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates NAICS 336100—Motor Vehicle Manufacturing – May 2022, https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics4_336100.htm, last accessed February 7, 2024; US Office of Management and Budget. *Standard Occupation Classification Manual*, 2018.

industry workers, wages represent 70.6% of total compensation.⁶ Therefore, the total annual labor cost associated with the hourly burden is estimated to be \$4,362,012.

Costs Other Than Labor Costs Associated with Burden Hours:

As noted above, there is recurring annual costs to manufacturers occur for operating a VIN look-up tool and mailing of owner notification letters and interim notification letters. NHTSA estimated that the nine vehicle manufacturers, who did not operate VIN-based recalls lookup systems prior to August 2013, would incur annual costs of \$30,000 per manufacturer,⁷ with the total industry cost of \$270,000 on an annual basis (9 MFRs × \$30,000).

As for costs associated with notifying owners and purchasers of recalls, to reflect an increase in postage rates, we are revising our estimate of the cost of first-class mail notification to \$1.53 per notification, on average. This cost estimate includes the costs of printing and mailing, as well as the costs vehicle manufacturers may pay to third-party vendors to acquire the names and addresses of the current registered owners from state and territory departments of motor vehicles. In reviewing recent recall figures, we determined that an estimated 51.4 million letters are mailed yearly totaling \$78,642,000 (\$1.53 per letter × 51,400,000 letters). The requirement in 49 CFR part 577 for a manufacturer to notify their affected customers within 60 days with interim notifications would add an additional \$2,359,260 (51,400,000 letters × .03 requiring interim owner notifications = 1,542,000 letters; 1,542,000 × \$1.53 = \$2,359,260). We estimate that the current 49 CFR part 577 requirements cost manufacturers a total of \$81,001,260 annually (\$78,642,000 for owner notification letters + \$2,359,260 for interim notification letters = \$81,001,260). Therefore, in total, we estimate the recurring annual cost, other than labor costs associated with burden hours, at approximately \$81,271,260.

⁶ Employer Costs for Employee Compensation—December 2023, <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecec.nr0.htm>, last accessed February 7, 2024.

⁷ \$8,000 (for data center hosting for the physical server) + \$12,000 (for web/application developer support) = \$30,000.

Total annual costs associated with this reinstatement ICR is \$85,633,272 (\$4,362,012 labor cost associated with burden hours + \$81,271,260 costs other than labor costs).

Public Comments Invited: You are asked to comment on any aspects of this information collection, including (a) 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; (b) 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; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, 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.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; 49 CFR 1.49; and DOT Order 1351.29A.

Eileen Sullivan,

Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

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