

prevent unauthorized entry of its vehicles without the use of a key (i.e., ignition key and key cylinders will be designed with special styling features). Honda stated that its key cylinders are designed to be resistant to tampering and its key fob remote utilizes rolling codes for the lock and unlock functions of its vehicles. Honda will also equip its vehicle line with a hood release, counterfeit resistant VIN plates and secondary VINs as standard equipment. Honda further stated that as an additional security measure, key duplication will be strictly controlled by its authorized dealers. Honda'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.

In addressing the specific content requirements of § 543.6, Honda provided information on the reliability and durability of its proposed device. To ensure reliability and durability of the device, Honda conducted tests based on its own specified standards. Honda provided a detailed list of the tests it uses to validate the integrity, durability and reliability of the device and believes that it follows a rigorous development process to ensure that its antitheft device will be reliable and robust for the life of the vehicle and does not require the presence of a key fob battery to function. Additionally, Honda stated that its antitheft device has no moving parts (i.e., the PCM, IMOES, ignition key, smart entry remote and the electrical components found within its own housing units) which reduces the chance for deterioration or wear resulting from normal use.

In support of its belief that its antitheft device will be as or more effective in reducing and deterring vehicle theft than the parts-marking requirement, Honda referenced data showing several instances of the effectiveness of its proposed immobilizer device. Honda first installed an immobilizer device as standard equipment on its MY 1998 Accord vehicles and referenced NHTSA's theft rate data showing a decrease in thefts since the installation of its immobilizer device. NHTSA's theft rates for MYs 2009, 2010, and 2011 are 0.9422, 0.7039 and 0.7819 respectively. Using an average of 3 MYs theft data (2009–2011), the theft rate for the Accord vehicle line is well below the median at 1.9067.

Honda also referenced a Highway Loss Data Institute report showing an overall reduction in theft rates for the Honda Accord vehicles after introduction of the immobilizer device.

Honda stated that the data show that there was an immediate decrease in MY/calendar year 1998 thefts with its immobilizer-installed vehicles but also showed sustained lower theft rates in following years.

Based on the evidence submitted by Honda on its antitheft device, the agency believes that the antitheft device for the Accord 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.

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 Honda has provided adequate reasons for its belief that the antitheft device for the Honda Accord 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. This conclusion is based on the information Honda provided about its device.

The agency concludes that because Honda does not plan to incorporate the vehicle security system on the entire vehicle line as standard equipment, the device will provide four of the five types of performance listed in § 543.6(a)(3): promoting activation; 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.

For the foregoing reasons, the agency hereby grants in full Honda's petition for exemption for the Accord vehicle line from the parts-marking requirements of 49 CFR Part 541, beginning with the 2015 model year vehicles. 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 Honda 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 Parts 541.5 and 541.6 (marking of major component parts and replacement parts).

NHTSA notes that if Honda 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.

Part 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 anti-theft device on which the line's exemption is based. Further, Part 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 Part 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.

Lori K. Summers,
Director, Office of Crashworthiness Standards.

[FR Doc. 2014–07234 Filed 3–31–14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Petition for Exemption From the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Ford Motor Company

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

ACTION: Grant of petition for exemption.

SUMMARY: This document grants in full Ford Motor Company's (Ford) petition for an exemption of the Fiesta vehicle

line in accordance with 49 CFR Part 543, *Exemption from Vehicle 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 49 CFR Part 541, *Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard* (Theft Prevention Standard). Ford also requested confidential treatment of specific information in its petition. The agency will address Ford's request for confidential treatment by separate letter.

DATES: The exemption granted by this notice is effective beginning with the 2015 model year (MY).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Carlita Ballard, Office of International Policy, Fuel Economy and Consumer Programs, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building, Room W43-439, Washington, DC 20590. Ms. Ballard's telephone number is (202) 366-5222. Her fax number is (202) 493-2990.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a petition dated December 10, 2013, Ford requested an exemption from the parts-marking requirements of the Theft Prevention Standard for the Fiesta vehicle line beginning with MY 2015. The petition requested 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 the entire vehicle line.

Under 49 CFR Part 543.5(a), a manufacturer may petition NHTSA to grant exemptions for one vehicle line per model year. In its petition, Ford provided a detailed description and diagram of the identity, design, and location of the components of the antitheft device for the Fiesta vehicle line. Ford stated that the Model Year (MY) 2015 Fiesta will be installed with a passive, electronic immobilizer device using encrypted transponder technology as standard equipment on the entire vehicle line. Ford also stated that depending on the trim level of the vehicle, the device would be equipped with either the SecuriLock Passive Anti-Theft Electronic Engine Immobilizer system (SecuriLock/PATS) or the Intelligent Access with Push Button Start (IAWPB) system on its Fiesta vehicle line. Specifically, Ford stated that the SecuriLock/PATS system will be installed as standard equipment on all Fiesta trim levels except the

Titanium package that would instead be equipped with the IAWPB system as standard equipment. Along with Ford's passive immobilizer, key components of the SecuriLock/PATS antitheft system will include an electronic transponder key, powertrain control module (PCM), transceiver module ignition lock and cluster. Key components of the IAWPB system will include an electronic key fob, remote function actuator (RFA), Keyless Vehicle Module (KVM), powertrain control module and Ford's passive immobilizer. Ford further stated that its Titanium package will also be offered with a separate perimeter alarm system as standard equipment. The perimeter alarm system activates a visible and audible alarm if unauthorized access is attempted. Ford'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.

Ford stated that when the ignition key is turned to the "Run/Start" position on the SecuriLock/PATS system or the "Start/Stop" button is pressed on the IAWPB system, the transceiver module reads the ignition key code and transmits an encrypted message from the keycode to the control module. Once the key is validated, starting of the engine is authorized by sending a separate encrypted message to the powertrain control module (PCM). Ford stated that the powertrain will function only if the keycode matches the unique identification keycode previously programmed into the cluster of the SecuriLock/PATS-equipped vehicles or the RFA in the IAWPB-equipped vehicles. In both systems, if the codes do not match, the vehicle will be inoperable. Ford stated that in both systems, an electronic key will be programmed into the vehicle during system initialization performed at the manufacturing plant. With the IAWPB system, Ford stated that if the programmed key is not present in the vehicle, the engine will not start. Additionally, Ford further stated that the powertrain will function only if the keycode matches the unique identification keycode previously programmed into the Cluster/RFA. Ford also pointed out that in addition to the programmed key, there are three modules that must be matched together in order to start the vehicle, adding an additional level of security to both systems. Specifically, Ford stated that both the SecuriLock/PATS and IAWPB systems' Cluster/RFA and PCM respectively share security data that

during vehicle assembly form matched modules that if separated from each other will not function in other vehicles.

In addressing the specific content requirements of 543.6, Ford provided information on the reliability and durability of its proposed device. To ensure reliability and durability of the device, Ford conducted tests based on its own specified standards. Ford provided a detailed list of the tests conducted and believes that the device is reliable and durable since the device complied with its own specified requirements for each test.

Ford stated that its MY 2015 Fiesta vehicle line will also be equipped with several other standard antitheft features common to Ford vehicles, (i.e., hood release located inside the vehicle, counterfeit resistant VIN labels, secondary VINs and secured cabin accessibility). Ford also stated that incorporation of several other features in both systems further support reliability and durability of the device. Specifically, some of those features include: Encrypted communication between the transponder and the control function (Cluster/RFA module) and the PCM; numerous code combinations making key duplication virtually impossible; inability to mechanically override the device to start the vehicle; and any attempt to slam-pull the ignition lock cylinder or short the "Start/Stop" button will have no effect on an intruder's ability to start the vehicle without the correct code being transmitted to the electronic control modules.

Ford 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. Ford stated that it believes that the standard installation of either the SecuriLock/PATS system or the IAWPB system would be an effective deterrent against vehicle theft.

Ford stated that the SecuriLock/PATS system was introduced as standard equipment on all of its MY 1996 Ford Mustang GT, Cobra and other selected models. Ford also stated that in MY 1997, the SecuriLock/PATS system was extended to the complete Ford Mustang vehicle line as standard equipment. Ford further stated that according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) theft statistics, there was a 70% reduction in the theft rate for the MY 1997 Ford Mustang vehicle line installed with its SecuriLock/PATS system as compared to the theft rate for its MY 1995 Ford Mustang vehicle line not installed with the system.

Ford also reported that beginning with MY 2010, the SecuriLock system was installed as standard equipment on all of its North American Ford, Lincoln and Mercury vehicles but was offered as optional equipment on its 2010 F-series Super Duty pickups, Econoline and Transit Connect vehicles. Ford further stated that beginning with MY 2010, the IAWPB system was installed as standard equipment on the Lincoln MKT vehicles and offered as standard equipment on the Lincoln MKX and optionally on the Lincoln MKS, Taurus, Edge, Explorer and the Focus vehicles beginning with MY 2011. Starting with 2013, the IAWPB has been offered as standard equipment on the Lincoln MKZ and as optional equipment on the Ford Fusion, C-Max and Escape vehicles.

Ford stated that both antitheft systems with a standard equipment immobilizer are of the same design and performance as that of the MY 2006 Ford Focus vehicle line. Ford was granted an exemption for the Focus vehicle line on February 14, 2006 by NHTSA (See 71 FR 7824) beginning with its MY 2006 vehicles. Since the agency granted Ford's exemption for its MY 2006 Focus vehicle line, Ford referenced theft rate data published by NHTSA showing that theft rates for the Focus vehicle line have been gradually decreasing and is currently very close to the theft rate for all vehicles published for MY's 2000–2010. Ford stated that since the SecuriLock or the IAWPB systems (with a standard equipment immobilizer device) will be the primary theft deterrents on Ford Fiesta vehicles, it believes that the very low theft rates are likely to continue or improve in the future. The current theft rate for the MY 2011 Ford Focus is 1.3840 and the average theft rate using three MYs' data (2009–2011) is 1.5179.

The agency agrees that the device is substantially similar to devices installed on other vehicle lines for which the agency has already granted exemptions.

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 Ford has provided adequate reasons for its belief that the antitheft device for the Ford Fiesta 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 Ford provided about its device.

Based on the supporting evidence submitted by Ford on the device, the agency believes that the antitheft device for the Fiesta 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 four of the five types of performance listed in § 543.6(a)(3): Promoting activation; 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.

For the foregoing reasons, the agency hereby grants in full Ford's petition for exemption for the Fiesta 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 Ford 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 Parts 541.5 and 541.6 (marking of major component parts and replacement parts).

NHTSA notes that if Ford 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. Part 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, Part 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 Part 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.

Lori K. Summers,

Director, Office of Crashworthiness Standards.

[FR Doc. 2014–07233 Filed 3–31–14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

Notice and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: 30-day notice of request for approval: Waybill Sample.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, and as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3519 (PRA), the Surface Transportation Board (Board) gives notice that it is requesting from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of the information collection—the Waybill Sample—further described below. The Board previously published a notice about this collection in the **Federal Register** on January 16, 2014, at 79 FR 2,938. That notice allowed for a 60-day public review and comment period. No comments were received.

Comments are may now be submitted to OMB concerning: (1) The accuracy of the Board's burden estimates; (2) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; (3) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology when appropriate; and (4) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Board, including whether the collection has practical utility. Submitted comments will be summarized and included in the Board's request for OMB approval.

Description of Collection

Title: Waybill Sample.