

The ignition key/transmission interlock requirements of S4.2 were promulgated in Docket 1–21 (Notice 9 published in May 30, 1990). In that notice there was no provision for an emergency operation system to permit ignition key removal when the transmission is not in “Park” position. In response to several automobile manufacturer petitions for reconsideration, the agency published Notice 10 (March 26, 1991) to supplement S4.2 by the addition of S4.2.1 and S4.2.2 that did permit an emergency operation system to be located behind an opaque cover that could only be removed via the use of a tool. The use of the emergency operation system allows the removal of the ignition key when the transmission is not in “Park.” The emergency operation system would also permit moving the shift lever out of “Park” position after removal of the ignition key. The use of the emergency operation system was dependent upon the steering system being locked whenever the ignition key is removed.

Some manufacturers again filed petitions for reconsideration to the Notice 10 amendment which the agency responded [to] in Notice 11 (January 17, 1992). Notice 11 amended S4.2.2(a) to permit ignition key removal even if the transmission were not in “Park” if there is an electrical failure of the vehicle without activation of the emergency operating system. When the vehicle's electrical system was behaving normally, removal of the ignition key in transmission positions other than “Park” would only be permissible via the emergency operation system. Ignition key removal in transmission shift positions other than “Park” required, as before, that the steering system would lock.

The requirement that the steering be locked when the ignition key is removed was debated in both Notice 10 and 11 “to ensure that Standard No. 114's theft protection aspects are not jeopardized.” Nothing in the record indicates that this requirement was based on a need to prevent personal or property damage.

Porsche states that it believes the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety because the steering lock function when the vehicle is without electrical power and the ignition key is removed has no safety implication because the vehicle is immobilized. Porsche explains:

In the Cayenne models at issue here the removal of the ignition key using the emergency operation system is a vehicle security function to prevent the vehicle from being driven by simply jump-starting the vehicle, due to the fact that the vehicle is equipped with an immobilizer that prevents starting of the vehicle without the electronically coded ignition key. The key-code is recorded in the engine control module and cannot be electrically bypassed.

The agency agrees with Porsche. NHTSA issued an interpretation letter to an unnamed person on September 24, 2004, which stated in pertinent part as follows:

The engine control module immobilizer described in your letter satisfies the

requirements of S4.2(b) because it locks out the engine control module if an attempt is made to start the vehicle without the correct key or to bypass the electronic ignition system. When the engine control module is locked, the vehicle is not capable of forward self-mobility because it is incapable of moving forward under its own power.

Theft protection of vehicles is addressed under S4.2 of the standard. Section 4.2(b) can be met by preventing either steering or forward self-mobility. Therefore, an equivalent level of theft protection is provided by “either steering or forward self-mobility.”

NHTSA amended FMVSS No. 114 in 1990 to require that vehicles with an automatic transmission and a “park” position be shifted to “park” or become locked in park before the key can be removed to reduce incidents of vehicle rollaway. S4.2.2(a) was added in 1991 to permit key removal when an electrical failure occurred and the transmission could not be manually shifted into park, provided that steering was prevented for theft protection. The forward self-mobility feature does not prevent vehicle rollaway by itself. However, the parking brake used in combination with the forward self-mobility feature will prevent rollaway.

NHTSA recently granted two petitions for the same noncompliance based on the same rationale (Bentley Motors, Inc. and Volkswagen of America, Inc., both at 69 FR 67211, November 16, 2004).

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA has decided that the petitioner has met its burden of persuasion that the noncompliance described is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, Porsche's petition is granted and the petitioner is exempted from the obligation of providing notification of, and a remedy for, the noncompliance.

(Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120; delegations of authority at CFR 1.50 and 501.8).

Issued on: May 25, 2005.

Ronald L. Medford,

Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety.

[FR Doc. 05–10786 Filed 6–1–05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program Availability of Application Packages

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document provides notice of the availability of Application Packages for the 2006 Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program.

DATES: Application Packages are available from the IRS at this time. The deadline for submitting an application package to the IRS for the 2006 Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program is August 1, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Application Packages may be requested by contacting: Internal Revenue Service, 5000 Ellin Road, Lanham, MD, 20706, Attention: Program Manager, Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program, SE:W:CAR:SPEC:FO:OA, Building C–4, Room 168. Applications can also be submitted electronically through the IRS E-grants System by logging on to www.egrants.irs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. Lynn Tyler, SE:W:CAR:SPEC:FO:OA, Building C–4, Room 168, Internal Revenue Service, 5000 Ellin Road, Lanham, MD 20706. The non-toll-free telephone number is (202) 283–0189.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Authority for the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program is contained in Section 163 of the Revenue Act of 1978, Public Law 95–600, (92 Stat. 12810), November 6, 1978. Regulations were published in the **Federal Register** at 44 FR 72113 on December 13, 1979. Section 163 gives the IRS authority to enter into cooperative agreements with private or public non-profit agencies or organizations to establish a network of trained volunteers to provide free tax information and return preparation assistance to elderly individuals. Elderly individuals are defined as individuals age 60 and over at the close of their taxable year.

Cooperative agreements will be entered into based upon competition among eligible agencies and organizations. Because applications are being solicited before the FY 2006 budget has been approved, cooperative agreements will be entered into subject to appropriation of funds. Once funded, sponsoring agencies and organizations will receive a grant from the IRS for administrative expenses and to reimburse volunteers for expenses incurred in training and in providing tax return assistance. The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program is referenced in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance in Section 21.006.

Dated: May 22, 2005.

Marie A. Medeck,

Director, Field Operations, Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPEC).

[FR Doc. 05-11019 Filed 6-1-05; 8:45 am]

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UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Sunshine Act Meeting

DATE/TIME: Wednesday—June 15, 2005 (6 p.m.–9p.m.); Thursday—June 16, 2005 (8 a.m.–8 p.m.); Friday—June 17, 2005 (8 a.m.–12 p.m.).

LOCATION: Airlie Conference Center, 6809 Airlie Road, Warrenton, VA 20187, USA.

STATUS: Open Session—Portions may be closed pursuant to Subsection (c) of Section 552(b) of Title 5, United States Code, as provided in subsection 1706(h)(3) of the United States Institute of Peace Act, Public Law 98-525.

AGENDA: June 2005 Board Meeting; Approval of Minutes of the One Hundred and Eighteenth Meeting, (March 17, 2005) of the Board of Directors; Chairman's Report; President's Report; Review, Discussion and Approval of Solicited Grant Topics for March 2006 Grants Cycle; Selection of National Peace Essay Contest Winners; Program Reports; Discussion of Budget Guidelines for Fiscal Year

2007; Review of Select USIP Policies; Other General Issues.

CONTACT: Tessie Higgs, Executive Office, Telephone: (202) 429-3836.

Dated: May 26, 2005.

Michael Graham,

Executive Vice President, United States Institute of Peace.

[FR Doc. 05-11035 Filed 5-31-05; 10:36 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2005 from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and on Friday, June 24, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., in Room 442, Export Import Bank, 811 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on matters of structural safety in the construction and remodeling of VA facilities and to recommend standards for use by VA in the construction and

alteration of facilities as prescribed under Section 8105 of Title 38, United States Code.

On June 23, the Committee in workshop will review developments in the fields of fire safety issues and structural design as they relate to seismic and other natural hazards' impact on the safety of buildings. On June 24, the Committee in formal meeting will receive appropriate briefings/presentations on current seismic, natural hazards, and fire safety issues that are particularly relevant to facilities owned and leased by the Department. The Committee will also vote on appropriate safety recommendations for inclusion in VA's standards.

No time will be allocated for receiving oral presentations from the public. However, the Committee will accept written comments. Comments should be sent to Krishna K. Banga, Senior Structural Engineer, Facilities Quality Service, Office of Facilities Management (181A), Department of Veterans Affairs, 811 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Those wishing to attend should contact Mr. Banga at (202) 565-9370.

Dated: May 26, 2005.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 05-11002 Filed 6-1-05; 8:45 am]

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