

§ 33111. Verifications involving motor vehicle major parts

(a) General requirements. A person engaged in the business of salvaging, dismantling, recycling, or repairing passenger motor vehicles may not knowingly sell in commerce or transfer or install a major part marked with an identification number without--

(1) first establishing, through a procedure the Attorney General by regulation prescribes in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation under section 33109 of this title, that the major part has not been reported as stolen; and

(2) providing the purchaser or transferee with a verification--

(A) identifying the vehicle identification number (or derivative of that number) of that major part; and

(B) verifying that the major part has not been reported as stolen.

(b) Nonapplication.

(1) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to a person that--

(A) is the manufacturer of the major part;

(B) has purchased the major part directly from the manufacturer; or

(C) has received a verification from an insurance carrier under section 33110 of this title that the motor vehicle from which the major part is derived has not been reported as stolen, or that the carrier has not established whether that vehicle has been stolen.

(2) A person described under paragraph (1)(C) of this subsection that subsequently transfers or sells in commerce the motor vehicle or a major part of the vehicle shall provide the verification received from the carrier to the person to whom the vehicle or part is transferred or sold.

(c) Regulations. The Attorney General shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. The regulations shall include regulations prescribed in consultation with the Secretary that are necessary to ensure that a verification a person provides under subsection (a)(2) of this section is uniform, effective, and resistant to fraudulent use.

§ 33112. Insurance reports and information

(a) Purposes. The purposes of this section are--

(1) to prevent or discourage the theft of motor vehicles, particularly those stolen for the removal of certain parts;

(2) to prevent or discourage the sale and distribution in interstate commerce of used parts that are removed from those vehicles; and

(3) to help reduce the cost to consumers of comprehensive insurance coverage for motor vehicles.

(b) Definitions. In this section--

(1) "insurer" includes a person (except a governmental authority) having a fleet of at least 20 motor vehicles that are used primarily for rental or lease and are not covered by a theft insurance policy issued by an insurer of passenger motor vehicles.

(2) "motor vehicle" includes a truck, a multipurpose passenger vehicle, and a motorcycle.

(c) Annual information requirement.

(1) An insurer providing comprehensive coverage for motor vehicles shall provide annually to the Secretary of Transportation information on--

(A) the thefts and recoveries (in any part) of motor vehicles;

(B) the number of vehicles that have been recovered intact;

(C) the rating rules and plans, such as loss information and rating characteristics, used by the insurer to establish premiums for comprehensive coverage, including the basis for the premiums, and premium penalties for motor vehicles considered by the insurer as more likely to be stolen;

(D) the actions taken by the insurer to reduce the premiums, including changing rate levels for comprehensive coverage because of a reduction in thefts of motor vehicles;

(E) the actions taken by the insurer to assist in deterring or reducing thefts of motor vehicles; and

(F) other information the Secretary requires to carry out this chapter [49 USCS §§ 33101 et seq.] and to make the report and findings required by this chapter [49 USCS §§ 33101 et seq.].

(2) The information on thefts and recoveries shall include an explanation on how the information is obtained, the accuracy and timeliness of the information, and the use made of the information, including the extent and frequency of reporting the information to national, public, and private entities such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and State and local police.

(d) Reports on reduced claims payments. An insurer shall report promptly in writing to the Secretary if the insurer, in paying a claim under an adjustment or negotiation between the insurer and the insured for a stolen motor vehicle--

(1) reduces the payment to the insured by the amount of the value, salvage or otherwise, of a recovered part subject to a standard prescribed under section 33102 or 33103 of this title; and

(2) the reduction is not made at the express election of the insured.

(e) General exemptions. The Secretary shall exempt from this section, for one or more years, an insurer that the Secretary decides should be exempted because--

(1) the cost of preparing and providing the information is excessive in relation to the size of the insurer's business; and

(2) the information from that insurer will not contribute significantly to carrying out this chapter [49 USCS §§ 33101 et seq.].

(f) Small insurer exemptions.

(1) In this subsection, "small insurer" means an insurer whose premiums for motor vehicle insurance issued directly or through an affiliate, including a pooling arrangement established under State law or regulation for the issuance of motor vehicle insurance, account for--

(A) less than one percent of the total premiums for all forms of motor vehicle insurance issued by insurers in the United States; and

(B) less than 10 percent of the total premiums for all forms of motor vehicle insurance issued by insurers in any State.

(2) The Secretary shall exempt by regulation a small insurer from this section if the Secretary finds that the exemption will not significantly affect the validity or usefulness of the information collected and compiled under this section, nationally or State-by-State. However, the Secretary may not exempt an insurer under this paragraph that is considered an insurer only because of subsection (b)(1) of this section.

(3) Regulations under this subsection shall provide that eligibility as a small insurer shall be based on the most recent calendar year for which adequate information is available, and that, once attained, the eligibility shall continue without further demonstration of eligibility for one or more years, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(g) Prescribed form. Information required by this section shall be provided in the form the Secretary prescribes.

(h) Periodic compilations. Subject to section 552 of title 5, the Secretary periodically shall compile and publish information obtained by the Secretary under this section, in a form that will be helpful to the public, the police, and Congress.

(i) Consultation. In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consult with public and private agencies and associations the Secretary considers appropriate.

§ 33113. Theft reports

(a) Truck, multipurpose passenger vehicle, and motorcycle report. Not later than October 25, 1995, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress that includes--

(1) information on the number of trucks, multipurpose passenger vehicles, and motorcycles distributed for sale in interstate commerce that are stolen and recovered annually, compiled by model, make, and line;

(2) information on the extent to which trucks, multipurpose passenger vehicles, and motorcycles stolen annually are dismantled to recover parts or are exported;

(3) a description of the market for the stolen parts;

(4) information on the premiums charged by insurers of comprehensive coverage of trucks, multipurpose passenger vehicles, or motorcycles, including any increase in the premiums charged because any of those motor vehicles is a likely candidate for theft;

(5) an assessment of whether the identification of parts of trucks, multipurpose passenger vehicles, and motorcycles is likely--

(A) to decrease the theft rate of those motor vehicles;

(B) to increase the recovery rate of those motor vehicles;

(C) to decrease the trafficking in stolen parts of those motor vehicles;

(D) to stem the export and import of those stolen motor vehicles or parts; or

(E) to have benefits greater than the costs of the identification; and

(6) recommendations on whether, and to what extent, the identification of trucks, multipurpose passenger vehicles, and motorcycles should be required by law.

(b) Motor vehicle report. Not later than October 25, 1997, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that includes--

(1) information on--

(A) the methods and procedures used by public and private entities to collect, compile, and disseminate information on the theft and recovery of motor vehicles, including classes of motor vehicles; and

(B) the reliability and timeliness of the information and how the information can be improved;

(2) information on the number of motor vehicles distributed for sale in interstate commerce that are stolen and recovered annually, compiled by class, model, make, and line;

(3) information on the extent to which motor vehicles stolen annually are dismantled to recover parts or are exported;

(4) a description of the market for the stolen parts;

(5) information on--

(A) the costs to manufacturers and purchasers of passenger motor vehicles of compliance with the standards prescribed under this chapter [49 USCS §§ 33101 et seq.];

(B) the beneficial impacts of the standards and the monetary value of the impacts; and

(C) the extent to which the monetary value is greater than the costs;

(6) information on the experience of officials of the United States Government, States, and localities in--

(A) making arrests and successfully prosecuting persons for violating a law set forth in title II or III of the Motor Vehicle Theft Law Enforcement Act of 1984;

(B) preventing or reducing the number and rate of thefts of motor vehicles that are dismantled for parts subject to this chapter [49 USCS §§ 33101 et seq.]; and

(C) preventing or reducing the availability of used parts that are stolen from motor vehicles subject to this chapter [49 USCS §§ 33101 et seq.];

(7) information on the premiums charged by insurers of comprehensive coverage of motor vehicles subject to this chapter [49 USCS §§ 33101 et seq.], including any increase in the premiums charged because a motor vehicle is a likely candidate for theft, and the extent to which the insurers have reduced for the benefit of consumers the premiums, or foregone premium increases, because of this chapter [49 USCS §§ 33101 et seq.];

(8) information on the adequacy and effectiveness of laws of the United States and the States aimed at preventing the distribution and sale of used parts that have been removed from stolen motor vehicles and the adequacy of systems available to enforcement personnel for tracing parts to determine if they have been stolen from a motor vehicle;

(9) an assessment of whether the identification of parts of other classes of motor vehicles is likely--

(A) to decrease the theft rate of those vehicles;

(B) to increase the recovery rate of those vehicles;

(C) to decrease the trafficking in stolen parts of those vehicles;

(D) to stem the export and import of those stolen vehicles, parts, or components; or

(E) to have benefits greater than the costs of the identification; and

(10) other relevant and reliable information available to the Secretary about the impact,