

**Maritime Administration****Notice of Approval of Applicant as Trustee**

Notice is hereby given that First Trust of Illinois, National Association, with offices at 400 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60611, has been approved as Trustee pursuant to Public Law 100-710 and 46 CFR part 221.

Dated: December 18, 1995.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-31105 Filed 12-20-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-81-P

**Notice of Change of Name of Approved Trustee**

Notice is hereby given that effective April 22, 1994, Bank of Delaware, with offices at 222 Delaware Avenue, Wilmington, Delaware, 19899-0791, has changed its name to PNC Bank, Delaware.

Dated: December 18, 1995.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-31104 Filed 12-20-95; 8:45 am]

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**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration****Petition for Exemption From the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Volkswagen**

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

**ACTION:** Grant of petition for exemption.

**SUMMARY:** This notice grants in full the petition of Volkswagen of America, Inc., (Volkswagen) for an exemption from the parts-marking requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard for the Model Year (MY) 1997 Passat car line. 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 theft as compliance with the parts-marking requirements of the Theft Prevention Standard.

**DATES:** The exemption granted by this notice is effective beginning with the 1997 model year.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Barbara Gray, Office of Market Incentives, NHTSA, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590. Ms. Gray's

telephone number is (202) 366-1740. Her fax number is (202) 493-2739.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On September 1, 1995, Volkswagen of America, Inc., (Volkswagen), submitted a petition for exemption from the parts-marking requirements of the Theft Prevention Standard (49 CFR Part 541) for the Passat car line. The petition is 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 line.

Volkswagen's submittal is considered a complete petition, as required by 49 CFR Part 543.7, in that it met the general requirements contained in § 543.5 and the specific content requirements of § 543.6. Volkswagen requested confidential treatment for some of the information and attachments submitted in support of its petition, including the date of production for the Passat car line. In a letter to Volkswagen dated October 2, 1995, the agency granted the petitioner's request for confidential treatment.

In its petition, Volkswagen provided a detailed description and diagram of the identity, design, and location of the components of the antitheft device for the new line. This antitheft device includes an engine starter-interrupt feature and an alarm function. The antitheft device is activated by removing the ignition key and locking either of the front doors with it. The alarm monitors the doors, hood, trunk and radio.

In order to ensure reliability and durability of the device, Volkswagen stated that it conducted tests based on its own specified standards. Volkswagen provided the test reports for its proposed antitheft device, which is essentially the same as that currently installed on the MY 1994 Volkswagen Corrado, showing that the reliability and durability of the device complied with specified performance requirements for each test. Volkswagen stated that the device complied with its standards for durability, electrical and electronic operating requirements, thermal and mechanical shock resistance and electromagnetic compatibility.

Volkswagen compared the device proposed for the Passat car line with devices which NHTSA has determined to be as effective in reducing and deterring motor vehicle theft as would compliance with the parts-marking requirements. Volkswagen stated that antitheft devices such as that proposed for its line and those already granted exemptions from the parts-marking requirements have been found effective

in reducing motor vehicle theft. Specifically, Volkswagen based its belief on reduced theft rates for comparable lines such as the Mitsubishi Diamante, the Toyota Cressida, the Nissan Maxima, the Toyota Supra, the Nissan 300ZX, the Mazda RX-7, and the Audi 5000. Additionally, Volkswagen stated that the Passat car line experienced theft rates below the median theft rate (3.5826) for MYs 1990/1991 and 1992. Volkswagen believes that the low-theft ratings for those years may be attributable to the installation of an antitheft device as standard equipment on the line beginning with the 1991 model year. Volkswagen stated that it believes the theft rating for the MY 1997 Passat car line with the installation of the antitheft device described in its petition will also be below the 3.5826 median theft rate.

Based on evidence submitted by Volkswagen, the agency believes that the antitheft device for the MY 1997 Volkswagen Passat 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 believes that the device will provide the types of performance listed in 49 CFR Part 543.6(a)(3): promoting activation; attracting attention to unauthorized entries; 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.

As required by 49 U.S.C. 33106 and 49 CFR Part 543.6(a)(4) and (5), the agency finds that Volkswagen has provided adequate reasons for its belief that the antitheft device will reduce and deter theft. This conclusion is based on the information Volkswagen provided about its device. This confidential information included a description of reliability and functional tests conducted by Volkswagen for the antitheft device and its components.

For the foregoing reasons, the agency hereby grants in full Volkswagen's petition for exemption for the MY 1997 Passat car line from the parts-marking requirements of 49 CFR Part 541.

If Volkswagen decides not to use the exemption for this line, it must formally notify the agency, and, thereafter, the line must be fully marked as required by 49 CFR Parts 541.5 and 541.6 (marking of major component parts and replacement parts).

NHTSA notes that if Volkswagen 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 with 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.

Issued on December 18, 1995.

Barry Felrice,

*Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.*

[FR Doc. 95-31117 Filed 12-20-95; 8:45 am]

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## UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

### U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy Meeting

**AGENCY:** United States Information Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice for the Federal Register.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will meet in Room 600, 301 4th Street, SW., on December 20, 1995 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The meeting will be closed to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. because it will involve discussion of classified information relating to public diplomacy and the Bosnian peace process. The Commission will meet with Mr. Roberts Owen, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State on the former Yugoslavia; Ms. Anne Sigmund, Director, Office of East European and NIS Affairs, USIA; Ms. Mary McIntosh, Chief, European Branch, Office of Research and Media Reaction, USIA. (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1))

The 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. portion of the Commission's meeting will be open to the public and will involve discussion of the U.S. Information Agency's budget with USIA's Comptroller Stanley Silverman.

Please call Betty Hayes, (202) 619-4468, for further information.

Dated: December 15, 1995.

Joseph Duffey,

*Director.*

Determination To Close a Portion of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy's Meeting of December 20, 1995

Based on the information provided to the United States Information Agency by the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, I hereby determine that the meeting scheduled by the Commission for December 20, 1995 may be closed to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Commission has requested that its December 20 meeting be closed from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., because it will involve discussion of classified information relating to public diplomacy and the Bosnian peace process. The Commission will meet with Mr. Roberts Owen, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State on the former Yugoslavia; Ms. Anne Sigmund, Director, Office of East European and NIS Affairs, USIA; and Ms. Mary McIntosh, Chief European Branch, Office of Research and Media Reaction, USIA. (5 U.S.C. 552(2)(1))

The 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. portion of the Commission's meeting will be open to the public and will involve discussion of the U.S. Information Agency's budget with USIA's Comptroller Stanley Silverman.

Dated: December 15, 1995.

Joseph Duffy,

*Director.*

[FR Doc. 95-31094 Filed 12-20-95; 8:45 am]

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