DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

49 CFR Parts 371, 375, 386, and 387

State Enforcement of Household Goods Consumer Protection

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of enforcement.

SUMMARY: FMCSA provides an updated list of statutory provisions and FMCSA regulations that State household goods regulatory authorities and State attorneys general may enforce, reflecting amendments to FMCSA’s regulations regarding brokers of household goods. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU) gives State household goods regulatory authorities and State attorneys general the right to enforce certain consumer protection provisions that apply to individual shippers and are related to interstate movement of the goods.

DATES: On November 17, 2006, FMCSA published a list of the statutory and regulatory provisions that State attorneys general and household goods regulators are allowed to enforce pursuant to section 4206(b) of SAFETEA–LU (71 FR 67009). That enforcement authority was retroactive to August 10, 2005, the date of enactment of SAFETEA–LU. The Agency amended its household goods regulations on November 29, 2010 (75 FR 72987). States are now authorized to enforce these regulations, retroactive to January 28, 2011, the effective date of the 2010 rule. However, the requirement for a $25,000 surety bond or trust fund (49 CFR 387.307(a)(2)) had a delayed compliance date of January 1, 2012, and States may enforce that provision only on or after that date.


BILLING CODE 6712–01–P
and regulatory provisions that State household goods regulatory authorities and State attorneys general may enforce pursuant to sections 14710 and 14711 of SAFETEA–LU is provided in its entirety below. The brief description accompanying each item listed below is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be a definitive interpretation of legal requirements.

**Statutes**


   Household goods carriers must have tariffs covering transportation and related services and must charge in accordance with their tariffs. The carrier must give notice of availability of the tariff to individual shippers and must make the tariff available for inspection to shippers upon reasonable request.


   Rates for transportation of household goods moving on a written binding estimate must be available to shippers on a non-preferential basis and must not result in charges that are predatory.

3. **Payment of Rates; Exceptions**, 49 U.S.C. 13707(b)

   Household goods carriers must give up possession of a shipment upon payment of 100 percent of a binding estimate or 110 percent of a non-binding estimate, but may collect all charges related to post-contract services and impracticable operations at delivery (with some limitations as to the latter).


   FMCSA registration is required to provide transportation or brokerage services subject to FMCSA jurisdiction. Transportation or brokering of household goods without FMCSA registration is punishable by a minimum civil penalty of $25,000 per violation.

5. **Household Goods Carrier Operations; Estimates**, 49 U.S.C. 14104(b)

   Household goods carriers must comply with certain estimating requirements and provide individual shippers with prescribed informational publications.


   Household goods carriers are liable for the replacement value of goods unless the individual shipper waives full value protection in writing.


   Household goods carriers must provide binding arbitration upon a shipper’s request for disputes up to $10,000 involving loss and damage and payment of charges in addition to those collected at delivery.

8. **General Civil Penalties; Estimate of Broker Without Carrier Agreement**, 49 U.S.C. 14901(d)(2)

   Household goods brokers making estimates before entering into an agreement with a carrier are liable for a minimum civil penalty of $10,000 per violation.

9. **General Civil Penalties; Violation Relating to Transportation of Household Goods**, 49 U.S.C. 14901(e)

   Any person falsifying documents relating to household goods shipment weight or charging for accessorial services that are not performed or are not reasonably necessary for the safe and adequate movement of the shipment is subject to a minimum civil penalty of $2,000 for the first violation and $5,000 for each subsequent violation.


    Holding an household goods shipment hostage is punishable by a minimum civil penalty of $10,000 per violation.

**Regulations**

1. **Designation of Process Agent; Required States**, 49 CFR 366.4

   All carriers and brokers must designate agents for service of court process in States of operation.

2. **Principles and Practices for the Investigation and Voluntary Disposition of Loss and Damage Claims**, 49 CFR 370.3 Through 370.9

   These sections contain regulations governing voluntary disposition of loss and damage claims. The regulations protect individual shippers, as well as business shippers, by ensuring that motor carriers investigate claims and process them in accordance with prescribed procedures.

3. **Records To Be Kept by Brokers; Right of Review**, 49 CFR 371.3(c)

   Brokers must provide access to transaction records by each party to a brokered transaction.

4. **Records To Be Kept by Brokers; Misrepresentation**, 49 CFR 371.7

   Brokers must not misrepresent their name or broker status.

5. **Bills of Lading for Freight Forwarders**, 49 CFR 373.201

   All household goods freight forwarders must issue a shipper a thorough bill of lading covering transportation from origin to destination.


   This part contains consumer protection regulations governing transportation of household goods for individual shippers in interstate commerce. The regulations set forth the rights and obligations of household goods carriers and shippers with respect to services provided; liability; estimates; pick up, delivery and transportation of shipments; payment; and penalties for noncompliance.

7. **Procedures Governing the Processing, Investigation, and Disposition of Overcharge, Duplicate Payment, or Over-Collection Claims**, 49 CFR 378.3 Through 378.9

   These sections set forth the rights and obligations of household goods carriers and shippers with respect to the filing and processing of claims for overcharge, duplicate payment, and over collection for the transportation of property, including household goods.

8. **Surety Bond, Certificate of Insurance, or Other Securities; Cargo Insurance**, 49 CFR 387.301(b)

   Household goods carriers must obtain cargo insurance in prescribed amounts and file evidence of such insurance with FMCSA.

9. **Property Broker Surety Bond or Trust Fund**, 49 CFR 387.307

   All brokers, including household goods brokers, must obtain and file a surety bond or trust fund to pay shippers or motor carriers if the broker fails to carry out its contracts for the arrangement of transportation.

10. **General Requirements**, 49 CFR 387.403

    Household goods freight forwarders must obtain and file the same level of cargo insurance required of household goods motor carriers.


    Household goods brokers offering services to individual shippers and
operating in interstate or foreign commerce are subject to the requirements of subpart B of part 371. This subpart requires that brokers: use only motor carriers that are properly licensed and authorized to operate (49 CFR 371.105); provide certain disclosures in advertisements and Internet Web homepages, and to individual shippers (49 CFR 371.107 through 371.111, 371.117); provide individual shippers with a written estimate (49 CFR 371.115); and maintain agreements with motor carriers before providing written estimates on behalf of those carriers (49 CFR 371.117). Subpart B also establishes penalties for violations (49 CFR 371.121).

Issued on: May 16, 2012.

Anne S. Ferro,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2012–13530 Filed 6–1–12; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–EX–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 541
[Docket No. NHTSA–2012–0032]
RIN 2127–AL21

Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Final Listing of 2013 Light Duty Truck Lines Subject to the Requirements of This Standard and Exempted Vehicle Lines for Model Year 2013

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule announces NHTSA’s determination that there are no new model year (MY) 2013 light duty truck lines subject to the parts-marking requirements of the Federal motor vehicle theft prevention standard, because they have been determined by the agency to be high-theft or because they have a majority of interchangeable parts with those of a passenger motor vehicle line. This final rule also identifies those vehicle lines that have been granted an exemption from the parts-marking requirements, because the vehicles are equipped with antitheft devices determined to meet certain statutory criteria.

DATES: Effective Date: The amendment made by this final rule is effective June 4, 2012.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The theft prevention standard applies to (1) all passenger car lines, (2) all multipurpose passenger vehicle (MPV) lines with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 6,000 pounds or less, (3) low-theft light-duty truck (LDT) lines with a GVWR of 6,000 pounds or less that have major parts that are interchangeable with a majority of the covered major parts of passenger car or MPV lines and (4) high-theft light-duty truck lines with a GVWR of 6,000 pounds or less.

The purpose of the theft prevention standard (49 CFR Part 541) is to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft by facilitating the tracing and recovery of parts from stolen vehicles. The standard seeks to facilitate such tracing by requiring that vehicle identification numbers (VINs), VIN derivative numbers, or other symbols be placed on major component vehicle parts. The theft prevention standard requires motor vehicle manufacturers to inscribe or affix VINs onto covered original equipment major component parts, and to inscribe or affix a symbol identifying the manufacturer and a common symbol identifying the replacement component parts for those original equipment parts, on all vehicle lines subject to the requirements of the standard.

Section 33104(d) provides that once a line has become subject to the theft prevention standard, the line remains subject to the requirements of the standard unless it is exempted under section 33106. Section 33106 provides that a manufacturer may petition annually to have one vehicle line exempted from the requirements of section 33104, if the line is equipped with an anti-theft device meeting certain conditions as standard equipment. The exemption is granted if NHTSA determines that the anti-theft device is likely to be as effective as compliance with the theft prevention standard in reducing and deterring motor vehicle thefts.

The agency annually publishes the names of those LDT lines that have been determined to be high theft pursuant to 49 CFR Part 541, those LDT lines that have been determined to have major parts that are interchangeable with a majority of the covered major parts of passenger car or MPV lines and those vehicle lines that are exempted from the theft prevention standard under section 33104. Appendix A to Part 541 identifies those LDT lines that are or will be subject to the theft prevention standard beginning in a given model year. Appendix A–I to Part 541 identifies those vehicle lines that are or have been exempted from the theft prevention standard.

For MY 2013, there are no new LDT lines that will be subject to the theft prevention standard in accordance with the procedures published in 49 CFR Part 542. Therefore, Appendix A does not need to be amended. For MY 2013, the list of lines that have been exempted by the agency from the parts-marking requirements of Part 541 is amended to include ten vehicle lines newly exempted in full. The ten exempted vehicle lines are the Buick Verano, Chrysler Dart, Ford C–Maxx, Land Rover LR2, Mazda CX–5, Mitsubishi i–MiEV, Nissan Juke, Subaru XV Crosstrek, Toyota Prius and the Volkswagen Audi A4 Allroad (MPV).

Subsequent to publishing the April 12, 2011 final rule (See 76 FR 20521), Nissan North America, Inc., (Nissan) informed the agency that beginning with MY 2012, it would no longer be installing an anti-theft device as standard equipment on the Versa vehicle line and would begin applying parts marking to its Versa vehicles beginning with the same model year. Nissan was granted a parts marking exemption by the agency on January 3, 2007 for the Versa line (See 72 FR 180), but changed its nameplate from Nissan Versa to the Versa Hatchback vehicle line beginning with MY 2012. The agency also granted two petitions for exemption in full subsequent to publishing the April 2011 Federal Register notice. Specifically, the agency granted a full exemption to Nissan North America, Inc., for its Nissan Leaf vehicle line and Telsa Motors, Inc., for its Model S vehicle line beginning with their MY 2012 vehicles.

We note that the agency also removes vehicle lines that have been discontinued more than 5 years ago from the list published in the Federal Register, annually. Therefore, the agency is removing the Ford Five-Hundred (2007) and Volkswagen Audi Allroad vehicle lines from the Appendix A–I listing. The agency will continue to maintain a comprehensive database of all exemptions on our Web site. However, we believe that republishing a list containing vehicle lines that have not been in production for a considerable period of time is unnecessary. The vehicle lines listed as being exempt from the standard have previously been exempted in