

**PART 576—RECORD RETENTION**

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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 322(a), 30117, 30120(g), 30141–30147; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 89 FR 66633, Aug. 16, 2024, the authority citation for part 576 was revised, effective Oct. 15, 2024. For the convenience of the user, the added and revised text is set forth as follows:

AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 322(a), 30117, 30120(g), 30141–30147; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.95.

SOURCE: 39 FR 30045, Aug. 20, 1974, unless otherwise noted.

EDITORIAL NOTE: For an interpretation document regarding part 576, see 40 FR 3296, Jan. 21, 1975.

**§ 576.1 Scope.**

This part establishes requirements for the retention by manufacturers of motor vehicles and of motor vehicle equipment, of claims, complaints, reports, and other records concerning alleged and proven motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment defects and malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety.

[67 FR 45872, July 10, 2002]

**§ 576.2 Purpose.**

The purpose of this part is to preserve records that are needed for the proper investigation, and adjudication or other disposition, of possible defects related to motor vehicle safety and instances of nonconformity to the motor vehicle safety standards and associated regulations.

**§ 576.3 Application.**

This part applies to all manufacturers of motor vehicles, with respect to all records generated or acquired on or after August 16, 1969, and to all manufacturers of motor vehicle equipment, with respect to all records in their pos-

session, generated or acquired on or after August 9, 2002.

[67 FR 45873, July 10, 2002]

**§ 576.4 Definitions.**

All terms in this part that are defined in 49 U.S.C. 30102 and part 579 of this chapter are used as defined therein.

[67 FR 45873, July 10, 2002]

**§ 576.5 Basic requirements.**

(a) Each manufacturer of motor vehicles, child restraint systems, and tires shall retain, as specified in §576.7 of this part, all records described in §576.6 of this part for a period of five calendar years from the date on which they were generated or acquired by the manufacturer.

(b) Each manufacturer of motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment shall retain, as specified in §576.7 of this part, all the underlying records on which the information reported under part 579 of this chapter is based, for a period of five calendar years from the date on which they were generated or acquired by the manufacturer, except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) Manufacturers need not retain copies of documents transmitted to NHTSA pursuant to parts 573, 577, and 579 of this chapter.

[67 FR 45873, July 10, 2002]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 89 FR 66633, Aug. 16, 2024, §576.5 was amended by revising paragraph (a), effective Oct. 15, 2024. For the convenience of the user, the added and revised text is set forth as follows:

**§ 576.5 Basic requirements.**

(a) Each manufacturer of motor vehicles, child restraint systems, and tires shall retain, as specified in §576.7 of this part, all records described in §576.6 of this part for a period of 10 calendar years from the date on which they were generated or acquired by the manufacturer.

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**§ 576.6 Records.**

Records to be maintained by manufacturers under this part include all documentary materials, films, tapes, and other information-storing media

that contain information concerning malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety. Such records include, but are not limited to, reports and other documents, including material generated or communicated by computer, telefax or other electronic means, that are related to work performed under warranties; and any lists, compilations, analyses, or discussions of such malfunctions contained in internal or external correspondence of the manufacturer, including communications transmitted electronically.

[67 FR 45873, July 10, 2002]

**§576.7 Retention.**

Duplicate copies need not be retained. Information may be reproduced or transferred from one storage medium to another (e.g., from paper files to microfilm) as long as no information is lost in the reproduction or transfer, and when so reproduced or transferred the original form may be treated as a duplicate.

**§576.8 Malfunctions covered.**

For purposes of this part, “malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety” shall include, with respect to a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment, any failure or malfunction beyond normal deterioration in use, or any failure of performance, or any flaw or unintended deviation from design specifications, that could in any reasonably foreseeable manner be a causative factor in, or aggravate, an accident or an injury to a person.

**PART 577—DEFECT AND NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION**

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- 577.12 Notification pursuant to an accelerated remedy program.
- 577.13 Notification to dealers and distributors.
- 577.14 Labeling for owner notification letter envelope.

AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 30102, 30103, 30116–121, 30166; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.95 and 49 CFR 501.8.

SOURCE: 41 FR 56816, Dec. 30, 1976, unless otherwise noted.

**§577.1 Scope.**

This part sets forth requirements for manufacturer notification to owners, dealers, and distributors of motor vehicles and items of replacement equipment about a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety or a noncompliance with a Federal motor vehicle safety standard.

[69 FR 34959, June 23, 2004]

**§577.2 Purpose.**

The purpose of this part is to ensure that notifications of defects or noncompliances adequately inform and effectively motivate owners of potentially defective or noncomplying motor vehicles or items of replacement equipment to have such vehicles or equipment inspected and, where necessary, remedied as quickly as possible. It is also to ensure that dealers and distributors of motor vehicles and items of replacement equipment are made aware of the existence of defects and noncompliances and of their rights and responsibilities with regard thereto.

[41 FR 56816, Dec. 30, 1976, as amended at 69 FR 34959, June 23, 2004]

**§577.3 Application.**

This part applies to manufacturers of complete motor vehicles, incomplete motor vehicles, and replacement equipment. In the case of vehicles manufactured in two or more stages, compliance by either the manufacturer of the incomplete vehicle, any subsequent manufacturer, or the manufacturer of affected replacement equipment, shall be considered compliance by each of those manufacturers.

**§577.4 Definitions.**

For the purposes of this part: