

Vehicle Theft Prevention Act, if that person is the owner of the motor vehicle, or is authorized to remove, obliterate, tamper with or alter the decal or device by—

- (i) the owner or his authorized agent;
- (ii) applicable State or local law; or
- (iii) regulations promulgated by the Attorney General to implement the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act.

(c) As used in this section, the term—

(1) “identification number” means a number or symbol that is inscribed or affixed for purposes of identification under chapter 301 and part C of subtitle VI of title 49;

(2) “motor vehicle” has the meaning given that term in section 32101 of title 49;

(3) “motor vehicle demolisher” means a person, including any motor vehicle dismantler or motor vehicle recycler, who is engaged in the business of reducing motor vehicles or motor vehicle parts to metallic scrap that is unsuitable for use as either a motor vehicle or a motor vehicle part;

(4) “motor vehicle scrap processor” means a person—

(A) who is engaged in the business of purchasing motor vehicles or motor vehicle parts for reduction to metallic scrap for recycling;

(B) who, from a fixed location, uses machinery to process metallic scrap into prepared grades; and

(C) whose principal product is metallic scrap for recycling;

but such term does not include any activity of any such person relating to the recycling of a motor vehicle or a motor vehicle part as a used motor vehicle or a used motor vehicle part.

(d) For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the term “tampers with” includes covering a program decal or device affixed to a motor vehicle pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act for the purpose of obstructing its visibility.

(Added Pub. L. 98-547, title II, §201(a), Oct. 25, 1984, 98 Stat. 2768; amended Pub. L. 103-272, §5(e)(3), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1373; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXII, §220003(a)-(c), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2076, 2077; Pub. L. 104-294, title VI, §604(b)(8), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3507.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act, referred to in subssecs. (a)(2), (b)(2)(D), and (d), is title XXII of Pub. L. 103-322, Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2074, which enacted section 511A of this title and section 12611 of Title 34, Crime Control and Law Enforcement, amended this section, and enacted provisions set out as a note under section 10101 of Title 34. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1994 Act note set out under section 10101 of Title 34 and Tables.

##### CODIFICATION

Another section 511 was renumbered section 513 of this title.

##### AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b)(2)(D). Pub. L. 104-294 realigned margins.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-322, §220003(a), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) read as follows: “Whoever knowingly removes, obliterates, tampers with, or alters an identification number for a motor vehicle, or motor vehicle part, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.”

Subsec. (b)(2)(D). Pub. L. 103-322, §220003(b), added subpar. (D).

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 103-272, §5(e)(3)(A), substituted “chapter 301 and part C of subtitle VI of title 49” for “the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, or the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act”.

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 103-272, §5(e)(3)(B), substituted “section 32101 of title 49” for “section 2 of the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-322, §220003(c), added subsec. (d).

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-294 effective Sept. 13, 1994, see section 604(d) of Pub. L. 104-294, set out as a note under section 13 of this title.

#### [§511A. Repealed. Pub. L. 116-260, div. O, title X, §1002(2), Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 2155]

Section, added Pub. L. 103-322, title XXII, §220003(d)(1), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2077, related to unauthorized application of theft prevention decal or device.

#### §512. Forfeiture of certain motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts

(a) If an identification number for a motor vehicle or motor vehicle part is removed, obliterated, tampered with, or altered, such vehicle or part shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture to the United States unless—

(1) in the case of a motor vehicle part, such part is attached to a motor vehicle and the owner of such motor vehicle does not know that the identification number has been removed, obliterated, tampered with, or altered;

(2) such motor vehicle or part has a replacement identification number that—

(A) is authorized by the Secretary of Transportation under chapter 301 of title 49; or

(B) conforms to applicable State law;

(3) such removal, obliteration, tampering, or alteration is caused by collision or fire or is carried out as described in section 511(b) of this title; or

(4) such motor vehicle or part is in the possession or control of a motor vehicle scrap processor who does not know that such identification number was removed, obliterated, tampered with, or altered in any manner other than by collision or fire or as described in section 511(b) of this title.

(b) All provisions of law relating to—

(1) the seizure and condemnation of vessels, vehicles, merchandise, and baggage for violation of customs laws, and procedures for summary and judicial forfeiture applicable to such violations;

(2) the disposition of such vessels, vehicles, merchandise, and baggage or the proceeds from such disposition;