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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA–2016–0123]

Reports, Forms, and Recordkeeping Requirements: Agency Information Collection Activity

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

ACTION: Request for public comment on proposed collection of information.

SUMMARY: Before a Federal agency can collect certain information from the public, it must receive approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Under procedures established by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before seeking OMB approval, Federal agencies must solicit public comment on proposed collections of information, including extensions and reinstatements of previously approved collections. This document describes one collection of information for which NHTSA intends to seek OMB approval.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before [insert date 60 days after publication in the Federal Register].

ADDRESSES: Refer to the docket notice number cited at the beginning of this notice and send your comments by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 202–493–2251.
- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M– 30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey AVE, SE., Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M– 30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey AVE, SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information

provided. Please see the Privacy Act discussion below. We will consider all comments received before the close of business on the comment closing date indicated above. To the extent possible, we will also consider comments filed after the closing date.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or to 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. Telephone: (202) 366-9826.

Privacy Act: Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000, (Volume 65, Number 70; Pages 19477–78) or you may visit <http://www.dot.gov/privacy.html>.

Confidential Business Information: If you wish to submit any information under a claim of confidentiality, you should submit three copies of your complete submission, including the information you claim to be confidential business information, to the Chief Counsel, NHTSA, at 1200 New Jersey AVE, SE., Washington, DC 20590. In addition, you should submit two copies, from which you have deleted the claimed confidential business information, to Docket Management at the address given above. When you send a comment containing information claimed to be confidential business information, you should include a cover letter setting forth the information specified in our confidential business information regulation (49 CFR Part 512).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

John Kindelberger, Office of Regulatory Analysis and Evaluation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey AVE, SE., NSA-310, Washington, DC 20590. Mr. Kindelberger's phone number is 202-366-4696 and his e-mail address is *john.kindelberger@dot.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, before an agency submits a proposed collection of information to OMB for approval, it must publish a document in the **Federal Register** providing a 60-day comment period and otherwise consult with members of the public and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information. The OMB has promulgated regulations describing what must be included in such a document. Under OMB's regulations (at 5 CFR 1320.8(d)), an agency must ask for public comment on the following: (i) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (ii) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (iii) How to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (iv) How to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses. In compliance with these requirements, NHTSA asks public comment on the following proposed collection of information:

Title: Tire Pressure Monitoring System—Outage Rates and Repair Costs Study (TPMS-ORRC)

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

OMB Clearance Number: 2127-0626

Form Number: Previously approved survey forms NHTSA 1273/1274/1275/1276. NHTSA 1273 and 1274 will be modified under this revised request.

Required Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from the date of approval by OMB.

Abstract. Improperly inflated tires pose a safety risk, increasing the chance of skidding, hydroplaning, longer stopping distances, and crashes due to flat tires and blowouts. Section 13 of the Transportation

Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act, which Congress passed on November 1, 2000, directed NHTSA to conduct rulemaking actions to revise and update the Federal motor vehicle safety standards for tires, to improve labeling on tires, and to require a system in new motor vehicles that warns the operator when a tire is significantly underinflated.

Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems (TPMS) were mandated in Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 138, so that drivers are warned when the pressure in one or more of the vehicle's tires has fallen to 25 percent or more below the placard pressure, or a minimum level of pressure specified in the standard, whichever pressure is higher, and may be informed about which of the four tires is underinflated. As of September 1, 2007, after a phase-in period beginning on October 5, 2005, TPMS was required on all new light vehicles (i.e., passenger cars, trucks, multipurpose passenger vehicles, and buses with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less, except those vehicles with dual wheels on an axle).

Executive Order 12866 requires Federal agencies to evaluate their existing regulations and programs and measure their effectiveness in achieving their objectives. Since the phase-in of TPMS, there has been only one evaluation of TPMS. The TPMS-SS (OMB #2127-0626) was conducted in 2011, as a special study through the infrastructure of the National Automotive Sampling System (NASS), to collect nationally representative data on how effective TPMS was in reducing underinflation in the on-road fleet of passenger vehicles. Analysis of the survey results indicated that direct TPMS is 55.6-percent effective at preventing severe underinflation as defined in FMVSS No. 138. However, effectiveness was substantially lower in vehicles that were 6-7 years old at the time of the survey. One explanation as to why this is true was the possibility that the drivers of these older vehicles were not taking all the maintenance actions (e.g., adding TPMS sensors to new replacement tires, replacing non-functioning sensors on current tires, having the system properly re-set when needed) that were needed to insure the vehicles had functioning TPMS. Relevant data are needed to examine why the effectiveness of TPMSs in older vehicles is reduced and what can be done to increase it. This was the original goal of the TPMS-ORRC and is still a goal.

Additionally, on December 4, 2015, President Obama signed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. No. 114-94) into law. An amendment (Section 24115) directs the Secretary of Transportation to update the standard on tire pressure monitoring systems, FMVSS No. 138, to ensure that they cannot be overridden, reset or recalibrated in a way that will prevent the system from identifying a tire that is significantly underinflated. The Act also states that the revised requirements shall not contain any provision that has the effect of prohibiting the availability of direct or indirect tire pressure monitoring systems. Data are needed to help inform the required rulemaking. For this purpose, the design of the TPMS-ORRC field survey has been changed from a convenience sample to a probability sample, allowing nationally representative estimates; this revision also adds a module for indirect TPMS.

Description of the Likely Respondents (Including Estimated Number, and Proposed Frequency of Response to the Collection of Information):

This information collection seeks revision of the following survey component:

Field Survey of Drivers and Vehicles.

The previously approved Field Survey component of the TPMS-ORRC has not yet been conducted. In this revision, we add a module to check tire pressure for vehicles with indirect TPMS (about five percent of the relevant fleet), change to a probability sample, and reduce the overall sample to 6300 to keep the burden similar. A survey of a probability sample, conducted in twenty-four nationwide geographic primary sampling units that were previously selected and weighted for national representation in NHTSA's Crash Investigation Sampling System, will collect 6,300 inspections of eligible passenger vehicles, and interview drivers of these vehicles. Focus will be on assessing the operating status of the TPMS in these vehicles and interviewing drivers with and without operating TPMSs, regarding their knowledge about, and habits related to, the TPMS in their vehicle. Also, drivers of vehicles with indirect TPMS (expected to be about five percent of surveyed drivers) will be interviewed with a brief set of questions and recording of tire pressures. We also plan to offer a voluntary check for outstanding recalls to increase participation. The overall sample has been reduced from 7,000 to 6,300 to keep the burden essentially the same in light of the added module and also to adhere to the survey budget. The change

from convenience sample to probability sample, using the 24 Primary Sampling Units of NHTSA's Crash Investigation Sampling System, will allow statistically nationally representative estimates, which were not possible under the convenience sample. Data collection is expected to take place beginning in June, 2017, and last five months, at fueling stations (individual stations will only be visited for a short time as the survey moves from site to site).

The two following survey components of this survey have previously been approved and conducted:

Suppliers Survey. In the previously approved information collection, major suppliers of TPMS sensors and systems were voluntarily surveyed in 2016 with a focus on TPMS repair and maintenance issues, as well as cost factors. Results will be reported with the results of the driver survey.

Repair Facilities Survey. In the previously approved information collection, a sample of repair/maintenance facilities (e.g., automobile dealerships, tire chain stores, small service stations with attached repair shops) was surveyed with 100 completed respondents in 2016 in a Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI), with the option of responding by mail. Focus was on assessing the lifespan of TPMS, common sources of TPMS malfunction, typical costs to repair/replace malfunctioning systems, and the factors considered by customers when deciding whether to repair or replace TPMSs that are not working. Results will be reported with the results of the driver survey.

Estimate of the Total Reporting and Recordkeeping Burden Resulting from the Collection of Information:

The total revised reporting and recordkeeping burden resulting from this collection of information is estimated to be 1,352 hours, as outlined below.

Field Survey of Drivers and Vehicles. NHTSA estimates that the time to collect vehicle and driver data will be about 10 minutes, on average, for each interview for the 6,300 survey respondents. Some additional time was spent on a previous pilot study under the current approval, and some time will be needed to conduct a new pilot study on the revised survey, and to describe the study to drivers who are approached but are either ineligible or prefer not to become participants in the study. Consequently, the total respondent burden hours is estimated to be 1,300 hours. The respondents would not incur any reporting or record keeping costs from the

information collection. For the driver survey, respondents will be asked questions regarding their TPMS, and all responses will be provided spontaneously. For the vehicle inspection, data will be obtained via observation.

Suppliers Survey. NHTSA estimates the average time to collect data (previously approved and completed) on the cost of TPMS parts and systems from suppliers (respondents and non-respondents) as about 6 hours total. The respondents did not incur any reporting or record keeping costs from the information collection. Information was only requested about records that the respondents already were keeping for their own purposes.

Repair Facilities Survey. NHTSA estimates the average time to collect data (previously approved and completed) on the types and costs of repairing TPMS as about 20 minutes for each interview for each of 100 completed respondents or 33 hours. Time spent on explaining the survey to telephone respondents who were either not eligible or preferred not to participate is estimated at 13 hours. Consequently, the total respondent burden hours is estimated to be 46 hours. The respondents did not incur any reporting or record keeping costs from the information collection. Information was only requested about records that the respondents already were keeping for their own purposes.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. chap. 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.95

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