



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue
Washington, DC 20590

APR 20 2012

Ms. Carol Burke
Automobile Safety Foundation
P.O. Box 12183
La Jolla, CA 92039

Dear Ms. Burke:

Thank you for your letter dated February 14, 2012. You requested that the agency begin rulemaking to require the use of immobilizers, rather than steering locks, to prevent vehicle rollaway under the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 114, "Theft protection and rollaway prevention." You should be aware that the agency has already initiated a rulemaking to consider the use of immobilizers in vehicles sold in the United States under 49 CFR Part 555.114 "Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard." The agency expects to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking by the end of this year.

Regarding the specific assertions contained in your letter, we note that:

1. FMVSS No. 114 does not require the use of a steering lock. S5.1.1(b) requires that the starting system must prevent "either steering, or forward self-mobility, of the vehicle both." We stated in a notice of proposed rulemaking in 2005 (70 FR 48362, August 17, 2005) that we considered immobilizers an acceptable method of preventing vehicle forward self-mobility.

<http://resources.regulations.gov/public/component/main?main=UnifiedAgenda> (select DOT from the "agency" menu).

I hope this information is helpful. If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to call me or Mr. Nathaniel Beuse, Director, Office of Crash Avoidance Standards, at (202) 366-1810.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher J. Bonanti
Associate Administrator for
Rulemaking