



KANSAS AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY

HCR 5003

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging Congress to propose the regulation freedom amendment to the Constitution of the United States

House Committee on Federal & State Affairs

January 24, 2017

Whitney Damron

On behalf of the

Kansas Automobile Dealers Association

Good morning Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

By way of introduction, I am Whitney Damron and I appear here today on behalf of the Kansas Automobile Dealers Association. I am a stand in for KADA President Don McNeely, who is out of state and unable to attend today. Last year, Don provided testimony on this issue and Representative Steven Johnson invited him back for a repeat performance, given his experience with trying to help Kansas automobile dealers navigate the complex, cumbersome and confusing maze of regulatory enactments at all levels of government.

On behalf of the retail new motor vehicle industry in Kansas, we respectfully wish to express our support for HCR 5003 and offer our perspective on its need and importance.

Attached to my testimony is a publication of the National Automobile Dealers Association entitled, "The Regulatory Maze" which highlights just some of the challenges that face the automotive industry daily. KADA encourages you take the opportunity to review this document, which will provide you with some insight as to the maze of regulations your main street automobile dealer must navigate daily and give you an idea of the potential penalties they face for noncompliance regardless of whether intentional or not.

It is no secret that often-misguided federal regulations are a major threat to economic growth in this country. Reigning in runaway bureaucracies that either operate independently or at the direction of an executive branch unbridled by legislative intent or authority was a leading topic of discussion during the 2016 presidential campaign.

Over the past couple of years, efforts have been undertaken in a number of states to bring attention to this matter and encourage Congress to act and require major new Federal regulations be approved by Congress before their enactment.

HCR 5003 would encourage Congress to consider adopting a constitutional amendment for state ratification requiring this kind of regulatory oversight. As we understand this initiative, proponents would hope to pass similar resolutions in 2/3 of the states and demonstrate sufficient support among the states to move forward.

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To highlight some of the concerns of KADA and our national counterparts, an example of regulatory overreach that affects our members every day is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, created as a part of the Dodd-Frank adopted in 2010 following the nation's financial banking crisis of 2008. That entity was effectively given free rein over a vast amount of financial transactions and ultimately our nation's economy with no opportunity for congressional oversight or hindrance. The results have been disastrous for many of those subjected to the fiats of Director Richard Cordray and the vast bureaucracy of the CFPB.

Example. In 2013, the CFPB issued guidance which threatens to eliminate a dealer's flexibility to discount auto loans. The CFPB is attempting to change the \$1 trillion auto loan market and limit market competition without prior public comment or analyzing the impact of its guidance on consumers. The CFPB's actions will raise the cost of credit for car buyers and push otherwise creditworthy consumers out of the auto credit market.

To address this non-transparent over-reach, Senator Jerry Moran has introduced S. 2663, which would withdraw the flawed 2013 CFPB guidance and allow the CFPB to reissue it under a transparent process. The bill would also require the Bureau to consider the cost and effect of a new auto guidance on consumers; since the CFPB admitted they issued their 2013 guidance without considering the consumer impact or public comment.

The Senate Banking Committee held two hearings on the CFPB where support for keeping auto loans affordable was highlighted and a companion bill was also introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

On a personal note, I have clients outside the automobile dealers who have felt the sting of unbridled regulatory enactments.

Those of you who have been here for at least a few years recall the debate we had in the statehouse over whether to comply with the Clean Power Plan, which if enacted as ordered by the EPA would force the shutting down many and eventually most coal-fired power plants in our country regardless of age or remaining usefulness. We have seen these regulatory edicts kill the coal industry in our country, which was only a precursor to what lies in store for the electric power industry if the Clean Power Plan is not eventually overturned or amended.

Another example is EPA restrictions on E-cigarettes and cigars with creative reliance on statutory authority enacted more than twenty years ago, when E-cigarettes had yet to even be created.

In conclusion, KADA believes major changes in policy that have the force of law should be enacted through the legislative process and not adopted by executive fiat or bureaucratic enactments with little, of no opportunity for input by affected parties. For that reason, we are supportive of HCR 5003 and other efforts to bring Congress into the approval process for regulatory enactments that have the same force of law.

WBD
Attachment

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THE REGULATORY MAZE

NADA's Annual Update on Federal Regulations



THE REGULATORY MAZE

Service and Parts Department

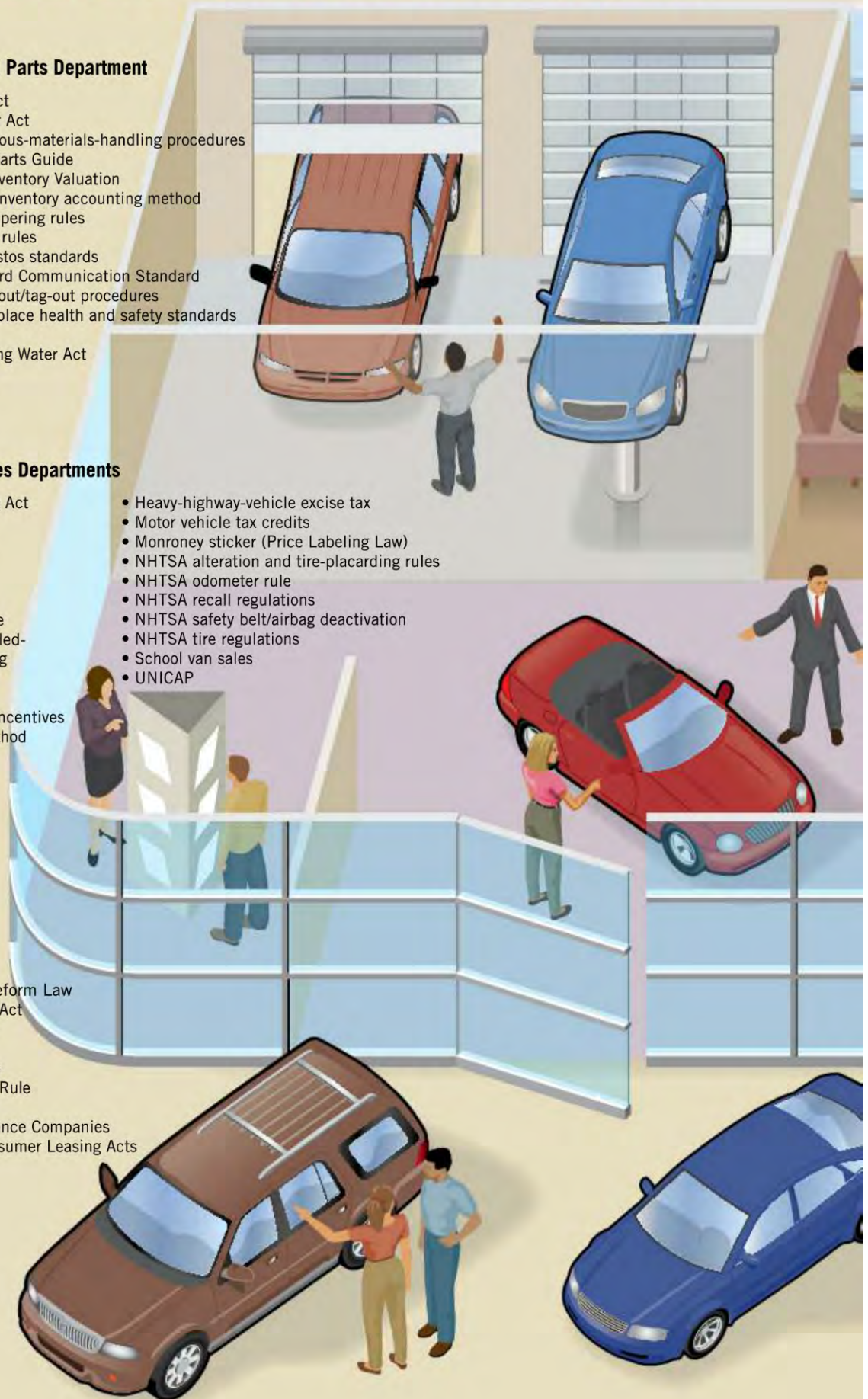
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- DOT hazardous-materials-handling procedures
- FTC Used Parts Guide
- IRS Core Inventory Valuation
- LIFO/FIFO inventory accounting method
- NHTSA tampering rules
- NHTSA tire rules
- OSHA asbestos standards
- OSHA Hazard Communication Standard
- OSHA lock-out/tag-out procedures
- OSHA workplace health and safety standards
- RCRA
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Superfund
- UNICAP

New- and Used-Vehicle Sales Departments

- American Automobile Labeling Act
- CAFE and GHGs Rules
- Diplomat vehicle purchases
- DOE/EPA gas-mileage guide
- Federal bankruptcy law
- FTC Door-to-Door Sales Rule
- FTC guidelines for fuel-mileage advertising and alternative-fueled-vehicle advertising and labeling
- FTC Used Car Rule
- Gray-market vehicles
- IRS treatment of salesperson incentives
- LIFO inventory accounting method
- Heavy-highway-vehicle excise tax
- Motor vehicle tax credits
- Monroney sticker (Price Labeling Law)
- NHTSA alteration and tire-placarding rules
- NHTSA odometer rule
- NHTSA recall regulations
- NHTSA safety belt/airbag deactivation
- NHTSA tire regulations
- School van sales
- UNICAP

F&I Department

- Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Law
- Equal Credit Opportunity Act
- Fair Credit Reporting Act
- FACT Act of 2003
- FTC Credit Practices Rule
- FTC Holder-in-Due-Course Rule
- Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act
- Producer-Owned Reinsurance Companies
- Truth in Lending and Consumer Leasing Acts



Our annual list of major federal regulations; state and local laws also apply and sometimes include additional requirements.



All Departments (Customer)

- Americans With Disabilities Act
- CAN-SPAM Act
- Driver's Privacy Protection Act
- Electronic Funds Transfer Act
- FTC Privacy Rule
- FTC prohibition against deceptive and unfair trade practices
- FTC Safeguards Rule
- FTC Telemarketing Sales Rule
- FTC Written Warranty Rule
- IRS Cash-Reporting Rule
- Magnuson-Moss Act
- OFAC restrictions
- Telephone Consumer Protection Act
- USA PATRIOT Act



Body Shop

- Clean Air Act
- EPA hazardous-waste rules
- OSHA Hazard Communication Standard
- OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard
- OSHA workplace health and safety standards
- UNICAP
- VIN and parts marking

All Departments (General Management/Personnel)

- Affordable Care Act
- Age Discrimination in Employment Act
- Americans With Disabilities Act
- COBRA
- Electronic deposit of taxes
- Electronic records retention
- Emergency-response planning
- Employee drug testing
- Employee Polygraph Protection Act
- ERISA
- Employee Verification Rules
- Equal Pay Act
- Estate tax
- Family and Medical Leave Act
- Federal child-support enforcement regulations
- Federal Civil Rights Act
- FTC Repossession Rule
- Federal wage-hour and child labor laws
- Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
- IRS/DOL worker classification
- IRS treatment of demo vehicles
- IRS treatment of tool plans
- Mandatory workplace posters
- Mental Health Parity Act
- Miscellaneous record-keeping requirements
- Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act
- NLRB Unionization Rules
- OSHA Blood-Borne Pathogens Rule
- OSHA injury and illness recording and reporting requirements
- Section 89 of the Tax Reform Act
- Section 179 expensing
- USERRA
- WARN



IN ADDITION TO THIS LIST OF FEDERAL LAWS and regulations, be sure to consult www.nada.org/regulatory_affairs for more details.

All Departments (General Management/Personnel)

■ **Affordable Care Act:** Extensive health-care reforms enacted in 2010 affect dealerships and their health-care plans. For example, most large dealerships (with more than 50 full-time employees) must have decided by January 1, 2015, whether they will offer health coverage that meets the federal requirements or pay a penalty. Many additional reporting, record-keeping and other duties apply to dealerships and other businesses. For more information, visit www.healthcare.gov.

■ **Age Discrimination in Employment Act:** Protects older individuals against age-based employment discrimination.

■ **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA):** Dealerships with 15 or more employees must reasonably accommodate disabled workers and job applicants.

■ **Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA):** Requires dealerships with 20 or more employees to continue health-care coverage for ex-employees and their families for 18 to 36 months, depending on circumstances.

■ **Electronic deposit of taxes:** Dealerships having more than a de minimis amount of aggregate depository taxes generally must deposit through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System.

■ **Electronic records retention:** Revenue Procedure 98-25 explains the IRS requirements for retaining computerized accounting records.

■ **Emergency-response planning:** Federal, state and local laws require dealers to have emergency-response plans.

■ **Employee drug testing:** Unionized dealerships must bargain with unions before implementing employer drug policies (not necessary for pre-employment drug testing). The ADA prohibits employers from discriminating against employees or applicants who have completed or are currently undergoing a drug treatment program, as long as they aren't currently abusing drugs.

■ **Employee Polygraph Protection Act:** Prohibits dealerships from using polygraphs in pre-employment screening; allows use in limited cases where an employee is reasonably suspected of a workplace incident involving economic loss to the employer.

■ **Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA):** Dealers offering retirement or health plans must, among other things,



provide employees with plan information, keep records, and abide by fiduciary responsibilities and other obligations.

■ **Employment Verification Rules:** Dealerships must verify the employment eligibility of prospective new employees using I-9 form and proper support documentation. Use of E-verify is optional.

■ **Equal Pay Act:** Prohibits wage discrimination on basis of sex.

■ **Estate tax:** The top rate was 40 percent on amounts over \$5.34 million (for individuals) in 2014, and increased to \$5.43 million in 2015.

■ **Family and Medical Leave Act:** Dealerships must post a notice informing employees of their right to take limited, unpaid leave for personal and family medical emergencies and must comply with appropriate requests for such leave. Special provisions apply to leave related to military service. Dealerships must display the revised Family and Medical Leave Act poster from February 2013.

■ **Federal child-support enforcement regulations:** Requires states to govern liens put on personal property—including vehicles—for overdue child support. Dealerships should check that child-support liens don't exist on used cars, and must place liens on wages of employees who are delinquent on child-support payments.

■ **Federal Civil Rights Act:** Bars employment discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, religion or national origin. Prevents employers from asking job applicants certain questions (such as age, marital status or childbearing plans). Prohibits workplace sexual harassment, including behavior that creates a hostile work environment.

■ **FTC Repossession Rule:** Requires formal accounting of money collected for repossessed vehicles.

■ **Federal wage-hour and child labor laws:** Address minimum-wage and overtime pay standards and exemptions as well as standards for employing minors, including teen driving restrictions. Federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour; state minimum wage rates may be higher.

■ **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act:** Prohibits discrimination based on health-related employee DNA information.

■ **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act:** Generally prohibits health insurers from denying coverage to workers who lose or change jobs and bars insurers from excluding coverage for preexisting conditions for more than a year.

■ **IRS/DOL worker classification:** The IRS has launched a Voluntary Classification Settlement Program (VCSP) aimed at encouraging employers to admit to past worker misclassifications. When making worker classification decisions, dealerships should be careful, be conservative and be prepared to document their decisions. The IRS and the Department of Labor use multi-factor legal standards and tests to evaluate whether workers are “employers” or “independent contractors.” Of greatest importance: the level of control employers exercise over workers as measured by the means and manner of the work performed.

■ **IRS treatment of demo vehicles:** Revenue Procedure 2001-56 offers dealers alternative methods for determining the value of demo use by qualified salespeople and other dealership employees. It defines what constitutes limited personal use and streamlines record-keeping requirements.

■ **IRS treatment of tool plans:** Tool and equipment plans for service technicians and other employees must comply with the IRS’s requirements for business connection, substantiation and return of excess payment.

■ **Mandatory workplace posters:** Notices, such as “Your Rights Under the FMLA,” “Equal Employment Opportunity Is the Law,” “Federal Minimum Wage” and “Notice: Employee Polygraph Protection Act,” must be conspicuously displayed. Dealerships must display the revised Family and Medical Leave Act poster from February 2013.

■ **Mental Health Parity Act:** Requires insurers and health plans to offer mental illness coverage comparable to that for physical illness. Group health plans may not set dollar limits on mental health care lower than limits for general medical and surgical services. Nothing requires dealerships to provide mental health coverage, and certain exemptions apply.

■ **Miscellaneous record-keeping requirements:** A multitude of requirements govern the length of time records must be



maintained. Examples: Personal and corporate income tax records must be kept at least three years; notification forms for underground storage tanks must be kept indefinitely; and copies of Form 8300 cash reports must be kept for five years.

■ **Newborns’ and Mothers’ Health Protection Act:** Employers and insurers must provide minimum hospital-stay benefits.

■ **National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) unionization rules:** Govern unionization activities, including employee rights, election rules, postings, unfair labor practices and others.

■ **OSHA Blood-Borne Pathogens Rule:** Dealerships more than four minutes from an emergency health facility must have a program to respond to employees who suffer cuts. All dealerships should have proper first-aid kits.

■ **OSHA injury and illness recording and reporting requirements:** Dealers with 10 or more employees are required to maintain a yearly log of work-related injuries and illnesses on OSHA Form 300. Dealers must also keep complete a report on each workplace injury or illness that occurs using OSHA Form 301. Even if no injuries or illnesses have occurred in a calendar year, all dealers with more than 10 employees must fill out and post an annual summary of work-related injuries and illnesses on OSHA Form 300A. Starting in 2015, dealers will have to report the following events to OSHA: all work-related fatalities; all work-related inpatient hospitalization of one or more employees; all work-related amputations; and all work-related losses of an eye.

■ **Section 89 of the Tax Reform Act:** Dealerships are prohibited from discriminating against lower-paid employees in their employee benefits packages.

■ **Section 179 expensing:** Generally, businesses can expense qualified Section 179 property, subject to phaseout. The

total Section 179 deduction dropped from \$500,000 in 2014 to \$25,000 in 2015, and will remain at that level unless addressed by Congress during the year.

■ **Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA):** Governs the employment and reemployment rights of members of the U.S. uniformed services.

■ **Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN):** Dealerships must give 60 days' notice to workers before termination or store closings under certain circumstances.

All Departments (Customer)

■ **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA):** Prohibits discrimination against the physically handicapped in areas of public accommodation. Must make reasonable accommodations to facilities, such as by installing ramps and accessible parking spaces, drinking fountains, public toilets and doors.

■ **CAN-SPAM (Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing) Act:** E-mailers must identify a commercial message as an advertisement or solicitation and provide their physical postal addresses and a mechanism to opt out of future commercial e-mails. If recipients opt out, senders must stop sending them commercial e-mail within 10 business days. The disclosure requirements don't apply to e-mails that relate to transactions or relationships, such as for warranty or recall-repair issues or the completion of transactions requested by the consumer. No one may send commercial e-mails to wireless devices unless recipients provide express prior authorization to receive them. So that senders can recognize wireless addresses, the FCC maintains a list of wireless domain names at <http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/policy/DomainNameDownload.html>. Commercial e-mailers must check the list monthly. (Additional provisions prohibit deceptive headers, misleading subject lines and other spam tactics.)

A text message may also be considered an e-mail and therefore subject to the CAN-SPAM Act if it is sent to an e-mail address—that is, if it has an Internet domain name after the “@” symbol (whether the e-mail address is displayed or not). This means that no commercial text message (deemed to be an e-mail), may be sent to a wireless device without “express prior authorization.” Merely having an “established business relationship” with the recipient is not enough.

■ **Driver's Privacy Protection Act:** Denies access to personal information in state motor vehicle records except for limited purposes, such as driver safety, theft and recalls. Also restricts the release or use of personal info for marketing.

■ **Electronic Funds Transfer Act (EFTA):** EFTA and its implementing “Regulation E” govern a variety of electronic transactions. Certain provisions of Regulation E apply directly to any “person” that engages in certain activities or transactions, regardless of whether the person is a financial institution. Examples of such transactions include: issuing access devices (such as debit cards, personal identification numbers [PINs] or payroll cards); issuing or selling gift cards; initiating electronic check conversions; preauthorizing electronic fund transfers; or operating ATMs.

■ **FTC Privacy Rule:** Dealers must issue notices of their privacy policies to their finance and lease customers and, in some cases, to consumers when the dealer discloses nonpublic information about consumers to third parties. The rule also restricts disclosures of nonpublic personal information and requires dealers to contractually limit their service providers' access to and use of that information. Dealers who correctly use a FTC model privacy notice receive safe harbor protection for the language used to describe their privacy policy.

■ **FTC prohibition against deceptive and unfair trade practices:** Prohibits unfair and deceptive trade practices. For example, the FTC has found certain advertising practices to be deceptive, including recent claims related to teaser rates, prize promotions and the statement “\$0 due at lease inception.”

■ **FTC Safeguards Rule:** Dealers must develop, implement and maintain—and regularly audit—a comprehensive, written security program to protect customer information and must ensure that their service providers provide similar safeguards.

■ **FTC Telemarketing Sales Rule (TSR):** Imposes many of the TCPA restrictions (below) on dealers who telemarket across state lines. Requires dealers who sell, or obtain payment authorization for, goods or services during interstate phone calls to abide by the prohibition against numerous deceptive and abusive acts and to maintain certain records for 24 months. Prohibits prerecorded telemarketing calls without a consumer's express written agreement, requires such calls to provide a key-press or voice-activated opt-out mechanism at the outset of the calls, and requires the calls to ring for 15 seconds or four rings before disconnecting.

■ **FTC Written Warranty Rule:** Dealers must display warranties near products or post signs in prominent places telling consumers that copies of the warranties are available for review.

■ **IRS Cash-Reporting Rule:** Dealers receiving more than \$10,000 in cash in one transaction or in two or more related transactions must file IRS/FinCEN Form 8300 with the IRS



within 15 calendar days and must provide written notice that the report was filed to the person named on the report by January 31 of the following year. “Cash” includes certain cashier’s checks, traveler’s checks, money orders and bank drafts.

■ **Magnuson-Moss Act:** Dealers must give consumers certain required information on warranties and limited warranties.

■ **Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) restrictions:** Dealerships may not enter into transactions with certain sanctioned countries, governments, and specially designated organizations and individuals, including those appearing on an electronic list maintained by OFAC.

■ **Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA):** Imposes numerous restrictions on telemarketing, including the national and company-specific do-not-call (DNC) rules, calling-time restrictions, caller ID requirements, fax advertising rules, and restrictions on the use of autodialers and prerecorded messages. Fax ads may be sent only to authorized recipients and must include a phone number, fax number and toll-free opt-out mechanism (each available 24/7) on the first page of the fax ad.

Requires express written consent prior to any prerecorded or auto-dialed telemarketing call to a cell phone or text message. And you cannot send any text message whatsoever to a cellular telephone number—solicitation or not, whether the number is on a DNC list or not—using an “automated dialer system” unless you have the called consumer’s “prior express consent.”

The FCC considers text messages to be “phone calls” under the TCPA. This means you cannot send a text message “solicitation” to a phone number on either the national

DNC list (subject to the “established business relationship” and “prior express permission” exemptions to the national DNC rules) or your company-specific DNC list (to which there are no exemptions). See additional text message restrictions under “CAN-SPAM Act.”

■ **USA PATRIOT Act:** Dealers must search their records and provide information about individuals or entities if requested by the federal Financial Crimes Enforcement Network with whom they conducted transactions or created accounts. Dealers are temporarily exempt from the law’s anti-money-laundering program requirements.

New- and Used-Vehicle Sales Departments

■ **American Automobile Labeling Act:** New cars and light trucks must have a domestic-parts content label showing percentage of U.S. or Canadian parts; countries contributing more than 15 percent of the parts; origin of engine and transmission; and location of vehicle assembly. Dealers must ensure that labels remain on vehicles until sold.

■ **Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) and Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) Rules:** NHTSA and EPA rules on CAFE and GHGs govern the fuel-economy performance of all light, medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, which affects their design, performance and cost. The rules also impact the use of alternative technologies and fuels.

■ **Diplomat vehicle purchases:** The State Department’s Office of Foreign Missions must approve a diplomat’s vehicle purchase before that diplomat’s tax exemption request may be honored.

■ **DOE/EPA gas-mileage guide:** Dealers must make this guide available to prospective new-vehicle buyers upon request. Download the guide from www.fueleconomy.gov and also download NADA brochure *Green Checkup: Maintenance Tips to Help You Save Gas* from www.nada.org.

■ **Federal bankruptcy law:** Dealerships should perfect security interests within 30 days after a customer takes possession of a vehicle, regardless of state law. Otherwise, if the customer files for bankruptcy within 90 days of when the financing agreement is signed, the bankruptcy trustee may avoid the lien. Dealerships failing to perfect liens in a timely manner may be liable for any loss.

■ **FTC Door-to-Door Sales Rule:** Gives consumers a three-day “cooling off” period only for sales not consummated at the dealership. Does not apply to auctions, tent sales or other temporary places of business if the seller has a permanent place of business.



■ **FTC guidelines for fuel-mileage advertising and alternative-fueled-vehicle advertising and labeling:** Dealer and manufacturer fuel-economy advertisements must state that the numbers are estimates and come from EPA; alternative-fueled vehicles must be properly labeled.

■ **FTC Used Car Rule:** “Buyer’s Guides” are required on used-vehicle side windows, disclosing make, model, year, VIN, whether offered “as is” or with a warranty (and, if so, what kind of warranty), and service contract availability. Guides must warn that all promises should be in writing. For sales conducted in Spanish, the “Buyer’s Guide” and the required cross-reference in the sales contract must be in Spanish.

■ **Gray-market vehicles:** EPA, Department of Transportation and Customs restrict the importation/sale of vehicles lacking safety or emissions certification.

■ **IRS treatment of salesperson incentives:** Factory incentives paid directly to salespeople are not wages for tax purposes.

■ **LIFO (last-in/first-out) inventory accounting method:** The use of the LIFO inventory method requires compliance with the conformity requirement.

■ **Heavy-highway-vehicle excise tax:** A 12 percent excise tax generally applies to the first retail sale of (1) truck chassis and bodies with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) in excess of 33,000 lb. (Class 8); (2) truck trailer and semi-trailer bodies with a GVWR in excess of 26,000 lb. (Classes 7 and 8); and (3) “highway tractors,” unless they have a GVWR of 19,500 lb. or less (Class 5 and under) and a gross combined weight rating of 33,000 lb. or less. Dealers selling Class 5 vehicles with more than 33,000-lb. gross combined weight rating or Classes 6 or 7 vehicles should apply the “primary design” test to determine if a vehicle is a taxable tractor or a nontaxable truck.

■ **Motor vehicle tax credits:** Consumers may be eligible for up to a \$7,500 personal federal tax credit when they buy a qualifying plug-in electric vehicle or dedicated electric vehicle at a dealership (“EV Tax Credit”). Eligibility for the EV Tax Credit is based on a taxpayer’s income and tax status.

■ **Monroney sticker (Price Labeling Law):** Dealerships must keep stickers on new passenger cars showing the manufacturer’s suggested retail price, plus other costs, such as options, federal taxes, and handling and freight charges. Stickers also include EPA’s revised fuel-economy information and NHTSA NCAP revised crash-test star ratings. Dealerships that alter covered vehicles must attach a second label adjacent to the Monroney label, stating, “This vehicle has been altered. The stated star ratings on the safety label may no longer be applicable.” No size or form of this label is specified, only that it be placed as close as possible to Monroney labels on automobiles that (1) have been altered by the dealership and (2) have test results posted.

■ **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) alteration and tire-placarding rules:** Significantly altered new vehicles must have labels affixed identifying the alterations and stating that they meet federal safety and theft standards. Tire-placarding and -relabeling rules require a new tire information placard/label whenever parts or equipment are added that may reduce a vehicle’s cargo-carrying capacity, or when replacement tires differ in size or inflation pressure from those referred to on the original.

■ **NHTSA odometer rule:** Prohibits odometer removal or tampering and misrepresentation of odometer readings. Requires record keeping to create a “paper trail,” and odometer disclosures on titles. Vehicles with a greater than 16,000-lb. gross vehicle weight rating and those 10 model years old or older are exempt.

■ **NHTSA recall regulations:** New vehicles and parts held in inventory that are subject to safety recalls must be brought into compliance before delivery.

■ **NHTSA safety belt/airbag deactivation:** Dealerships may install airbag switches for consumers with NHTSA authorization. Dealerships must be responsive to consumer requests for rear-seat lap/shoulder safety belt retrofits in older vehicles.

■ **NHTSA tire regulations:** Rule requires proper replacement or modification of the tire-information label when replacing tires or adding weight before first sale or lease. Also, consumers must be given registration cards when buying new tires or tires must be registered electronically. Other rules govern handling and disposal of recalled new and used tires.

■ **School van sales:** Dealers may not sell, lease or give away large, new passenger vans with more than 10 seating positions if they know the vehicle will be used to transport students to or from school or school activities. Schools must purchase or lease a school bus or multifunction school activity bus for such purposes.

■ **Uniform capitalization (UNICAP):** Dealers who (1) “produce” property or (2) acquire it for resale if their average annual gross receipts over the three preceding tax years exceed \$10 million must comply with the UNICAP requirements contained in Section 263A of the Internal Revenue Code. Revenue Procedure 2010-44 creates two safe harbor methods of accounting, which dealers may elect by filing Form 3115 with the IRS, that generally permit dealers to expense, instead of capitalize, all handling and storage costs at certain dealership facilities.

F&I Department

■ **Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Law:** Comprehensive legislation enacted in July 2010 created a new, independent Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and granted it unprecedented authority to regulate financial products and services. Dealers engaged in three-party financing are excluded from the authority of the bureau and remain subject to regulation by the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Trade Commission (which has been given streamlined authority to declare dealer practices as unfair or deceptive) and state consumer protection agencies. Finance sources, including dealers who engage in BHPH financing, are subject to the bureau’s jurisdiction. The Dodd-Frank law also created several new obligations for creditors, including additional disclosure requirements for risk-based pricing and adverse-action notices under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (Section-1100F). Plus, it contains a requirement to collect, report to the federal government, retain, and make available to the public upon request certain data collected in credit applications from small, women-owned and minority-owned businesses. Dealers are temporarily exempt from this requirement pending promulgation of specific regulations.

■ **Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA):** Regulation B prohibits discrimination in credit transactions based on race, sex, color, marital status, religion, national origin, age and public-assistance status. The government interprets this prohibition as applying not just to intentional discrimination, but also to credit practices that result in a negative “disparate impact” on consumers based on one of these

prohibited factors. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) addressed disparate impact discrimination in March 2013 guidance to indirect auto lenders (CFPB Bulletin 2013-02). In addition, the dealer/creditor is required both to notify applicants in a timely fashion of actions taken on—and reasons for denying—applications, and to retain certain records. (See also “Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Law,” above, for a description of new small-business loan data collection requirements.) An optional ECOA compliance program template is available to dealers at www.nada.org/faircredit.

■ **Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA):** Dealers are restricted in their use of credit reports for consumers, job applicants and employees. Credit reports generally may be obtained only pursuant to consumers’ written instructions or if consumers initiate a business transaction (not if they merely talk with salespeople). Dealers must give job applicants and employees a separate document informing them that a credit report may be obtained and must obtain prior, written authorization to access the report. Dealers may not share credit information with affiliates unless they give consumers notice and the opportunity to opt out. If dealers take adverse action based on the report, they must notify consumers and follow additional procedures with job applicants and employees.

■ **Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions (FACT) Act of 2003:** This law significantly amended FCRA by adding several identity-theft prevention and other duties. Duties include: responding to requests for records from victims of ID theft and to fraud and active-duty alerts on credit reports; disposal requirements for credit report information; opt-out disclosure formatting requirements for prescreened credit solicitations; truncating the expiration date and all but the last five digits on electronically printed credit and debit card receipts provided to purchasers at the point of sale; the Federal Reserve’s Regulation FF restrictions on obtaining, using and sharing “medical information” in credit transactions; the FTC Red Flags Rule, which requires creditors and financial institutions to develop and implement a written Identity Theft Prevention Program that contains procedures to identify, detect and respond to “red flags” indicating the possibility of identity theft; the FTC Address Discrepancy Rule, which requires users of credit reports to develop and implement procedures to verify a customer’s identity when receiving a “Notice of Address Discrepancy” from a consumer reporting agency; the FTC Affiliate Marketing Rule, which generally requires a business to offer customers

the opportunity to opt out of receiving solicitations from the business's affiliates before affiliates may market to the customers; and the Risk-Based Pricing Rule, which generally requires initial creditors to issue either risk-based pricing notices to consumers to whom credit is granted but on relatively unfavorable terms, or credit score disclosure exception notices to all consumer credit applicants. Additional requirements apply to businesses that furnish negative information about consumers to consumer reporting agencies.

■ **FTC Credit Practices Rule:** Dealers are required to provide a written disclosure statement to a cosigner before the cosigner signs an installment sale contract. Dealers cannot "pyramid" late charges (that is, add a late charge onto a payment made in full and on time when the only delinquency was a late charge on a previous installment).

■ **FTC Holder-in-Due-Course Rule:** Preserves the consumer's right to raise claims and defenses against purchasers of consumer credit contracts (with automobile sales, it protects consumers who buy cars from dealerships on credit). When dealerships sell credit contracts to lenders, consumers are obligated to pay the lenders instead of the dealerships. Under the rule, if a dealership engaged in fraud or made misrepresentations in selling a car on credit, a consumer could raise the dealership's conduct as a defense against the lender's demand for payments. Dealerships must ensure that their credit contracts contain the precise disclosure required by the rule.

■ **Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act:** See "FTC Privacy Rule" and "FTC Safeguards Rule" under "All Departments (Customer)."

■ **Producer-Owned Reinsurance Companies (PORCs):** IRS Notice 2004-65 removed certain reinsurance arrangements as "listed transactions," but states that the IRS will continue to scrutinize transactions that shift income from taxpayers to related companies "purported to be insurance companies that are subject to little or no U.S. federal income tax."

■ **Truth in Lending and Consumer Leasing Acts:** Regulations Z and M cover consumer credit and consumer leasing transactions, respectively, specifying information to be disclosed to a consumer before completing the transaction, and information to be disclosed when advertising consumer credit transactions or leases. For example, dealers who advertise a lease down payment or monthly payment amount must disclose in lease ads that the advertised deal is a lease; the total amount due at lease signing; number, amount and period (for example, monthly) of payments; and whether a security deposit is required.



Service and Parts Department

■ **Clean Air Act:** Dealerships may not tamper with, replace or remove emissions-control equipment, such as catalytic converters. CFC recycling regs require dealership air-conditioning techs to obtain certification and to use certified recycling and recovery equipment to capture spent refrigerant, including HFC-134a and other non-ozone-depleting refrigerants. The act also regulates any fuels dealers store and dispense, as well as the alternative fuels motorists use, including gasohol. It restricts emissions from solvents and chemicals.

■ **Clean Water Act:** Sets standards for regulation of wastewater and storm water at dealerships and comprehensive rules governing aboveground oil storage tanks.

■ **Department of Transportation (DOT) hazardous-materials-handling procedures:** Require parts employees who load, unload and package hazardous products, such as airbags, batteries and brake fluid, to be trained in safe handling practices.

■ **FTC Used Parts Guide:** Prohibits misrepresentations that a part is new or about the condition, extent of previous use, reconstruction or repair of a part. Previously used parts must be clearly and conspicuously identified as such in advertising and packaging, and, if the part appears new, on the part itself.

- **IRS Core Inventory Valuation:** Revenue Procedure 2003-20 creates an optional method for valuing core inventories for those using Lower of Cost or Market Valuation Method.
- **LIFO/FIFO inventory accounting method:** Revenue Procedure 2002-17 provides a safe harbor method of accounting that authorizes the use of replacement cost to value year-end parts inventory.
- **NHTSA tampering rules:** Prohibit dealerships from rendering inoperative safety equipment installed on vehicles in compliance with federal law.
- **NHTSA tire rules:** Dealerships must report sales of defective tires when the tires are sold separately from vehicles, and must properly manage recalled tires.
- **OSHA asbestos standards:** Dealerships must use certain procedures during brake and clutch inspections and repairs to minimize workplace exposure. Water, aerosol cleaners or brake washers may be used to comply with the standard.
- **OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (right-to-know laws):** Dealers must inform employees about chemical hazards they may be exposed to in the workplace, keep chemical product information sheets on-site and accessible, and train staffers to properly handle the hazardous materials they work with. Also, EPA's community right-to-know rules require dealers to list annually with state and local authorities tanks holding more than 1,600 gallons.
- **OSHA lock-out/tag-out procedures:** Explain what service departments must do to ensure machines, including vehicles, are safely disengaged before being serviced.
- **OSHA workplace health and safety standards:** Extensive regulations cover a multitude of workplace issues and practices, from hydraulic lift operation to the number of toilets required. Example: Dealerships must determine if workplace hazards warrant personal protective equipment and, if so, to train employees on its use. Verbal reports must be made within eight hours of any incident involving hospitalization of three or more workers or any death.
- **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA):** Comprehensive environmental law regulating many dealership functions, including underground storage tanks and the storage, management and disposal of used oil, antifreeze, mercury products and hazardous wastes. Underground tanks must be monitored, tested and insured against leaks; leaks and spills must be reported to federal and local authorities and cleaned up. The law also regulates new-tank installations. Dealers must obtain EPA ID numbers if they generate more than 220 lb. per month (about half of a 55-gallon drum) of certain substances and must use EPA-certified haulers to

remove the waste from the site; dealers must keep records of the shipments. Used oil should be burned in space heaters or hauled off-site for recycling. Used oil filters must be punctured and drained for 24 hours before disposal.

- **Safe Drinking Water Act:** To protect underground drinking water from contamination, dealerships may be barred from discharging waste liquids (such as used oil, antifreeze and brake fluid) into septic system drain fields, dry wells, cesspools or pits.
- **Superfund (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act [CERCLA]):** As waste generators, dealerships may be subject to Superfund liability. Carefully select companies to haul waste off-site. Dealers can deduct the cost of cleaning up contaminated soil and water in the year it's done. Dealers may qualify for an exemption from liability at sites involving used oil managed after 1993. The service station dealer exemption application (SSDE) requires dealers to properly manage their oil and to accept oil from do-it-yourselfers.
- **UNICAP:** See "New- and Used-Vehicle Sales Departments."

Body Shop

- **Clean Air Act:** National paint and hazardous air-pollution rules require reformulated, environmentally safer paints and finishes, special handling procedures, and record keeping.
- **EPA hazardous-waste rules:** See "RCRA" under "Service and Parts Department."
- **OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (right-to-know laws):** See "Service and Parts Department."
- **OSHA Respiratory Protection Standard:** Requires written programs describing how to select, fit and maintain respirators to protect body shop workers from hazardous chemicals.
- **OSHA workplace health and safety standards:** Extensive regulations affect body shops in many ways, including mandating the use and care of protective equipment such as face masks, gloves and respirators. The hex chrome standard limits air emissions during sanding and painting. (See also "Service and Parts Department.")
- **UNICAP:** See "New- and Used-Vehicle Sales Departments."
- **VIN and parts marking:** Dealers may not alter, destroy or tamper with vehicle identification numbers or antitheft parts-marking ID numbers and should use only properly marked replacement parts. ■

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