

NHTSA Petition Prohibiting foreign steering lock sales and production/Establish US automaker safety standard

The Automobile Safety Foundation Petitions NHTSA for Regulatory Actions: Foreign automaker be required by law to comply with US automakers "big three" Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler new vehicle equipment standards. Since the majority of US domestic vehicles are now equipped with Immobilizer auto theft prevention technology, and are not equipped with any type of hazardous steering lock device, that foreign automobile companies must be required to meet thi standard and to cease to produce, and or, distribute in the United States, any vehicles with any form of steering lock including ignition switch steering column lock or ESCL, and that the NHTSA relegate to prohibit any type of steering lock device from future production or sale in the United States. Furthermore, this petition seeks regulation to prohibit any foreign automobile companies to equip any of their vehicles sold in the United States, with any device that is potentially unsafe, and or, not in use as standard equipment and in current production by big three US automakers

Cause for action: **An automobile is a machine, and machines must always be designed with human safety as the number one top priority! Any device that can potentially lock a vehicle's steering while driving is unsafe, unsound, hazardous and should be prohibited!**

The ignition switch steering lock, standard equipment on most vehicles since 1969 (prior to 2001) is a hazardous and obsolete auto theft device. Due to the fact that the lock mechanism is spring loaded and combined with the ignition switch (engine on/off deactivation), this device can lock a vehicle's steering while driving and therefore is unsafe at any speed! This dangerous device, steering lock ignition switch, should be factored in as a potential cause, or principal cause, in the many ignition switch recalls, and as the cause of a multitude of accidents, both past, and present! Steering lock ignition switches, cause accidents, increase auto theft, strand motorists by malfunction, and have no merit whatsoever! see: <https://carsafe.org/steering-locks> So why are the Japanese automakers (and some other foreign vehicles) still using this dangerous device, when US automakers are not, and why has NHTSA allowed foreign automakers to sell these hazardous vehicles in the United States? ASF petitions for regulation that prohibits foreign automakers to sell any vehicles in the United States that are equipped with any kind of hazardous steering lock, be it a steering column lock or ESCL. ASF also asks the NHTSA to address their following 2012 letter sent to ASF stating they "expect" purpose rulemaking about this urgent issue, but ASF remains unaware of any NHTSA actions about this since then, <https://carsafe.org/news-2/letter/>.

Since steering locks cause accidents, are unsafe at any speed, strand motorists, and have no merit whatsoever!

Signed, Kay Larson May 27, 2018

