



Resolution 2021 – 2

Raise Awareness and Promote Measures to Reduce the Theft of Catalytic Converters

WHEREAS, the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI) is a worldwide association of Law Enforcement personnel, insurance industry, and other related business members who share a common goal of combating vehicle crimes; and

WHEREAS, IAATI is an internationally recognized association whose members are skilled and trained in vehicle crime investigation, recovery of stolen vehicles and parts, prosecution of vehicle crimes, and theft prevention; and

WHEREAS, at the time of manufacture, vehicles are equipped with Catalytic Converters that help protect the environment from toxic vehicular exhaust; and

WHEREAS, the theft of motor vehicles to remove their Catalytic Converters and the theft of Catalytic Converters from unattended vehicles to sell to persons or entities that remove the precious metals contained therein, such as palladium, platinum, and rhodium, have reached epidemic levels; and

WHEREAS, currently, many Catalytic Converters are not permanently marked with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) or a serial number traceable to the VIN when they are manufactured or later installed in the vehicle during assembly, which prevents them from being entered into an appropriate theft database; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a permanent identification number or serial number on a Catalytic Converter hampers Law Enforcement's ability to trace stolen Catalytic Converters to the vehicles from which they had been stolen; and

WHEREAS, the lack of statutes to deter Catalytic Converter thefts creates an unregulated environment that benefits criminals and impedes investigation by Law Enforcement of Catalytic Converter thefts; and

WHEREAS, many jurisdictions have identified the need to establish better statutes that relate to the sale, purchase, theft, and serial number alterations of Catalytic Converters and have legislation proposed; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to educate Law Enforcement executives, their department representatives, and the public as to the importance of preventing the theft of Catalytic Converters; and

WHEREAS, Catalytic Converter theft prevention, combatting, detection, investigation, and prosecution strategies can aid in the prevention and reduction of Catalytic Converter thefts.



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Law Enforcement strategies should at least include but not limited to:

- (1) Educate the public on the importance of measures to help prevent the theft of vehicles for the purpose of removing their Catalytic Converters and the theft of Catalytic Converters from unattended vehicles, and promote the permanent marking of previously unmarked Catalytic Converters with owner-applied numbers or after-market labels, such that the Catalytic Converter is traceable to the VIN.*
- (2) Promote the voluntary and permanent marking by vehicle manufacturers of Catalytic Converters on newly assembled vehicles, such that these Catalytic Converters are traceable to the VIN.*
- (3) Recommend that the Federal Vehicle Theft Prevention Title 49 USC 33101 (6) list of major theft parts (or the equivalent document within your jurisdiction) be amended to include Catalytic Converters as a “major part” under the Act (and thus required to be permanently marked and identified as a component of the specific vehicle upon which it is installed by the manufacturer).*
- (4) Support legislation to make the theft, possession, purchase, or sale of any stolen Catalytic Converter or the altering of any permanent identification number on a Catalytic Converter illegal.*
- (5) Promote legislation that includes the following requirements for all persons or entities that deal in the purchase and/or sale of Catalytic Converters:*
 - 1. Identify with certainty the person selling the Catalytic Converter;*
 - 2. Identify with certainty the vehicle from which the Catalytic Converter was removed;*
 - 3. Require a traceable payment and prohibit cash transactions;*
 - 4. Require records of Catalytic Converter transactions be maintained and made accessible to Law Enforcement upon request;*
 - 5. The penalty for not meeting the above requirements needs to be a sufficient deterrent.*
 - 6. The Environmental Protection Agency (or an equivalent official entity with appropriate jurisdiction) governs what specific Catalytic Converters can be sold in that market. If requirements 1 – 4 above are satisfied, theft is not considered an issue.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that IAATI calls upon Law Enforcement executives, crime prevention officers, and public information officers to emphasize that Catalytic Converter thefts have become an epidemic problem and promote theft prevention measures and programs that include the permanent marking of Catalytic Converters with permanent owner - applied identification numbers or after-market identification labels traceable to the VIN.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that IAATI calls upon vehicle manufacturers to voluntarily take Catalytic Converter theft deterrence measures to make Catalytic Converters more difficult to remove from an unattended motor vehicle and to permanently mark the Catalytic Converter with the VIN or a serial number traceable to the VIN to allow the Catalytic Converter to be identified and entered into an appropriate theft database.

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, that IAATI calls upon Law Enforcement executives to support legislation to help enforcement efforts relating to the theft, possession, sale, purchase, or altering of any permanent VIN, serial number, owner-applied number, or after-market identification number that



is attached to a Catalytic Converter and to the investigation of persons or entities that deal in the purchase and/or sale of stolen Catalytic Converters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tinus Odendal', is positioned on the left side of the page.

*Tinus Odendal
President*

April 29, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Thomas', is positioned on the right side of the page.

*Paul Thomas
1st Vice President*

April 29, 2021