

RCW 46.96.140 Relevant market area—Definition—New or relocated dealerships, notice of. (1) For the purposes of this section, and throughout this chapter, the term "relevant market area" is defined as follows:

(a) If the population in the county in which the proposed new or relocated dealership is to be located is four hundred thousand or more, the relevant market area is the geographic area within a radius of eight miles around the proposed site;

(b) If the population in the county in which the proposed new or relocated dealership is to be located is two hundred thousand or more and less than four hundred thousand, the relevant market area is the geographic area within a radius of twelve miles around the proposed site;

(c) If the population in the county in which the proposed new or relocated dealership is to be located is less than two hundred thousand, the relevant market area is the geographic area within a radius of sixteen miles around the proposed site.

In determining population for this definition, the most recent census by the United States Bureau of Census or the most recent population update, either from the National Planning Data Corporation or other similar recognized source, shall be accumulated for all census tracts either wholly or partially within the relevant market area.

(2) For the purpose of RCW 46.96.140 through 46.96.180, the term "motor vehicle dealer" does not include dealerships who exclusively market vehicles 19,000 pounds gross vehicle weight and above.

(3) Notwithstanding the terms of a franchise and notwithstanding the terms of a waiver, if a manufacturer intends or proposes to enter into a franchise to establish an additional new motor vehicle dealer or to relocate an existing new motor vehicle dealer within or into a relevant market area in which the same line make of motor vehicle is then represented, the manufacturer shall provide at least sixty days advance written notice to the department and to each new motor vehicle dealer of the same line make in the relevant market area, of the manufacturer's intention to establish an additional new motor vehicle dealer or to relocate an existing new motor vehicle dealer within or into the relevant market area. The notice shall be sent by certified mail to each such party and shall include the following information:

(a) The specific location at which the additional or relocated motor vehicle dealer will be established;

(b) The date on or after which the additional or relocated motor vehicle dealer intends to commence business at the proposed location;

(c) The identity of all motor vehicle dealers who are franchised to sell the same line make vehicles as the proposed dealer and who have licensed locations within the relevant market area;

(d) The names and addresses, if available, of the owners of and principal investors in the proposed additional or relocated motor vehicle dealership; and

(e) The specific grounds or reasons for the proposed establishment of an additional motor vehicle dealer or relocation of an existing dealer. [1994 c 274 § 1.]