

Commercial Vehicle Restraint Feature Availability Protocol Version I

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OVERVIEW

This document describes the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) protocol for determining the availability of driver front and side airbags and advanced driver seat belt features in motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,001 lb or more. These occupant protection features reduce occupant injury and fatality risk in vehicles 10,000 lb or less (Kahane, 2015; Kahane et al., 2024) and are typically standard equipment. The features are not typically standard equipment on all vehicles with a GVWR of 10,001 lb or more.

OCCUPANT PROTECTION FEATURE ASSESSMENT

Vehicles with a GVWR of 10,001 lb or more are assessed for standard or optional availability of driver front airbag, driver side airbag (curtain only or combination curtain and torso), driver seat belt load limiter, and driver seat belt pretensioner. Information about the availability of these features is requested from the manufacturer’s designated representative. Information supplied by the manufacturer is verified by examining the vehicle owner’s manual, labels or placards in the vehicle, and other information sources (e.g., manufacturer website, Part 565 submission). Destructive testing is not performed to determine feature presence.

IIHS only retains summary information for publication. Any detailed data submitted confidentially are destroyed after a final assessment is completed.

A checklist that may be used for documenting whether each feature is standard, optional, or not available for a vehicle is below.

EXAMPLE FEATURE CHECKLIST

Occupant protection feature	Standard	Optional	Not available
Driver front airbag			
Driver side curtain airbag only			
Driver combination side curtain and torso airbag			
Driver seat belt load limiter			
Driver seat belt pretensioner			

REFERENCES

- Kahane, C. J. (2015, January). *Lives saved by vehicle safety technologies and associated Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, 1960 to 2012 — Passenger cars and LTVs — With reviews of 26 FMVSS and the effectiveness of their associated safety technologies in reducing fatalities, injuries, and crashes.* (Report No. DOT HS 812 069). National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
<https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812069.pdf>
- Kahane, C. J., & Simons, J. F. (2024, December). *Fatalities, injuries, and crashes prevented by vehicle safety technologies and associated FMVSS, 1968 to 2019 – Passenger cars and LTVs* (Report No. DOT HS 813 611). National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.