INSTITUTE FOR SAFER TRUCKING™

Recommendations for the ACUP

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Introduction

Objective: To identify key areas for investigation in underride protection for ACUP

- Underride crashes pose a significant safety risk on our roads.
- Side guards have been identified as a promising underride protection measure.
- The Advisory Committee on Underride Protections plays a crucial role in evaluating and advancing underride protection strategies.

Review of Operations with Side Guards

Considerations:

- Confirm maneuverability of side guards with trucks and trailers
- Confirm infrastructure compatibility with side guards and existing road infrastructure, such as curbs, sidewalks, ports, and railroad crossings.

Review of Existing Lateral Protection Devices

Objective: Gain insights from the experiences of other countries in implementing underride protection measures

Examples:

- European Union: Side guards are mandatory for trucks and trailers in the EU, and there are various standards and regulations governing their design and performance.
- Japan: Japan has implemented a comprehensive underride protection strategy that includes side guards, rear guards, and side skirts.
- Australia: Australia has adopted underride protections on certain vehicles.

Analysis of Underride Crash Reporting

Objective: Address inconsistent and incomplete underride crash reporting across states

Potential solutions:

- Compare state reporting of underride deaths: Conduct an analysis of underride crash reporting in states that have an "underride" field compared to states that do not and adjust estimate to reflect underreporting
- Standardize data collection practices: Implement a standardized definition of "underride crash" and require states to include an "underride" field on police accident reports.

Estimating Preventable Pedestrian and Bicyclist Casualties in Underride Crashes

Objective: Quantify the potential lifesaving benefits of side guards for vulnerable road users

Potential solutions:

- Analyze fatal truck crashes involving a pedestrian/bicyclist and determine an estimate of fatalities resulting from underride.
- Estimate the number of potential pedestrian and bicyclist casualties that could be prevented by side guards based on historical crash data.

Additional Topics for Consideration

- Assess the impact of side guards on truck aerodynamics and fuel efficiency.
- Explore the potential for side guard integration with existing safety and developing technologies.
- Front override protection

Thank you

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