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Summary: Request for Comments of State Notification to Consumers of Motor Vehicle Safety Feature Status

Agency: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Parent Agency: Department Of Transportation

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Action:

Notice and request for comments

Action Reply: Comments

Date Submitted: September 3, 2019

Comments Submitted By:

David DeVeau

DEVCO Design & Development

Westfield, MA 01085

Attachments: (File Name)

DOT-NHTSA-Safety-Feature-Compliance_David-DeVeau.pdf

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Definitions:

DOT; Department of Transportation

NHTSA; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

NCAP; New Car Assessment Program

VIN; Vehicle Identification Number

Introductory

The following comments within the capacity of an independent safety advocate are intended to address the NHTSA's efforts to gather input from stakeholders and the public regarding what approaches to propose how to address increasing effectiveness of public notice of safety feature failures.

These comments are in regards toward support of cooperation for a DOT / NHTSA / National Safety Inspection of every registered road vehicle that will check for safety defects and utilize the national VIN based system.

The primary concern; is after a safety feature is approved for road service the only authority to assure continued public safety is to monitor fleet performance and to require timely crash reports.

The secondary concern; is during the road vehicle registered private or public service there must be authority to assure public awareness that all safety features are performing within approved standards.

The question; is how to continue officially certified assurance of each road vehicle safety feature performance before a safety failure puts the public at risk and damages public perception of the potential to advance road safety.

Conclusion

The growing need of official safety assurances is a major concern that must be overcome to continue advancement.

The first step of updating NCAP to add ratings for automated safety features into the crash rating with an advanced and clearly understood measurement system is well underway.

This proposed next step is to utilize our state proven VIN based inspection systems for a national registered vehicle roadworthiness safety check.

A national safety inspection will assure continued enforcement of minimum safety standards of all road vehicle safety features with a visual inspection in conjunction with the vehicle being connected by VIN to the national database that would include all open recalled safety feature failures and the repair or replacement priority.

Going forward there must be continued means to officially test fleet wide safety designs in new vehicles as defined by DOT/ NHTSA / NCAP. There must also be an official DOT / NHTSA means to monitor safety feature performance of each registered vehicle that will further enable an on the road assessment of potential fleet wide safety feature failures.

This system will; lower the burden on regulators and manufactures for registered vehicle owner notification of safety feature failures, control priority status of repair or replacement and assure record of completed compliance within the applicable allotment of time.

Further consumer safety can be clearly conveyed throughout the life cycle of registered road vehicles with a VIN based NHTSA Certified Safety Inspection as shown with these following Sticker Examples.

Safety Sticker Examples

PASS



FAIL



PASS:

Private Service:

Once Yearly Safety Inspection

Public Service:

Twice Yearly Safety Inspection

FAIL:

Highest Priority:

Repair immediately or within 3 months

High Priority:

Repair within 3 to 6 months

Low Priority:

Repair within 12 to 15 months

Safety Sticker Premise

Quarterly Sticker Colors:

January, February, March / BLUE

April, May, June / GREEN

July, August, September / YELLOW

October, November, December / BROWN

Highest Priority FAIL:

Same Quarter / Repair or Replacement of Safety Feature Required

Resolve failure immediately or within one to three months

Same quarter sticker is used

High Priority FAIL:

Next Quarter / Repair or Replacement of Safety Feature Required

Resolve failure within three to six months

Next quarter sticker is used

Low Priority FAIL:

Next Year / Repair or Replacement of Safety Feature Required

Resolve failure within twelve to fifteen months

Next year, same quarter sticker is used

Private Use PASS:

Next Road Safety Inspection Per Year and Quarter on Sticker

Inspection due after twelve months and less than fifteen months

Next year, same quarter sticker is used

Public Use PASS:

Next Road Safety Inspection Per Year and Quarter on Sticker

Inspection due every six months or after four and less than nine months

Same year or next year, every other quarter sticker is used

Definitions:

A Highest Priority FAIL is defined as ***a life threatening safety feature design failure*** and repair or part replacement must be performed for vehicle to remain in service.

A High Priority FAIL is defined as ***a life threatening safety feature design failure*** and parts and/or repair procedures are available.

A Low Priority FAIL is defined as ***a potential life threatening safety feature design failure*** and/or parts or repair procedures are not available.

A PASS Sticker indicates that there is ***no known potentially life threatening safety feature design failures***.

Summary

Presently most states that require yearly safety inspections only allow up to sixty days to repair or replace failed safety features.

This federal system will require immediate resolve or allow up to three months for the highest priority safety failures. Allows more than three months or less than six months for high priority failures and up to fifteen months for a low priority potential failure to repair or replace or to get an extension until parts are available by official public notice with a fail sticker.

The time frame for a failed low priority and a passing sticker is the same before the next inspection is due that will link to the system per VIN. However the difference is very significant for consumer protection to remind us every time we see a fail sticker that the vehicle has a potential safety issue and for manufacturers that have vehicles on the road with these failed stickers to hasten means to resolve the issue before the next NHTSA Safety Inspection.

In conjunction with NCAP approval testing, this NHTSA safety inspection system will continue to assure vehicle safety compliance. For example to Title 49 U.S.C. 30120 Standard - remedies for defects and noncompliance - this system is a means for direct public notice of all known failures to comply that includes a remedy priority status throughout the life cycle of all registered road vehicles' safety feature designs.

Further this safety inspection system will ensure all road vehicles with a fail sticker can not be sold, leased, rented, or hired and is a clear solution for assuring our vehicles are safe and the vehicles on the road with us are also road worthy.

DOT / NHTSA / Safety Inspection



Road Worthiness
Safety
STICKER