

Comment from Brent Peterson

The image in a screen located somewhere in the car is not the same as an image in a mirror.

It will be on a screen. The image will lack the depth and clarity that a mirror provides. There will be a good deal of detail lost.

The cameras may or may not be adjustable to provide the perfect overlap the way mirrors can be set up to provide. Cameras may or may not have the range of adjustment required for special situations.

Cameras would need to be designed with heating elements or use protective glass lenses where ice and snow can be removed without harming it. This adds cost.

The screens may not be located such that one can check without taking undo attention away from the road ahead.

Cameras may become overwhelmed with light from bright headlamps or the sun. Mirrors rarely are and then it's because they are blinding the driver. The cameras can saturate at much lower levels.

Cameras may or may not be able to produce a usable image in low light conditions.

Cameras require power to operate. That is they won't be functioning in parked car that is turned off or a car that loses power because something went wrong. Mirrors are useful in both situations.

Now of course most of my objections can be overcome by using a variety high quality pieces, good material choices, and making adjustable mechanisms. However all these things cost money so either the automaker will skimp or pass the cost on to the customers. Mirrors are durable and are relatively very cheap.

Camera systems and displays will fail. They will be expensive to replace or rebuild and after the cars are a few years old the parts may simply not be available. Mirror glass and even entire aftermarket mirror assemblies are very inexpensive. Mirrors also survive well on cars in salvage yards for cheap replacement. One rainstorm with the windows or doors left open will probably destroy the electronics of a camera's display.

Because of the outrageous fuel economy requirements being foisted upon automakers and the costs then put upon new car buyers if camera systems are allowed automakers will be practically forced to implement them as the only option to squeeze out another 1/100th of an mpg. In other words over a short period of time buyers would not be able to choose a vehicle with mirrors. simply put the option will end up as a mandate when combined with other regulations.