

Comment from Tran Le

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Oct 3, 2023

For me, the NHTSA's proposed rule regarding the seat belt warning system for vehicles with a rear seat, such as passenger cars, trucks, and the majority of buses, is a sensible choice that serves the needs of the general public. It improves the current law requiring rear seatbelts in vehicles.

Rear-seat occupants, including adults, and children are often less likely to wear seatbelts compare to front-seat occupants. In the large vehicle industry, they are more difficult to control compared to the smaller ones, in case of an accident, it would be more dangerous for passengers. By having a mandatory system of rear-back seatbelts, passengers are reminded to use the seatbelt which will significantly reduce the risk of injury and fatality. It can also eliminate any confusion among passengers about whether they have to wear a seatbelt or not.

I concur that the law will place a higher priority on passenger safety in larger vehicles, but the NHTSA also needs to take the potential burden on the industry into account. Adding more seatbelts can be very expensive, especially for larger vehicles like trucks, buses, or cars with a 10000-pound gross vehicle weight rating. Businesses must incorporate seatbelt reminders for each seat so that passengers are reminded to buckle up. Additionally, the process of incorporating the warning system into the basic car system is more expensive for large vehicles like trucks and buses than it is for smaller cars. How would the agency decide whether it is more effective for businesses to bear the cost or for the public to have a safety feature alarm when proposing a new rear seatbelt mandatory system for a large vehicle?