



Unified Agenda 2127-AK56

Require Installation of Seat Belts on Motorcoaches, FMVSS No. 208

Unified Agenda current as of Fall 2011

SUMMARY This rulemaking would require the installation of lap/shoulder belts in newly manufactured motorcoaches. Specifically, this rulemaking would establish a new definition for motorcoaches in [49 CFR part 571.3](#). It would also amend Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208 "Occupant Crash Protection" to require the installation of lap/shoulder belts at all driver and passenger seating positions. It would also require the installation of lap/shoulder belts at driver seating positions of large school buses in FMVSS no. 208. This rulemaking responds, in part, to recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board for improving bus safety.

STATEMENT OF NEED Over the 10-year period between 1999 and 2008, there were 54 fatal motorcoach crashes resulting in 186 fatalities. During this period, on average, 16 fatalities have occurred annually to occupants of motorcoaches in crash and rollover events, with about 2 of these fatalities being drivers and 14 being passengers. However, while motorcoach transportation overall is safe, when serious crashes of this vehicle type do occur, they can cause a significant number of fatal or serious injuries during a single event, particularly when occupants are ejected.

LEGAL BASIS Section 30111, title 49 of the U.S.C., states that the Secretary shall prescribe motor vehicle safety standards.

ALTERNATIVES In addition to the proposed installation of lap/shoulder belts in all passenger seating positions on motorcoaches, the Agency is also pursuing improvements to motorcoach rollover structural integrity, fire safety, electronic stability control, and emergency egress to improve occupant protection. Our detailed plans for improving motorcoach passenger protection can be found in NHTSA's Approach to Motorcoach Safety 2007 and the Department of Transportation 2009 Motorcoach Action Plan (Docket No. NHTSA-2007-28793), as well as the Agency's Vehicle Safety and Fuel Economy Rulemaking and Research Priority Plan 2011 to 2013 (Docket No. NHTSA-

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Priority category

Other Significant

Major

No

Regulatory flexibility analysis required

No

International interest

Yes

Energy affected

No

Shorter URL

<http://federalregister.gov/r/2127-AK56>

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AGENCIES

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Transportation Department

RELATED CFR

CONTENT

- [49 CFR 571.208](#)
- [49 CFR 571.3](#)

LEGAL AUTHORITY

- [49 USC 30111](#)
- [49 USC 30115](#)
- [49 USC 30117](#)

2009-0108).

The Agency also alternatively evaluated proposing the installation of lap belts in all passenger seating positions on motorcoaches and is seeking comments on the issue of retrofitting older motorcoaches with seat belts.

COSTS AND BENEFITS

The anticipated total costs are expected to be \$25.8 million for the 2,000 new motorcoaches produced each year, plus added fuel costs. The Agency estimates the proposal has the potential to save 1 to 8 fatalities and 144 to 794 non-fatal injuries annually assuming a range of seat belt use between 15 and 83 percent. The cost per equivalent life saved at a 7 percent discount rate is estimated to range from \$1.8 to \$9.9 million, based on an assumed seat belt use rate between 83 percent and 15 percent, respectively.

RISKS

The Agency believes there are no substantial risks to this rulemaking, and that only beneficial outcomes will occur as the industry moves to reduce injuries of motorcoach occupants.

TIMELINE

3 actions from August 18th, 2010 to July 2012

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| <p>August 18th, 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPRM 75 FR 50958 | <p>October 18th, 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPRM Comment Period End | <p>July 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Rule |
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- 49 USC 30166
- 49 USC 322
- Delegation of Authority at 49 CFR 1.50

GOVERNMENT LEVELS AFFECTED

- None

SMALL ENTITIES AFFECTED

- No

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