



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

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The U.S. Department of Transportation Broadcast News Service for Tuesday, September 4 has a story on safety improvements for 1974 cars and a story on new standards for safety inspection procedures.

"As a result of safety standards issued by the Department of Transportation, the 1974 model automobiles that debut this month will have better bumpers, stronger car roofs, and improved lap and shoulder belts. The safety belts will be more convenient, more comfortable, and easier to wear and will be linked to a starter interlock system in most models. This requires a three step sequence before a car can be started -- sit down, buckle up, then turn the ignition key. Bumpers will have to prevent damage to safety systems in front and rear crashes at 5 miles per hour, and will have to be at a uniform height from the pavement. The roofs have to withstand a specified force without deforming more than 5 inches -- which should considerably reduce deaths and injuries in rollover accidents."

"The Department of Transportation has issued a series of motor vehicle safety standards for vehicles in use, concentrating safety inspection procedures on the critical areas of braking, steering, suspension, tires and wheels. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration standards are based upon research findings that proper maintenance of these systems is a key element in the prevention of traffic accidents. Intended for implementation by the States, through vehicle inspection programs, the standards represent the minimum criteria acceptable for safety and will not replace state procedures that might be more stringent or comprehensive."

This has been the Transportation News Report.

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