



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

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The Department of Transportation today issued a new Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard that requires passenger cars to have stronger roofs. The new Standard, No. 216, should considerably reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries in rollover accidents when the roof collapses into the passenger compartment.

Specifically, the roof crush standard will provide protection in rollover accidents by improving the integrity of the door, side window and windshield retention areas. It preserves the overall structure of the vehicle in a crash, and decreases the likelihood of occupant ejection.

The new standard, written by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, establishes minimum strength requirements for the forward section of the roof. It requires a static test procedure in which a device is pressed downward on the roof until a force of 1 1/2 times the weight of the vehicle, or 5,000 pounds (whichever is less), is reached. During the test, the roof may show no more than five inches of intrusion, as measured by the movement of the test device.

The new standard is intended as an alternative to Standard No. 208 rollover test, and will become effective on August 15, 1973. After August 15, 1977, Standard 216 will no longer be a substitute for rollover test of Standard 208, and is expected to be revoked by then.

The new standard will apply to all passenger cars, with the exception of convertibles.

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