

# The Truck Safety Devices Law

*(a.k.a. Chapter 90 Section 7 and 540 CMR 4.00)*

February 28, 2025



# Agenda

- Why This Regulations Matters
- Introduction to the Law and the Vehicles it Applies to
- Overview of the Four Safety Devices required
- Roles for State Agencies
- FAQs and Discussion

# Bottom Line Up Front

- Contractors, subcontractors, and vendors to State Agencies are required to equip their trucks with four different safety devices by December 31, 2025
- State purchased and leased vehicles after January 1, 2023 are required to be equipped with four different safety devices
- State Agencies will review vehicle submissions through an RMV online portal that grants certifications to contractors.
- Enforcement by state agencies begins December 31, 2025

## Why this matters

**Large trucks are involved in a disproportionate share of crashes as compared with their prevalence on the road**

but were involved in...

Large trucks are only

**4%**

of registered vehicles



**8%**

of pedestrian fatalities

**11%**

of bicyclist fatalities

...in 2021.\*

# Why this matters

## Cyclist Killed in Crash in Boston Involving Tractor-Trailer

The crash occurred at the intersection of Massachusetts and Harrison avenues, near the Boston Medical Center

By **Melissa Buja** • Published April 22, 2020 • Updated on April 22, 2020 at 5:25 pm

### Bicyclist killed by truck is remembered as skilled surgeon, scientist

By **Laura Crimaldi** Globe Staff, August 8, 2015, 10:02 p.m.



Bicyclist fatally struck by UPS truck in Newton

### 'He was the best': Young man killed by trash truck in Boston was on way to meet his uncle for coffee

Share



PM EDT Aug 28, 2023

all Enabled



Russ F



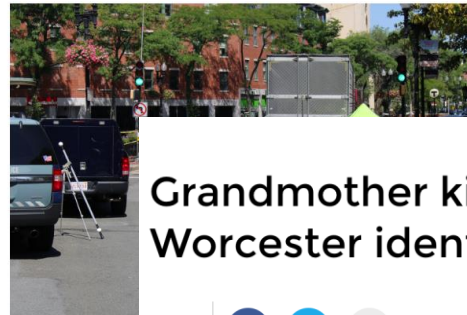
## Bicyclist dies after being hit by truck in Cambridge, police say

The bicyclist, whose name was not disclosed, sustained serious injuries, police said

By **Michael Rosenfield** • Published August 11, 2020 at 11:50 pm

## Trash Collector Dies After Falling Underneath Truck in Methuen

### Tractor-Trailer Fatally Strikes Bicyclist in Harvard Square



A fatal accident shut down Harvard Square for hours. Photo by Elen M. Burstein, Crim

By **Elen M. Burstein, Crim** August 19, 2020

## Grandmother killed by dump truck in Worcester identified

Share



Updated: 3:18 PM EDT Jul 15, 2016

Updated November 09, 2018 By **WBUR Newsroom**



## Cyclist Killed in Crash in Boston Involving Tractor-Trailer

The crash occurred at the intersection of Massachusetts and Harrison avenues, near the Boston Medical Center

By **Melissa Buja** • Published April 22, 2020 • Updated on April 22, 2020 at 5:25 pm



## Truck Driver Kills 5-Year-Old Girl In a Downtown Andover Crosswalk

CRASHES



## Truck Driver Kills Cambridge Man Next to Grandmother, Killing in Boston

BICYCLING

## Man Killed By Dump Truck at Museum Of Science

## Jury clears armored truck driver in cyclist Margaret's death in Northampton

Last modified: Friday, April 26, 2013

# Massachusetts Truck Safety Device Law

*Originally as the Act to Reduce Traffic Fatalities of 2022, now MGL Chapter 90 Section 7 and 540 CMR 4.00*

The law **applies** to:

- A motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer or semi-trailer unit classified as a **class 3 or above** by the Federal Highway Administration, with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) **of 10,001 pounds or more**,
- that is **leased or purchased by the Commonwealth** on or after January 1, 2023

— or —

- that is **operated under a contract with the Commonwealth** executed on or after January 1, 2025
- The regulations call out contracts that require the use of a heavy vehicle “in writing or by necessary implication” in connection with the services provided
- Snow/Ice and Towing contracts executed on or after July 1, 2025

# Which vehicles does the law not apply to?

The law does **not apply** to:

- Ambulances, and other emergency medical vehicles,
- Firefighting vehicles,
- Low-speed vehicles as defined in MGL c. 90, § 1,
- Agricultural tractors,
- Vehicles operated under an emergency contract with the Commonwealth
- Vehicles operating under a municipal contract and grant program funded with state aid
- Any other class or type of vehicle as determined by the Registrar

## Specifics for 'Snow & Tow' Vehicles:

The Highway Administrator may make a recommendation to the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, to exempt snow removal vehicles and tow operation vehicles under contract with the Commonwealth from the requirements for special safety equipment. The Secretary, in consultation with the Registrar, may issue an exemption for these vehicles on such roadways that are deemed to be low risk for vulnerable user interaction.

# Massachusetts Truck Safety Device Law

Per the Truck Safety Device requirements in Chapter 90 Section 7

A motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer or semi-trailer unit classified as a class 3 or above by the Federal Highway Administration, with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 pounds or more, that is operated under a contract executed with the commonwealth on or after January 1, 2025, shall be equipped with

- 1. lateral protective device,**
- 2. convex mirrors,**
- 3. crossover mirrors and**
- 4. backup cameras.**



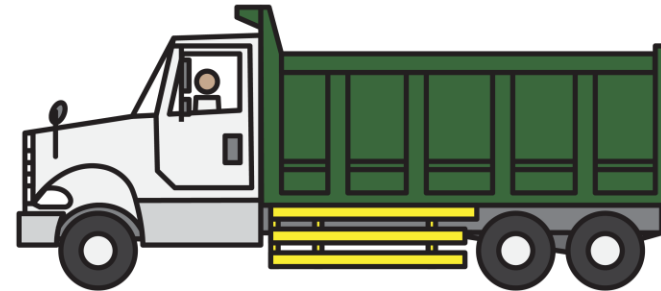
# Lateral Protective Devices (LPDs)

Lateral Protective Devices, also known as **Side Guards**, cover up the space between the front and rear wheels of a vehicle or trailer to **prevent underride** crashes.

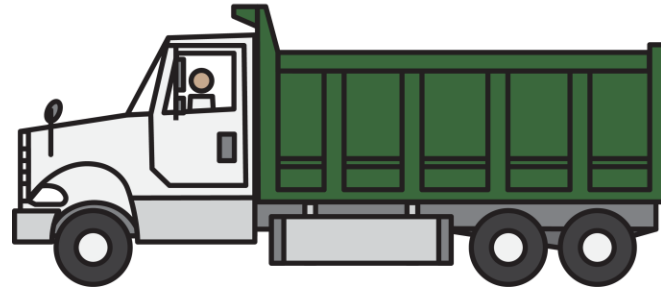
They are mandated in many countries and in the UK resulted in a 61% drop in fatal cyclist crashes with large trucks.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety estimates that a side guard requirement could prevent up to 217 fatalities a year in the United States

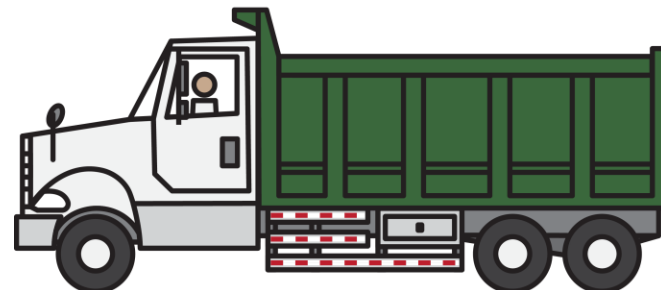
There is a USDOT Volpe Best Practice Specification adopted in many cities around the country that we are following in Massachusetts.



Rail-style LPD



Solid LPD

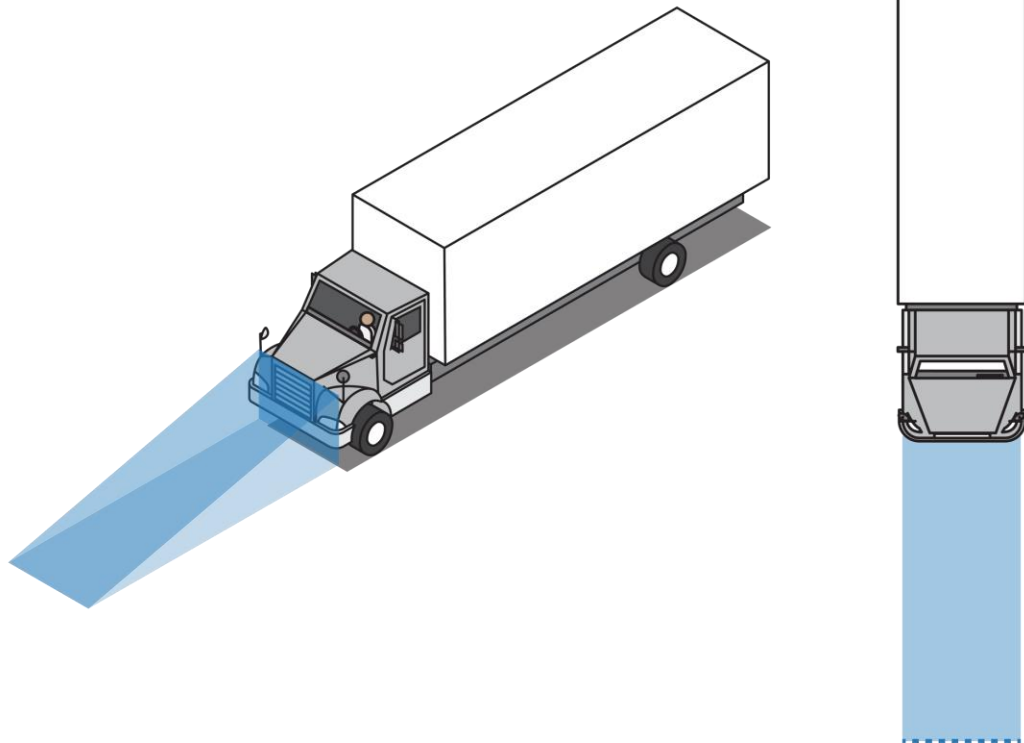
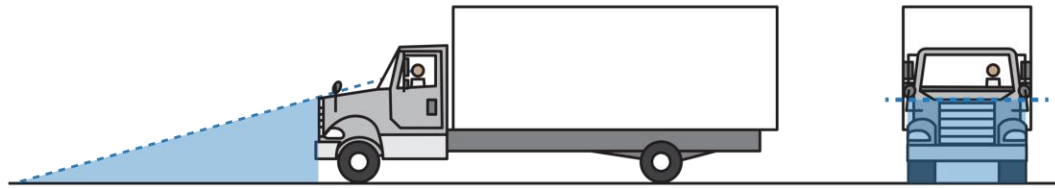


LPD around a toolbox

# Examples of Side Guards Installed on Trucks



# Crossover Mirrors



Crossover Mirrors help drivers **see in front** of the vehicle's hood. They are helpful in **preventing or mitigating "frontover" crashes.**

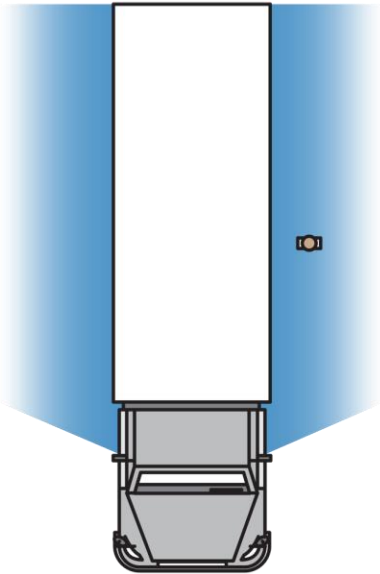
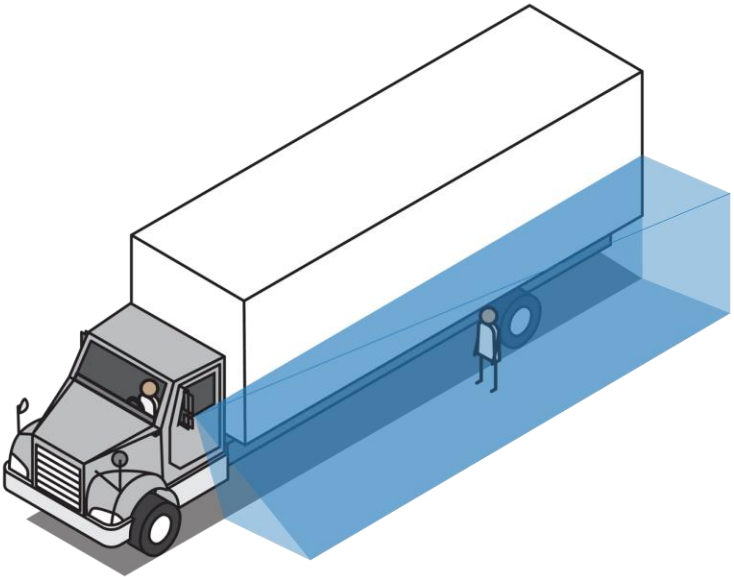
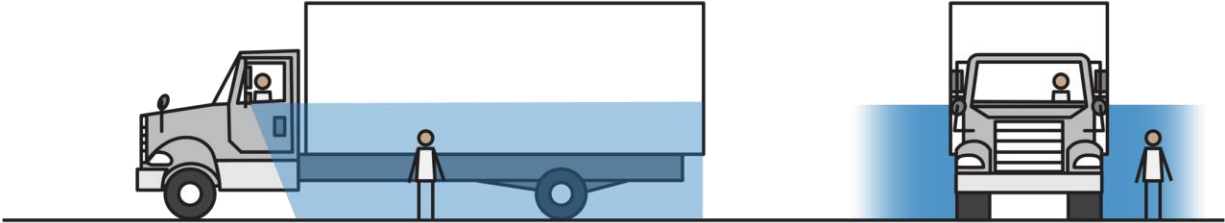
They are federally required on school buses (per FMVSS 111) but not required on other large vehicles.

Surround Cameras may be used as an alternative means of compliance.

# Examples of Crossover Mirrors Installed on Trucks



# Convex Mirrors

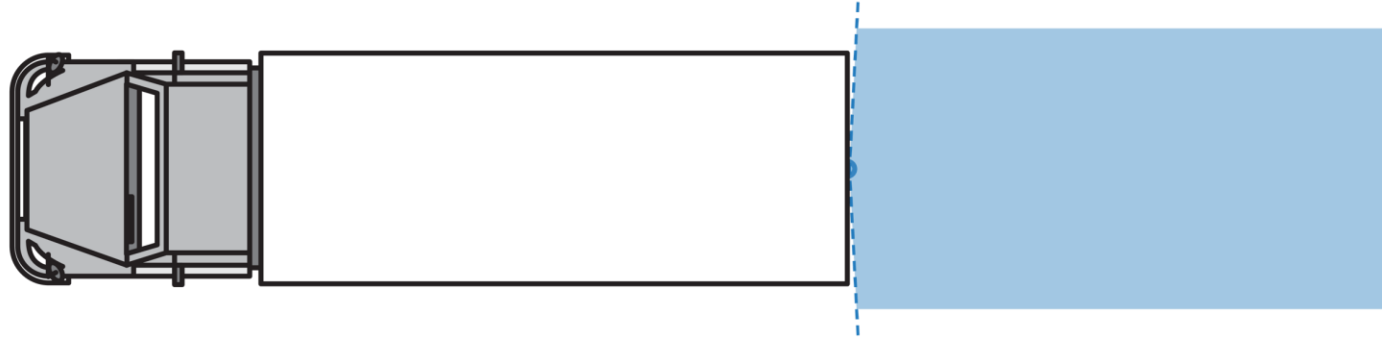


Convex Mirrors help drivers see down the length of the right and left sides of the vehicle. They are already common on many large trucks.

# Examples of Convex Mirrors Installed on Trucks



# Backup Cameras



Backup cameras help a driver see what is **immediately behind** them when the vehicle is traveling in reverse.

They have been federally required on Class 1 and Class 2 vehicles (per NHTSA) since 2018 but are not required on medium- or heavy-duty vehicles. They are becoming more common on newer truck models where workplace crashes are a concern.

# Examples of Backup Cameras Installed on Trucks





# New to us, but not new to the world

## Back-up Cameras

2018 – US requires them on all vehicles under 10,000lbs

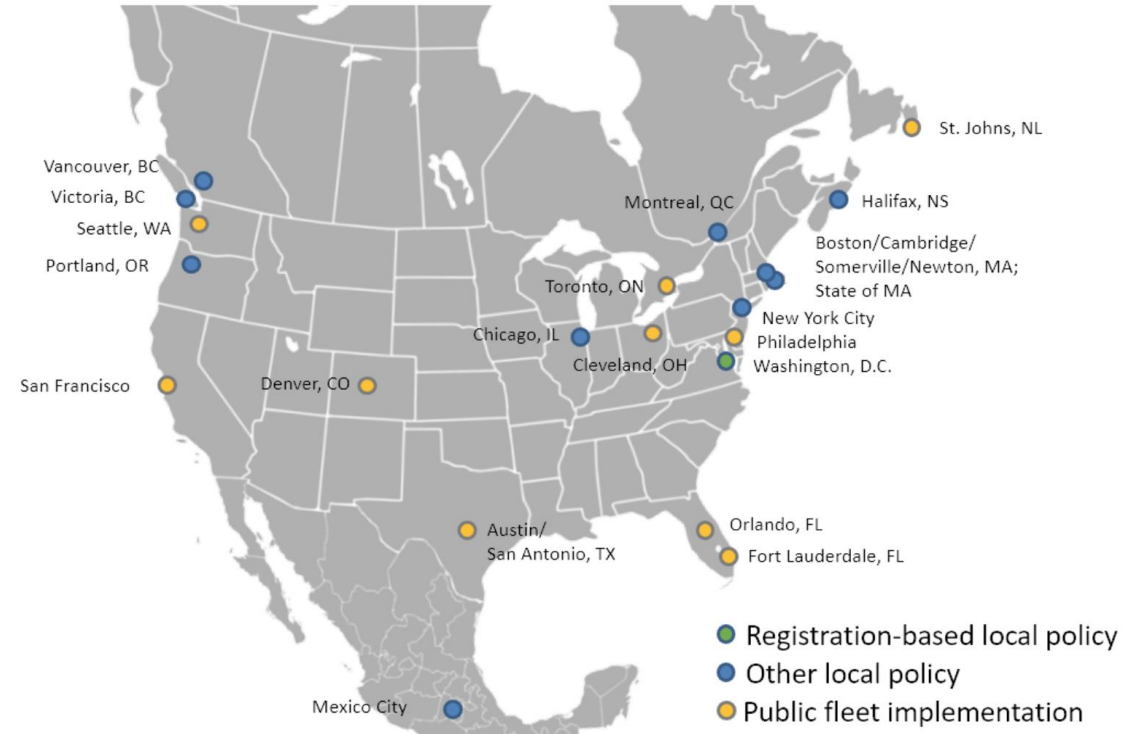
## Cross-over Mirrors

2012 – New York State requires on large trucks  
2016 – Boston, Cambridge require on contracts

## Adoption of Side Guards

1979 – Japan Mandates side guards  
1986 – UK mandates side guards  
1988 – 27 European nations, China, Brazil, Australia+  
2013 – Boston installs side guards  
2015 – Boston & NYC ordinances for contractors  
2016+ Somerville, Cambridge, Chicago, SF  
2017 – Washington DC [*all trucks registered 2019+*]

Truck Side Guard Adoption in North America



**Massachusetts is the first state to require this collection of safety devices**

# State Agency Roles and Responsibilities

**Submitter**

State Agencies that own or lease a heavy vehicle on or after 1/1/23 will be required to certify their vehicles via the Truck Safety Portal

**Reviewer**

State Agencies that contract with vendors utilizing heavy vehicles are required to review their contractors' submissions for completeness. 1/1/25

**Awareness**

Supporting outreach to contractors and updating contract language to reflect the Truck Safety Device requirements

**Enforcement**

Enforcing the law starting December 31, 2025 with tools in the regulation

# Truck Safety Devices Certification Portal

The RMV developed a ServiceNow application that allows for contractors to enter in vehicle information and upload photos of their compliant vehicles and State Agency staff to review and approve submissions for completeness.

The portal is still in final stages of testing, and state agencies will be onboarded to it in late-March

**Vehicles must be certified by December 31, 2025.**

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Truck Safety Device Certification" for vehicles over 10,000 lbs. The form includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Government Service > Truck Safety Devices > Truck Safety Device Certification. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area contains instructions on how to use the form and a list of required information. The form fields are as follows:

- Requester Details:**
  - Requester Name: Atticus Finch
  - Email Address: afinch@nomail.com
  - Phone Number: 5555555555
  - Business Name: Finch Construction
- Required information (on the right side):**
  - Registration Type
  - Vehicle Plate Number
  - Vehicle Photo
  - Convex Mirror Photo 1
  - Convex Mirror Photo 2
  - Crossover Mirrors
    - Number of Crossover Mirrors Photos to Upload
    - Crossover Mirror Photo 1
    - Crossover Mirror Photo 2
  - Side Guard - Operator Left
    - Number of Side Guard - Operator Left Photos to Upload
    - Side Guard - Operator Left Photo 1
    - Side Guard - Operator Left Photo 2
  - Side Guard - Operator Right
    - Number of Side Guard - Operator Right Photos to Upload
    - Side Guard - Operator Right Photo 1
    - Side Guard - Operator Right Photo 2

# Waivers & Enforcement

## Waivers

Waivers may be granted for a vehicle that cannot comply with the requirements due to the design, operation or other safety considerations relating to the vehicle by submitting it through the Truck Safety Portal for review by state agencies and the RMV. Waivers are per device, not for the entire vehicle.

## Enforcement

Starting **December 31, 2025**, a contracting Commonwealth agency that identifies non-compliance may enforce these regulations using the following remedies:

1. Any contractual remedies available pursuant to the agreement between the contractor and the contracting Commonwealth agency up to and including termination of the contract by the Commonwealth Agency; or
2. Statutory fines established in M.G.L. c. 90, § 7
  - Not more than \$500 dollars for the first offense; and
  - Not more than \$1000 for the second or subsequent offense.

# Upcoming and Ongoing Outreach

## Currently Underway

Webinars for State Agencies on the regulations

Website and email contact for questions

Testing of the Certification Portal with select contractors

## Spring 2025

Trainings for State Agencies on the Certification Portal (*scheduled for March*)

Email outreach by State Agencies to contractors and vendors

Updated contract language by State Agencies

Webinars for contractors, vendors, and subcontractors on the regulations and the Certification Portal

## Ongoing in 2025

Waiver and Alternative Means of Compliance guidance on website

Communication to contractors through OSD and other agencies

Trainings as needed for contractors on the Compliance Portal

# Common Questions...so far

- The law applies to all contracts (construction, food delivery, transportation, office supplies, etc.)
- The law applies to subcontractors and vendors
- Equipment costs are \$3,000-\$4,000 per vehicle, but vary based on configurations
- Agencies may enforce the law for non-compliant vehicles with **contractual remedies, termination of contract, or fines of \$500 for a first offense and \$1,000 for a second**
- Certifications are for the life of the vehicle (unless the owner modifies the devices)
- Visit [mass.gov/info-details/truck-safety-devices](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/truck-safety-devices) or email [safetrucks@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:safetrucks@dot.state.ma.us)
- **Vehicles may be eligible for a waiver** of one or all the devices if it meets strict criteria. Contractors will have the opportunity to apply for a waiver through the online portal

# Relevant Links

## Email questions to:

[safetrucks@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:safetrucks@dot.state.ma.us)

## Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90 Section 7

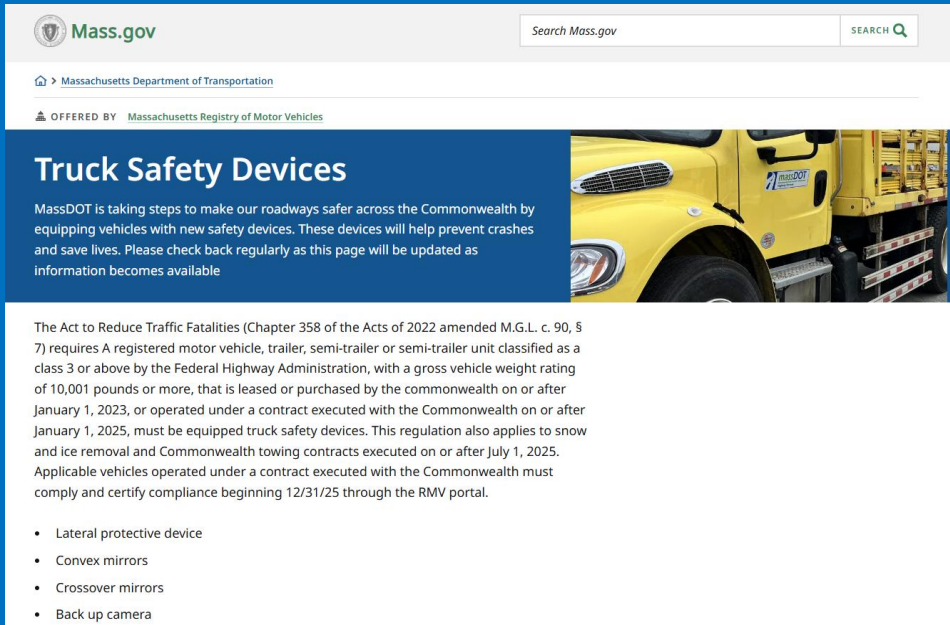
[www.mass.gov/info-details/mass-general-laws-c90-ss-7](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/mass-general-laws-c90-ss-7)

## 540 CMR 4.00: certification of special safety requirements

[mass.gov/doc/540-cmr-4-annual-safety-and-combined-safety-and-emissions-inspection-of-all-motor-vehicles-trailers-semi-trailers-and-converter-dollies-certification-of-special-safety-requirements/download](http://mass.gov/doc/540-cmr-4-annual-safety-and-combined-safety-and-emissions-inspection-of-all-motor-vehicles-trailers-semi-trailers-and-converter-dollies-certification-of-special-safety-requirements/download)

## USDOT Side Guard Best Practice Specification

<https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/55683>



The screenshot shows a web page from Mass.gov. The header includes the Mass.gov logo, a search bar, and the text 'Massachusetts Department of Transportation'. Below the header, it says 'OFFERED BY Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles'. The main heading is 'Truck Safety Devices'. A sub-heading reads: 'MassDOT is taking steps to make our roadways safer across the Commonwealth by equipping vehicles with new safety devices. These devices will help prevent crashes and save lives. Please check back regularly as this page will be updated as information becomes available.' To the right of this text is a photograph of a yellow truck. Below the text, there is a paragraph explaining the Act to Reduce Traffic Fatalities (Chapter 358 of the Acts of 2022 amended M.G.L. c. 90, § 7) which requires certain vehicles to be equipped with safety devices. A bulleted list follows:

- Lateral protective device
- Convex mirrors
- Crossover mirrors
- Back up camera

## Massachusetts Truck Safety Device site

[mass.gov/info-details/truck-safety-devices](http://mass.gov/info-details/truck-safety-devices)