

Automobile SAFETY FEATURES Timeline



1885 – Karl Benz invents the first automobile

1889 – First electric headlamp is introduced as option on Columbia electric car

1901 – First automobile speedometers introduced by Oldsmobile



1914 – First traffic signal is installed in Cleveland



1930 – Laminated safety glass becomes standard on Fords to limit windshield shattering



1934 – General Motors conducts first vehicle crash test in Milford, Mich.
– First driver's education program in U.S. is launched at a HS in State College, Penn.

1939 – Buick replaces hand signals with the introduction of electric turn signals
– Legislation defining drunk driving is passed for the first time



1951 – First crumple zone concept is patented by Mercedes Benz

1959 – Volvo introduces first modern three-point seatbelt that restrains lap and shoulder



1958
Electronic Cruise Control, originally named "Auto-Pilot," offered for first time in Chrysler Imperial



1966 – National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act is signed into law



1968 – U.S. law requires 2-point lap seatbelt in front seats of all new vehicle makes



1969 – Law requires all new vehicles in U.S. to include head restraints



1973 – General Motors introduces first commercially available air bags in Chevrolet Impala
– Law requires all new vehicles to offer 3-point seatbelt for driver/front passenger



1971
Chrysler Imperial is first to come standard with Anti-lock Braking System



1974 – U.S. introduces law requiring a belt-interlock system on all new vehicles; the law, which required belt to fasten before engine could start, later is repealed



1981 – Mercedes-Benz introduces the seatbelt pretensioner – the belt tightens in the event of intense braking or a collision



1985 – Law requires all new vehicles to include a third brake light at top and center
– Public service announcement debuts featuring crash test dummies "Vince and Larry"



1987
Electronic Stability Control invented by BMW, Bosch, Mercedes

1989 – Chrysler becomes first automaker in U.S. to include air bags standard in all vehicles

1991
General Motors introduces Tire Pressure Monitoring System in the U.S.



1990 – Law requires all new cars to come standard with passive restraints such as air bags and seatbelt pretensioners



1991 – Volvo introduces Side Impact Protection System on several of its models

1994 – Volvo improves Side Impact Protection System with addition of side-impact air bags



1992
Nissan puts in place the first production Forward Collision Warning System: Nissan Traffic Eye

1995
Mitsubishi Diamante introduces laser-based Adaptive Cruise Control



1996 – Air Bag and Seat Belt Safety Campaign is launched and includes the National Safety Council, vehicle manufacturers, insurance companies and traffic safety advocates



2001
Nissan Cima introduces Lane Departure Warning System



2005 – NHTSA publishes final rule requiring tire pressure monitoring systems in new vehicles



2001
Nissan introduces first optional Back-up Camera in its Infiniti series

2006
Automatic Emergency Braking introduced



2003 – Toyota Harrier comes with precrash mitigation system



2007
Volvo introduces Blind Spot Information System



2009
Volvo introduces Emergency Brake Assist



2007
Volvo introduces first Drowsiness Alert System: Driver Alert Control



2014 – NHTSA issues advance notice of proposed rulemaking for vehicle-to-vehicle communications
– Backup cameras will be mandatory in all new cars by 2018, NHTSA announces



2016 – NHTSA announces manufacturers of 99 percent of automobiles sold in U.S. agree to include automatic emergency braking systems as standard feature in new cars by 2022
– NHTSA publishes Federal Automated Vehicles Policy document



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