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NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: March 20, 1979

Forwarded to:

Honorable Joan Claybrook
Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration
Washington, D.C. 20590

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

H-79-12

The National Transportation Safety Board has completed a safety effectiveness evaluation of the "Passive Restraint Evaluation Program" within the NHTSA.^{1/} This evaluation was requested by the Senate Appropriations Committee and was performed under the specific authority of the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974.

The report will be printed and publicly distributed within the next few weeks. An advance copy of the report is enclosed for your information.

Based on this evaluation the Safety Board concludes that:

- (1) It is essential that the NHTSA evaluate the real world effectiveness of the passive restraint standard.
- (2) The NHTSA is committed to evaluating the passive restraint standard, but the current evaluation program is unorganized.
- (3) An evaluation program plan is required to effectively coordinate the evaluation activities and to address the complexities of this task.
- (4) The NHTSA has a contract study underway to develop an evaluation plan for the period up to the effective date of the standard, September 1, 1981. However, the study appears limited in scope to gross measures of effectiveness.
- (5) The NHTSA has no evaluation plan documented or under development to cover the period after September 1, 1981.

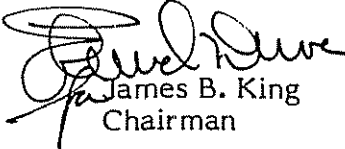
^{1/} "Safety Effectiveness Evaluation of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Passive Restraint Evaluation Program" (Report No. NTSB-SEE-79-3, adopted March 16, 1979).

- (6) The effectiveness of the evaluation program will be improved by providing for public comment on the proposed evaluation plan.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

Develop and publish a formal evaluation program plan to effectively manage the NHTSA evaluation activities related to the passive restraint standard (FMVSS 208 as amended July 5, 1977). As part of its development, the proposed program plan should be published for public comment by October 1, 1979. (Class II, Priority Action) (H-79-12)

KING, Chairman, DRIVER, Vice Chairman, McADAMS and HOGUE, Members, concurred in the above recommendation.



James B. King
Chairman