

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A roadmap under subsection (a) shall—

- (1) cover a term of 10 years, consisting of—
  - (A) a mid-term component covering the initial 5 years of the term; and
  - (B) a long-term component covering the final 5 years of the term; and
- (2) be in accordance with—
  - (A) section 306 of title 5;
  - (B) section 1115 of title 31;
  - (C) section 24401 of the FAST Act (49 U.S.C. 105 note; Public Law 114-94); and
  - (D) any other relevant plans of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

(c) CONTENTS.—A roadmap under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a plan for any changes to the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, including—

- (A) descriptions of actions to be carried out to update the passenger motor vehicle information developed under section 32302(a), including the development of test procedures, test devices, test fixtures, and safety performance metrics, which shall, as applicable, incorporate—
  - (i) objective criteria for evaluating safety technologies; and
  - (ii) reasonable time periods for compliance with new or updated tests;
- (B) key milestones, including the anticipated start of an action, completion of an action, and effective date of an update; and
- (C) descriptions of the means by which an update will improve the passenger motor vehicle information developed under section 32302(a);

(2) an identification and prioritization of safety opportunities and technologies—

- (A) with respect to the mid-term component of the roadmap under subsection (b)(1)(A)—
  - (i) that are practicable; and
  - (ii) for which objective rating tests, evaluation criteria, and other consumer data exist for a market-based, consumer information approach; and
- (B) with respect to the long-term component of the roadmap under subsection (b)(1)(B), exist or are in development;

(3) an identification of—

- (A) any safety opportunity or technology that—
  - (i) is identified through the activities carried out pursuant to subsection (d) or (e); and
  - (ii) is not included in the roadmap under paragraph (2);
- (B) the reasons why such a safety opportunity or technology is not included in the roadmap; and
- (C) any developments or information that would be necessary for the Secretary to consider including such a safety opportunity or technology in a future roadmap; and

(4) consideration of the benefits of consistency with other rating systems used—

- (A) within the United States; and
- (B) internationally.

(d) CONSIDERATIONS.—Before finalizing a roadmap under this section, the Secretary shall—

- (1) make the roadmap available for public comment;
- (2) review any public comments received under paragraph (1); and
- (3) incorporate in the roadmap under this section those comments, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(e) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall engage stakeholders that represent a diversity of technical backgrounds and viewpoints—

- (1) to identify—
  - (A) safety opportunities or technologies in development that could be included in future roadmaps; and
  - (B) opportunities to benefit from collaboration or harmonization with third-party safety rating programs;
- (2) to assist with long-term planning;
- (3) to provide an interim update of the status and development of the following roadmap to be established under subsection (a); and
- (4) to collect feedback or other information that the Secretary determines to be relevant to enhancing the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

(Added Pub. L. 117-58, div. B, title IV, §24213(c)(1), Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 827.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (a), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 117-58, which was approved Nov. 15, 2021.

**CHAPTER 325—BUMPER STANDARDS**

Sec.	
32501.	Purpose.
32502.	Bumper standards.
32503.	Judicial review of bumper standards.
32504.	Certificates of compliance.
32505.	Information and compliance requirements.
32506.	Prohibited acts.
32507.	Penalties and enforcement.
32508.	Civil actions by owners of passenger motor vehicles.
32509.	Information and assistance from other departments, agencies, and instrumentalities.
[32510.	Repealed.]
32511.	Relationship to other motor vehicle standards.

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-362, title XV, §1501(e)(2), Nov. 10, 1998, 112 Stat. 3295, struck out item 32510 “Annual report”.

**§ 32501. Purpose**

The purpose of this chapter is to reduce economic loss resulting from damage to passenger motor vehicles involved in motor vehicle accidents by providing for the maintenance and enforcement of bumper standards.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1042.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32501 .....	15:1911.	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §101, 86 Stat. 948.

The words “The Congress finds that it is necessary” are omitted as surplus. The word “maintenance” is substituted for “promulgation” for clarity.

**§ 32502. Bumper standards**

(a) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND NONAPPLICATION.—The Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe by regulation bumper standards for passenger motor vehicles and may prescribe by regulation bumper standards for passenger motor vehicle equipment manufactured in, or imported into, the United States. A standard does not apply to a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment—

- (1) intended only for export;
- (2) labeled for export on the vehicle or equipment and the outside of any container of the vehicle or equipment; and
- (3) exported.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—A standard under this section—

- (1) may not conflict with a motor vehicle safety standard prescribed under chapter 301 of this title;
- (2) may not specify a dollar amount for the cost of repairing damage to a passenger motor vehicle; and
- (3) to the greatest practicable extent, may not preclude the attachment of a detachable hitch.

(c) EXEMPTIONS.—For good cause, the Secretary may exempt from all or any part of a standard—

- (1) a multipurpose passenger vehicle;
- (2) a make, model, or class of a passenger motor vehicle manufactured for a special use, if the standard would interfere unreasonably with the special use of the vehicle; or
- (3) a passenger motor vehicle for which an application for an exemption under section 30013(b)<sup>1</sup> of this title has been filed in accordance with the requirements of that section.

(d) COST REDUCTION AND CONSIDERATIONS.—When prescribing a standard under this section, the Secretary shall design the standard to obtain the maximum feasible reduction of costs to the public, considering—

- (1) the costs and benefits of carrying out the standard;
- (2) the effect of the standard on insurance costs and legal fees and costs;
- (3) savings in consumer time and inconvenience; and
- (4) health and safety, including emission standards.

(e) PROCEDURES.—Section 553 of title 5 applies to a standard prescribed under this section. However, the Secretary shall give an interested

person an opportunity to make oral and written presentations of information, views, and arguments. A transcript of each oral presentation shall be kept. Under conditions prescribed by the Secretary, the Secretary may conduct a hearing to resolve an issue of fact material to a standard.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary shall prescribe an effective date for a standard under this section. That date may not be earlier than the date the standard is prescribed nor later than 18 months after the date the standard is prescribed. However, the Secretary may prescribe a later date when the Secretary submits to Congress and publishes the reasons for the later date. A standard only applies to a passenger motor vehicle or passenger motor vehicle equipment manufactured on or after the effective date.

(g) RESEARCH.—The Secretary shall conduct research necessary to carry out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1042; Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(g) [title III, §351(b)(1)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-439, 2681-476.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
32502(a) .....	15:1912(a).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §§102, 104(d), 86 Stat. 949.
32502(b)(1) ..	15:1912(b)(2).	Oct. 20, 1972, Pub. L. 92-513, §2(6) (words after semicolon), 86 Stat. 948; Dec. 22, 1975, Pub. L. 94-163, §301, 89 Stat. 901; Oct. 10, 1980, Pub. L. 96-425, §8(a)(2), 94 Stat. 1828; Oct. 25, 1984, Pub. L. 98-547, §101(b), 98 Stat. 2767.
32502(b)(2) ..	15:1901(6) (words after semicolon).	
32502(b)(3) ..	15:1912(c)(2).	
32502(c) .....	15:1912(c)(1).	
32502(d) .....	15:1912(b)(1).	
32502(e) .....	15:1912(e).	
32502(f) .....	15:1912(d).	
32502(g) .....	15:1914(d).	

In subsection (a), before clause (1), the words “Subject to subsections (b) through (e) of this section” are omitted as surplus. The words “shall prescribe by regulation” are substituted for “by rule . . . shall promulgate” for clarity. The words “may prescribe by regulation” are substituted for “by rule . . . may promulgate” for consistency.

In subsection (c), before clause (1), the words “In promulgating any bumper standard under this subchapter” are omitted as surplus. The words “from any part of a standard” are substituted for “partially or completely” for clarity and consistency.

In subsection (d), before clause (1), the words “to the public” are substituted for “to the public and to the consumer” because they are inclusive. In clause (2), the word “prospective” is omitted as surplus.

In subsection (e), the words “Section 553 of title 5 applies to a standard prescribed under this section” are substituted for “All rules establishing, amending, or revoking a bumper standard under this subchapter shall be issued pursuant to section 553 of title 5”, the words “opportunity to make oral and written presentations of information, views, and arguments” are substituted for “opportunity for oral presentation of data, views, or arguments, and the opportunity to make written submissions”, the words “Under conditions prescribed by the Secretary” are substituted for “in accordance with such conditions or limitations as he may make applicable thereto”, and the words “material to a standard” are substituted for “material to the establishing, amending, or revoking of a bumper standard”, to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (f), the words “However, the Secretary may prescribe a later date when the Secretary sub-

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be section “30113(b)”.