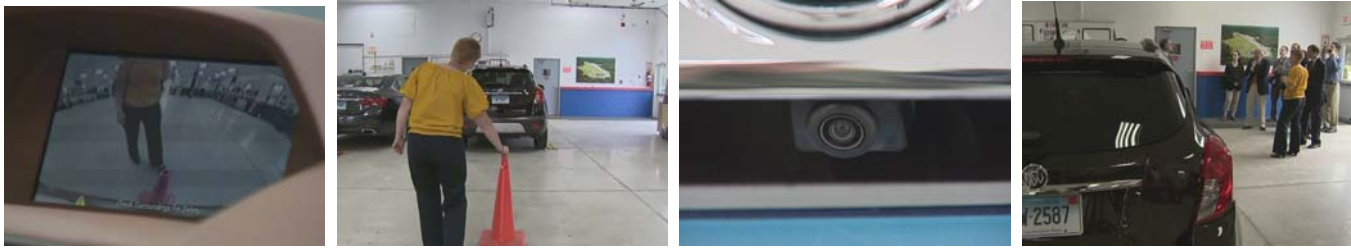


Push for back up safety device on new cars

By: Mark Davis Published: Monday, August 26, 2013, 6:33 PM EDT



Senator Dick Blumenthal is accusing federal regulators of foot dragging on an important new safety device for all new vehicles.

COLCHESTER, Conn. (WTNH)-- Senator Dick Blumenthal is accusing federal regulators of foot dragging on an important new safety device for all new vehicles. Rear vision devices are available on about half of the new models but a law says they should be on all.

Over 200 people, mostly children, are killed each year, and between 12,000 and 14,000 are injured in motor vehicle back up accidents.

For more than twenty years 'Consumer Reports' has been testing new cars at their testing grounds in Colchester. There is a test of electronic stability control required on all new models starting last year.

There's something else that's supposed to be on all models to make it safer when you're backing up, but Monday, Senator Dick Blumenthal and Consumer reports accused the federal government of foot dragging on getting it started.

"We use this 28 inch cone, it's about the size of a toddler who might be walking behind the vehicle," said Jennifer Stockburger, Consumer Reports. "You just see the top of it at that much distance."

It's a distance of about seventeen feet. In a vehicle equipped with a rear vision camera, you can see it right away and that's why a law has been passed requiring rear view visibility devices on all new cars, but it has not gone into effect.

"It's been stalled in the regulatory bureaucracy for a year and two-thirds, well beyond the statutory deadline for it to be released," said Blumenthal.

Blumenthal is also pushing a proposal to forbid rental car companies from selling cars that have unrepairable factory recall problems.

Car dealers must take care of factory recalls before they sell you a car but the car rental companies are not required to do so.

And they sell thousands of cars every year.

<http://www.wtnh.com/web/wtnh/news/politics/push-for-back-up-safety-device-on-new-cars#.UhytHN-t5AQ.email>