

Federal regulators push to require rearview cameras in cars by 2014

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The dashboard of the Honda Crosstour features a rearview camera and monitor that are used when the car is backing up. The function may be required in new cars by 2014. (Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times)

By 2014, every new passenger car on the road will have a rearview camera, if federal regulators have their way.

The final draft of the rule, which the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) is expected to send to Congress on Wednesday, would require automakers to install the backup function.

And it's not just to prevent curb-hopping and love-tapping. Each year, 228 people die after being struck by passenger vehicles going in reverse – including about two children a week, according to the New York Times.

Accidents caused by drivers backing up also injure 17,000 people annually.

The mandate to build in cameras and viewing screens – first proposed in 2010 – could cost automakers between \$160 and \$200 for each car, or as much as \$2.7 billion total each year.

The camera is currently standard on fewer than half of model-year 2012 vehicles.

Automakers unveiled an assortment of [other preventative safety features](#) at the L.A. Auto Show in November. Infiniti showed off its backup collision intervention technology, which not only beeps when its sensors detect potential obstacles but also automatically brakes to avoid a crash.

A similar function from Ford offers blind-spot warnings. Cadillac has a virtual bumper feature that stops the car before it hits anything.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/money/la-fi-mo-rear-view-cameras-20120228,0,6544470.story>