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Ford Mustang Mach-E performs well in updated side test

ARLINGTON, Va. — The 2022 Ford Mustang Mach-E, an electric-powered midsize SUV, earns a good rating in the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety’s new, tougher side crash test.

The updated test is similar to the original evaluation but uses a heavier barrier traveling at a higher speed to simulate the striking vehicle. The new barrier weighs 4,200 pounds — close to the weight of today’s midsize SUVs — and strikes the test vehicle at 37 mph, compared with a 3,300-pound barrier traveling at 31 mph in the original evaluation.

For now, a good rating in the original test is enough to qualify for either of the Institute’s awards. However, starting in 2023, a good or acceptable rating in the updated test will be required for the lower-tier TOP SAFETY PICK award, and a good rating will be needed for the higher-tier TOP SAFETY PICK+.

The Mustang Mach-E earns good ratings for head protection for both the driver and rear passenger. Measurements taken from the dummies show a low risk of injury to most body regions. Only the driver’s torso registered a somewhat elevated risk of injury.

For structural performance, the SUV was downgraded from good to acceptable because the left rear door partially opened during the crash. This did not have a significant effect on the movement of the dummy or how much the passenger compartment was crushed by the impact. However, a door that opens in a crash could allow an occupant, especially an unbelted one, to be partially or completely ejected.

Ten of 18 midsize SUVs that IIHS evaluated earlier this year also earn good ratings in the updated test.

For more information, go to iihs.org

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) is an independent, nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to reducing deaths, injuries and property damage from motor vehicle crashes through research and evaluation and through education of consumers, policymakers and safety professionals. IIHS is wholly supported by auto insurers.