
EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01 A.M. ET, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022

November 17, 2022

Contact: Joe Young +1 434 985 9244 (office) or +1 504 641 0491 (cell)

B-roll: Thur. 11/17/2022, 10:30-11 a.m. ET (KU) GALAXY 17

SD transponder 14/slot 3 (dl11977V) bandwidth 6 MHz; symbol rate 3.9787 FEC $\frac{3}{4}$

HD transponder 14/upper (dl11989V) bandwidth 18 MHz; symbol rate 13.235 FEC $\frac{3}{4}$

Thur. 11/17/2022, 1:30-2 p.m. ET (KU) GALAXY 17

SD transponder 12/slot 4 (dl11943V) bandwidth 6 MHz; symbol rate 3.9787 FEC $\frac{3}{4}$

HD transponder 12/lower (dl11931V) bandwidth 18 MHz; symbol rate 13.235 FEC $\frac{3}{4}$

Most small pickups earn passing grades in new side test

ARLINGTON, Va. — Five out of six small pickups tested earn good or acceptable ratings in the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's updated side crash test.

The Chevrolet Colorado crew cab, GMC Canyon crew cab and Honda Ridgeline crew cab earn good ratings, while the Nissan Frontier crew cab and Ford Ranger crew cab are rated acceptable. The Toyota Tacoma crew cab is rated marginal.

"Overall, this was a solid performance from these vehicles," said IIHS Senior Research Engineer Becky Mueller, whose work formed the foundation for the new evaluation. "Their high ride height means that the barrier we use to represent a striking vehicle hits the strong door sill structures directly. This likely prevented excessive intrusion into the occupant compartment, except in the case of the Tacoma."

The structure and safety cages of the good-rated Colorado, Canyon and Ridgeline held up relatively well, contributing to a minimal risk of most injuries. However, injury measures taken from the dummies indicated a possibility of a pelvic fracture for the driver of the Colorado, the Canyon and especially the Ridgeline.

The Frontier's structure held up the best out of all six vehicles, and the Ranger's occupant compartment was also maintained relatively well, minimizing the risk of most injuries. However, the rear passenger dummies' heads struck the C-pillar through the side curtain airbag in both acceptable-rated vehicles.

Though measurements indicated minimal risk of most injuries for the marginal-rated Tacoma, its structure and safety cage were not maintained well during the crash. The impact from the striking barrier crumpled the door sill and B-pillar, pushing the B-pillar to within a few inches of the center of the driver seat.

"That alone pushed the overall rating down to marginal," Mueller said. "We weight structural performance very heavily because it is tied so closely with survivability."

IIHS developed the updated side crash test after research showed that many of the real-world side impacts that still account for nearly a quarter of passenger vehicle occupant fatalities are more severe than the original evaluation.

The updated side crash test 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, the updated test is not included in the IIHS award criteria. However, starting in 2023, a good or acceptable rating 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+*.

All six vehicles earn good ratings in the original side test.

Ratings in updated side test: small pickups

	OVERALL SIDE RATING	Driver injury measures					Rear passenger injury measures				
		Structure & safety cage	Head & neck	Torso	Pelvis	Driver head protection	Head & neck	Torso	Pelvis	Rear passenger head protection	
2022 Chevrolet Colorado crew cab	G	A	G	G	A	G	G	G	G	G	
2022 GMC Canyon crew cab	G	A	G	G	A	G	G	G	G	G	
2022 Honda Ridgeline crew cab	G	A	G	G	M	G	G	G	G	G	
2022 Nissan Frontier crew cab	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	M	
2022 Ford Ranger crew cab	A	A	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	M	
2022 Toyota Tacoma crew cab	M	P	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	

G Good **A** Acceptable **M** Marginal **P** Poor

For more information, go to [iihs.org](https://www.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.