

NEWS RELEASE

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety



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Nine additional models qualify for IIHS awards

ARLINGTON, Va. — Nine additional 2025 and 2026 models qualify for awards in the latest batch of vehicle ratings from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The *TOP SAFETY PICK+* winners include the Audi All-new A5, Audi Q6 Sportback e-tron, BMW X3, Ford Explorer, Hyundai Ioniq 9 and Kia Sportage. For the X3, Sportage and Explorer, the award applies only to vehicles built after certain dates, as indicated in the table below.

The Hyundai Santa Cruz, Nissan Rogue and Toyota Corolla Cross earn the lower-tier *TOP SAFETY PICK* award.

New ratings are also available for the Audi Q4 e-tron, Audi Q4 Sportback e-tron, Kia EV6, Mitsubishi Outlander, Toyota 4Runner and Toyota Grand Highlander.

To qualify for either award this year, vehicles need good ratings in the small overlap front and side tests, an acceptable or good rating in the pedestrian front crash prevention evaluation and acceptable- or good-rated headlights across all trim levels.

An acceptable rating in the moderate overlap front test is enough to qualify for *TOP SAFETY PICK*, but a good rating is required for the “plus.”

Most of the new award winners earn good ratings for pedestrian crash avoidance. The exception is the Santa Cruz, which is rated acceptable.

The X3 and Explorer qualify for awards thanks to improved headlight ratings following manufacturer modifications, while improved results in the side crash test boost the Corolla Cross and Rogue to award status.

Subpar performance in the moderate overlap test eliminated the Q4 e-tron, Q4 Sportback e-tron, EV6 and 4Runner from consideration. The 4Runner also misses the headlight requirement because it is available with poor-rated lights on some trims. An acceptable rating in the small overlap front test disqualified the Grand Highlander.


The Q4 e-tron and Q4 Sportback e-tron earn poor ratings in the moderate overlap test because measurements taken from the rear dummy indicated a strong likelihood of chest injuries and the rear dummy’s lap belt moved from the ideal position on the pelvis onto the abdomen, which increases the risk of abdominal injuries.


The EV6 and 4Runner earn marginal ratings in the test. In both vehicles, the rear lap belts moved from the dummy’s pelvis to the abdomen. In addition, the shoulder belt in the EV6 moved too far upward toward the dummy’s neck.

The Grand Highlander fell short in the small overlap test because the structure around the passenger compartment allowed too much intrusion for a good rating, although the dummy metrics did not indicate an increased risk of injury to the driver or front seat passenger.

Three current IIHS evaluations, vehicle-to-vehicle front crash prevention 2.0, seat belt reminders and LATCH ease of use, are not part of the award criteria but are included in the table below. Consumers may wish to factor them into their purchase decisions.

COMPLETE RATINGS FOR 15 RECENTLY TESTED VEHICLES

	Small overlap front	Moderate overlap front	Side	Headlights	Front crash prevention: pedestrian	Front crash prevention: vehicle-to-vehicle 2.0	Seat belt reminders	LATCH ease of use
2025 TOP SAFETY PICK+ 2025 Audi All-new A5 Midsize luxury car	G	G	G	G	G STANDARD SYSTEM	G STANDARD SYSTEM	M	G
2025 TOP SAFETY PICK+ 2025 Audi Q6 Sportback e-tron Midsize luxury SUV 	G	G	G	G	G STANDARD SYSTEM	G STANDARD SYSTEM	NOT RATED	NOT RATED
2025 TOP SAFETY PICK+ 2025-26 BMW X3 Midsize luxury SUV Built after April 2025	G	G	G	A	G STANDARD SYSTEM	G STANDARD SYSTEM	M	NOT RATED
2025 TOP SAFETY PICK+ 2025-26 Ford Explorer Midsize SUV Built after June 2025	G	G	G	G	G STANDARD SYSTEM	NOT RATED	NOT RATED	A
2025 TOP SAFETY PICK+ 2026 Hyundai Ioniq 9 Midsize SUV 	G	G	G	G	G STANDARD SYSTEM	G STANDARD SYSTEM	NOT RATED	G
2025 TOP SAFETY PICK+ 2026 Kia Sportage Small SUV Built after May 2025	G	G	G	G A	G STANDARD SYSTEM	G STANDARD SYSTEM	G	A
2025 TOP SAFETY PICK 2026 Hyundai Santa Cruz Small pickup	G	A	G	G	A STANDARD SYSTEM	M STANDARD SYSTEM	A	A
2025 TOP SAFETY PICK 2026 Nissan Rogue Small SUV	G	A	G	G	G STANDARD SYSTEM	A STANDARD SYSTEM	G	G+
2025 TOP SAFETY PICK 2025-26 Toyota Corolla Cross Small SUV	G	A	G	G A	G STANDARD SYSTEM	NOT RATED	G	G+

	Small overlap front	Moderate overlap front	Side	Headlights	Front crash prevention: pedestrian	Front crash prevention: vehicle-to-vehicle 2.0	Seat belt reminders	LATCH ease of use
2025-26 Audi Q4 e-tron Midsize luxury SUV 	G	P	G	G A	A STANDARD SYSTEM	NOT RATED	A	NOT RATED
2025-26 Audi Q4 Sportback e-tron Midsize luxury SUV 	G	P	G	G A	A STANDARD SYSTEM	NOT RATED	NOT RATED	NOT RATED
2025-26 Kia EV6 Small SUV 	G	M	G	A	G STANDARD SYSTEM	A STANDARD SYSTEM	G	A
2025 Mitsubishi Outlander Midsize SUV	G	M	G	G	G STANDARD SYSTEM	NOT RATED	NOT RATED	G
2025 Toyota 4Runner Midsize SUV	NOT RATED	M	G	A P	G STANDARD SYSTEM	G STANDARD SYSTEM	G	G+
2025-26 Toyota Grand Highlander Midsize SUV	A	G	G	A	G STANDARD SYSTEM	G STANDARD SYSTEM	G	G

Note: Small overlap front and moderate overlap front ratings should be compared only among vehicles of similar weight. The other ratings listed here can be compared across vehicle categories.

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.