TRUCK SIDE GUARD ORDINANCE

Summary

As the first of its kind in the nation, the Truck Side Guard ordinance championed by Mayor Walsh applies to motor vehicles weighing over 10,000 lbs. and semi-trailers with a total weight exceeding 26,000 lbs. The ordinance requires City agencies to contract only with vendors that have properly installed the following: **side guards, convex mirrors, cross-over mirrors, and blind-spot awareness decals**. These features are intended to reduce the risk of unprotected road users from falling under the sides of vehicles and getting caught under the rear wheels. The ordinance does not apply to several types of large vehicles, such as agricultural trailers, fire engines, and trucks used exclusively for snow removal.

Costs, Application

Studies by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation have determined the cost of sideguards to be an average of $847. *They are typically installed as a bolt-on addition and can be fixed or hinged. Mercedes and Volvo have produced side guard models.

*In the City of Boston pilot, each truck was outfitted for $1,200.

Requirements

LATERAL PROTECTION (Side Guards)

- ☐ Device must not increase the width of the vehicle.
- ☐ Device is rigid and securely mounted.

CONVEX MIRRORS

- ☐ Objects can be seen down the full length of the vehicle.
- ☐ Objects can be seen 3' above the ground.

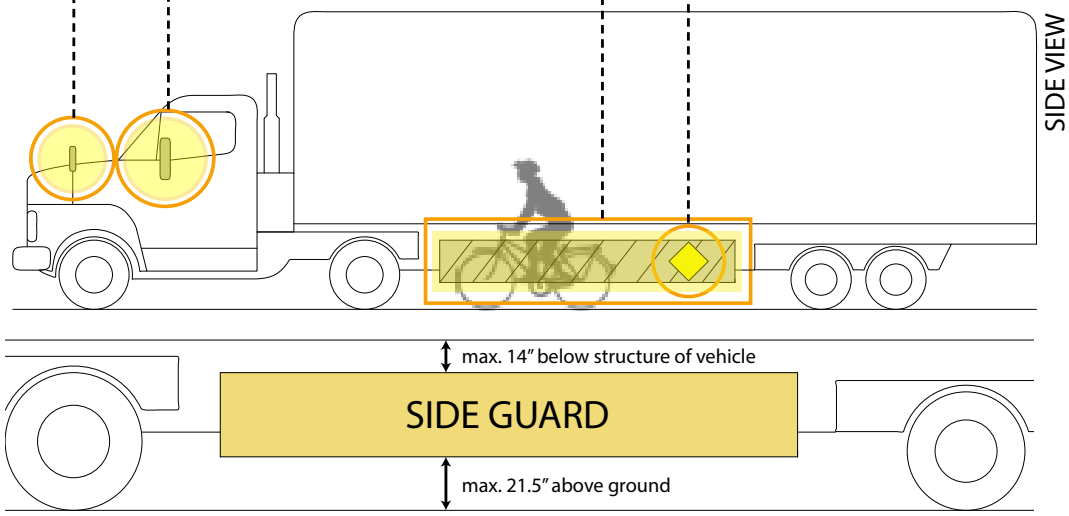
CROSS-OVER MIRRORS

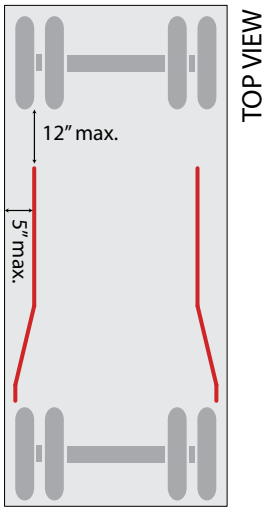
- ☐ Objects can be seen 3' above the ground, from the bumper to where direct vision is possible.

SAFETY DECALS

- ☐ "Safety yellow" in color or bright.
- ☐ Minimum of 3 located in vehicle blind spots on side and the rear.

Vehicles designed in a manner that protects against lateral accidents, by virtue of their shape and characteristics, may satisfy the above requirements.





Dimension Requirements for Side Guards

- Lowest edge of is maximum 21.5" above the ground.
- Upper edge is maximum 14" below structure of vehicle.
- Not over 5" inboard of maximum width of vehicle.
- Not over 12" from outer part of front and rear tire.

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Types of Side Guards

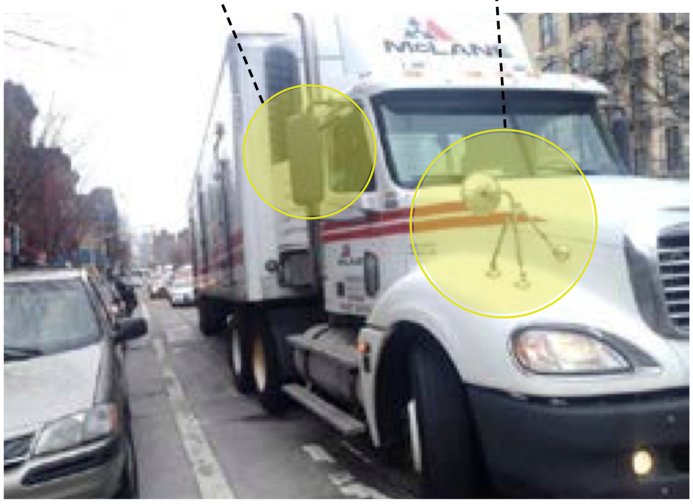
SAMPLE OF GUARDS FROM BOSTON'S PILOT

Other Components

Safety decals

Convex mirrors

Cross-over mirrors to eliminate driver's front blind spot



Common Questions

What types of vehicles does this ordinance apply to? **This ordinance applies to large vehicles (over 10,000lbs) and semi-trailers used by City of Boston vendors within the City of Boston**

Do I need an inspection before I start work on a contract? **Yes**

When does the ordinance go into effect? **All contracts starting on or after May 5, 2015 must comply**

Can tool boxes work as guards? **Yes, but the tool box must meet all the required measurements in the ordinance**

Do subcontractors with trucks ***regularly working*** *on a job need to be inspected and permitted?* **Yes**

If I typically rent trucks for a job, do those need to be inspected and permitted? **Yes**

Will the City do an off-site inspection for larger fleets? **Yes, depending upon availability of inspectors and distance. Call the number below for more information.**

Register for an Inspection

The Inspectional Services Department is located at 1010 Massachusetts Ave.

T: **617.635.5300**
E: **ISD@cityofboston.gov**

To register for an inspection, visit:
cityofboston.gov/isd/weightsandmeasures/sideguards/application/inspectionrequest.aspx

For more information, visit:
cityofboston.gov/isd/