



# Speed Limiters Fact Sheet

The National Roadway Safety Strategy identified speed as a **significant** factor in fatal crashes and speed management as a primary tool to reduce serious injuries and fatalities.<sup>1</sup>

## Lives Lost

According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), 10,440 people were killed from 2004 to 2013 in crashes where the speed of the CMV likely contributed to the severity of the crash.<sup>2</sup>

Over **1,000 lives** are lost annually to speeding CMVs.

A study conducted by the United States Department of Transportation concluded that trucks using speed limiters were in **half** as many high-speed collisions as those not using speed limiters.<sup>3</sup>

## Lives Saved, Injuries Prevented

Previous CRS reports have estimated that 63 to 214 lives would be saved annually with an additional 70-236 serious injuries prevented.<sup>4</sup>

## Crashes Involving Speed

Fatal large truck crashes involving speeding increased 50 percent between 2009 and 2019.

Approximately 20% of fatal crashes occur in areas with posted speed limits between 70-85 mph.<sup>5</sup>

Speed limiters are on NTSB's **Most Wanted List**<sup>6</sup>



# "The rule will help reduce crashes and save lives on our nation's roadways."

-FMCSA<sup>7</sup>

## USA Is Behind

Speed limiters have been standard on all CMVs in the European Union since 2002. **The US is the only leading country without such a rule.**

An Ontario Ministry of Transportation study found that speed-related, at-fault collisions involving large commercial vehicles **fell by 73%** after the speed limiter requirement went into effect.<sup>8</sup>

**73%** 

The same study ALSO found there is “absolutely no evidence” speed limiters contributed to an increase to inadvertent crashes w/passenger vehicles due to differences in speed.

## Requiring the use of speed limiters in CMVs WILL save lives.

Rule-making requiring the use of speed limiters in CMVs has been delayed over **TWENTY TIMES** in the past **TEN YEARS.**

**2011**

A grant of petition for rule-making for heavy trucks (Class 7/8) was first issued.

**2016**

Formally proposed by the Obama Administration & a Notice of Proposed Rule-making Issued.

**2022**

FMCSA issues a Supplementary Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SNPRM); effectively restarting the 2016 rulemaking effort.

- **High-speed crashes are more likely to be fatal because the impact of a crash is even more forceful, and the braking distance required to safely avoid or mitigate a crash is increased.**
- **FMCSA must expeditiously complete rulemaking to require compel the use of speed limiters installed on Commercial Motor Vehicles.**

## References

- 1 National Roadway Safety Strategy Version 1.1, U.S. Department of Transportation, January, 2022, <<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-02/USDOT-National-Roadway-Safety-Strategy.pdf>>
- 2 Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Federal motor Carrier Safety Regulations; Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Speed Limiting Devices, NPRM, NHTSA AND FMCSA, 81 FR 61942, Sep. 7, 2016. (SL 2016 NPRM).
3. Jeffrey S. Hickman, Feng Guo, Richard J. Hanowski, Richard Bishop, Gene Bergoffen & Dan Murray (2012) Safety Benefits of Speed Limiters in Commercial Motor Vehicles Using Carrier-Collected Crash Data, Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems, 16:4, 177-183, DOI: 10.1080/15472450.2012.704340
- 4 Peterman, David. R. (2017). Commercial Truck Safety: Overview (CRS Report No. R44792). Retrieved from Congressional Research Service website: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44792>
- 5 FMCSA Speed Limiters Notice of Intent, April 2022 <<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/speed-limiters>>
- 6 National Transportation Safety Board, 2019-20 Most Wanted list, available at: <https://www.nts.gov/safety/mwl/Pages/default.aspx>
- 7 FMCSA Speed Limiters Notice of Intent, April 2022 <<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/speed-limiters>>
- 8 Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Evaluation of Ontario's Speed Limiter Program for Large Trucks, 2018. <<https://img.overdriveonline.com/files/base/randallreilly/all/migrated-files/ovd/2019/07/Ontario-Transport-Ministry-Report-on-Speed-Limiters-effectiveness-2019-07-02-15-15.pdf>>