

Proposal of mandatory installation of SBR on the backseat of passenger vehicles (Regulation No. 16 Safety-belts)

I. Proposal

Republic of Korea proposes that the mandatory installation of the Safety-belt Reminder be extended to the backseat.

II. Background

- Recently, the Korean government has made it mandatory for passengers to wear seatbelts in the backseat when driving on the expressways and automobile-only lanes, and has intensified its inspection on it, but it still poses challenges and is expected to take considerable time before having meaningful changes in terms of back-seatbelt wearing rate.
- In view of this current situation, the Korean government is now pushing forward with giving additional score for the New Car Assessment Program to those vehicles equipped with Seatbelt Reminder and, in relation to that, Korea has added the front seat to its evaluation items from 2013 for the New Car Assessment Program, and from 2015, it will include the backseat as well.

III. Justification

- In the case of vehicle crash, whether a passenger fastens a seatbelt or not is a crucial determinant of how seriously the passenger is injured.
- It was found that the fatality and serious injury rates surged by more than nine times when seat belts were not worn by passengers on the backseat in collision tests conducted by KATRI in 2010.

Title	Injury area		Fatality and injury possibility		
			Worn(%)	Not worn(%)	Times (Worn/not worn)
Backseat of the driver (Adult)		Death	1.0	9.2	9.2 Times
		Serious injury(AIS4)	10.8	99.9	
		Femoral hip	Non-fracture	Fracture	-

* Source: KATRI collision test (2010)

- Not wearing a seatbelt in the backseat puts the passenger in the frontseat in peril as well.
- The seat belt wearing rate in Korea stands at about 84% for front seats, but the rate is 19% for backseats, which is significantly low given that European and North American countries have much higher rates.

Seat belt wearing rates by countries

Country	Front seat	Back seat
Korea	84%	19%
Germany	97%	97%
France	99%	84%
UK	95%	89%
US	87%	74%
Japan	98%	61%

* Source: OECD-IRTARD 2014 annual report

- In countries with advanced transport system such as European nations and the United States the seatbelt wearing rate for the backseats is still high even without the SBR for the backseats.
 - However, in order for many nations including Korea to significantly raise the rate for wearing of backseat belt, it would be necessary to discuss ways to make it mandatory to install SBR for backseats in the context of UN Regulation.
 - The WP.29 has been putting efforts into making it mandatory to install state-of-the-art safety devices such as Electronic Stability Control and Tire Pressure Monitoring System in the UN Regulation.
 - Installation of backseat SBR would maximize the passenger safety against vehicle crash and rollover with comparatively low cost.
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