

RVS Consultation Submission 18

If one excludes all other possible issues, (such as pollution, tariff protection of local auto industry, congestion, weight [road wear & tear] etc) it comes down to safety. A democratic solution would be to rate ALL VEHICLES that use the public road by giving every vehicle a safety rating by extending the present rating system (0 - 5 stars) ANCAP to a much wider all encompassing rating system such as A = the present 5 star rating, B = 4 & half stars, C = 4 stars etc. Each rating letter should be an equal improvement on the one before, for instance, C rating should be 50% better than D etc. The rating system MUST include motorbikes, push bikes, scooters etc.

Anyone therefore, before purchasing a vehicle would have to be told verbally & in writing as part of the sale agreement, the safety rating of the vehicle, so 'A' would be as safe as a vehicle could possibly be made and, down near the other end of the alphabet (maybe 'X' or similar) would be motorbikes etc, with a safety rating of 'very dangerous'. People could then make an INFORMED DECISION before selecting a vehicle.

Every aspect of the vehicle would have to be considered in such an assessment. Stability Control, Airbags, Collapsible Steering Column, Autonomous Braking, Roll Cage, Seat belts, braking distance, tip angle, crash test data, etc, etc would have a bearing on the final rating. It would take a great deal of setting up, and even some unusual vehicle features may have to be considered by a consultant panel, but once it was set up, it should be easy to operate. Vehicle manufacturers could use the computer programme to rate their own vehicles & submit the results to the overseeing panel for confirmation. Manufacturers that had their vehicles rated by the panel, but did not agree with the rating could submit data / reasons for a review.

A rating system needs to be put in place that reflects the true safety (or lack of it) for ALL vehicles on public roads. Everyone needs to be made aware that you are 27 x more likely to die on a motorbike than in a car. Etc.

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