



Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Stacey Cumberbatch, DCAS Commissioner
Keith T. Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer

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MAYOR DE BLASIO SIGNS TRUCK SIDE GUARD LAW

KEITH T. KERMAN

On June 16, 2015 Mayor de Blasio signed into law a bill requiring the NYC Fleet and private waste haulers in NYC to install truck side guards. This law establishes NYC as a national leader in this important area of safety and is one more step towards Vision Zero.



Along with the Mayor, Councilmen Corey Johnson and Ydanis Rodriguez and DCAS Commissioner Stacey Cumberbatch spoke at the signing. Robert Martineau of Air Flow Dynamics and Paul Steely White, Executive Director of Transportation Alternatives, also gave public commentary. Paul referred to the guards as “air bags for pedestrians.”

The bill will require all eligible trucks in the City fleet and the waste industry to use side guards by Jan 1, 2024. This will allow the fleets to install the guards as part of replacements to existing units, as well as to complete retrofits. DCAS will oversee implementation for the City fleet, and the Business Integrity Commission (BIC) will do so for the private waste haulers.

In May 2014 DCAS partnered with the Volpe Center at US DOT to conduct a study on the potential for side guard implementation. In February 2015 DCAS announced a first phase implementation of 5% of the City’s fleet. DCAS has worked with all major fleet agencies, Volpe, and our vendors Air Flow Deflector and Reaction to implement the program which has been a true inter-governmental and public-private partnership.

Thanks to the City Council, US DOT, BIC, staff at all the major fleet agencies, advocacy groups including Transportation Alternatives and Families for Safe Streets, the waste industry, fleet’s equipment manufacturers, and our retrofit vendors for the work they have done, and will do, to make this critical safety improvement a reality.

SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION COMPLETES SIDE-GUARD ROLLOUT

MAHANTH JOISHY

Speaking of truck side-guards, the Department of Education (DOE) last month became the first City agency fleet, and possibly the first organization nation-wide, to install truck side-guards on all its fleet trucks.

Working with DCAS, DOE scheduled all 19 of their trucks to have the flat panel side-guards (shown here) installed as part of the City’s Vision Zero initiative to improve truck design. These side-guards will help safeguard pedestrians, bicyclists, and especially children as these fleet units are used to support and supply our City’s schools.



Overall, truck side-guards have now been installed on 95 units so far by DCAS with installations continuing each week. DSNY is also separately piloting a truck side-guard design for City Sanitation vehicles. The other agencies that have installed truck side-guards so far are DCAS, Parks, DEP, ACS, DOF, DHS, and NYPD, also shown here.

DCAS is again working with the Volpe Center at US Department of Transportation (US DOT) to study the implementation.

Thanks to everyone for your help and congratulations to DOE!

