Cross Over Mirrors for Trucks
New legislation goes into effect January 13, 2012

What Cross Over Mirrors Do

Because of the height of large trucks, it can be difficult for truck drivers to see what is happening directly in front of their vehicles. This has contributed to a significant number of pedestrian deaths in New York City. Cross over mirrors, installed in front of the cab of a truck, are a simple way of eliminating a truck driver’s front “blind spot” and allowing the driver to see any person at least three feet tall and passing one foot in front of the vehicle.

Cross over mirrors are already required on school buses. They are relatively inexpensive and manufacturers typically offer them below list price, as well as provide discounts for bulk orders.

Please contact NYC DOT’s Office of Freight Mobility web page at nyc.gov/trucks or call 311 with questions.
Starting in mid-January, a new law goes into effect. This law amends Section 375 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law by adding a new subdivision 10-e to require all trucks, tractors and tractor-trailers or semi-trailer combinations registered in New York State having a maximum gross weight of twenty six thousand pounds or more and a conventional cab configuration in which at least more than half of the engine length is forward of the foremost point of the windshield base and the steering wheel hub is in the forward quarter of the vehicle length, to be equipped with a convex mirror on the front of the vehicle whenever operated within a city with a population of one million or more on highways other than controlled-access highways. This bill was sponsored by Senator Martin Golden and Assemblymember Joan Millman and was signed into law by Governor Cuomo on July 18, 2011.

NEW CROSS OVER MIRROR LEGISLATION

Driver’s Front Blind Spot Without a Cross Over Mirror

Shaded area shows the blind spot from the truck

Comparing a 6-foot man to a 4-foot child

Man at front of truck seen only with raised hands

DANGER ZONE

Drivers of large commercial trucks have a considerable blind spot that leaves pedestrians — especially short children — at risk. If a 5-foot-tall child crosses in front of a truck’s passenger side, the driver would not be able to see the child’s head unless the child were roughly 5 feet clear of the truck.