

City Council Expands Truck Side-Guards Law to Contractors

By: Keith T. Kerman

In 2015, DCAS partnered with U.S. DOT Volpe to prepare and publish a [report on the safety benefits of truck side-guards](#) as part of Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative. Truck side-guards are common sense safety enhancements that can prevent a pedestrian, bicyclist, motorcyclist, or child from getting caught by the back wheel of a truck and being badly injured or killed. In Europe and many places in the world, these guards have been standard and required for decades. In North America, these safety guards are still rare, something we are working to change.

After DCAS issued its report, DCAS launched what is now the nation's largest truck side-guard program, with over 3,760 side-guards in operation, and covering over 85% of the City fleet. All City agencies except DSNY have completed their installations. DSNY, which has the largest installation program amongst all City agencies, is at 76% completion. Led by Eric Richardson, Harris Kaplan, and Gary Prasad, the DCAS team helped create a marketplace and supplier base for the guards. When we launched this initiative, there was not a single supplier of truck side-guards in the United States. Today, DCAS is working with 10 companies: four different suppliers of guards and six qualified installers.



In June 2015, the City Council passed [Local Law 56](#), which requires truck side-guards on City fleet trucks and also trucks in the commercial waste industry in NYC as overseen by the Business Integrity Commission (BIC). DCAS has worked with BIC and also NYC DOT to implement this law. NYC's partnership with the Volpe Center on truck side-guards received a national [Federal Laboratory Consortium Award](#) in 2016.



In October 2021, the City Council, led by Transportation Chair Ydanis Rodriguez, passed [an additional law](#) that expedites the completion date for City trucks and commercial waste trucks. As importantly, this law expands the truck side-guard requirement to vendors who use trucks as part of City contracts through City government. DCAS estimates that up to 1,000 contracts and 5,600 trucks may be impacted by the

new law. The law will impact new contracts of \$2 million or more that are put in place as of January 1, 2023. DCAS will work with all City agencies with truck-related contracts to educate vendors on these provisions and enforce and inspect the implementation.

In 2022, DCAS will also conduct a vendor education effort regarding the new law and the safety importance of truck side-guards, as well as establish rules for the program.

Thanks to the City Council, Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs, DOT, Law Department, OMB, and DCAS for their work on the new law.

NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

2021 Climate Leadership Awards



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NYC Fleet and DCAS Deputy Commissioner Keith Kerman were recently recognized in the 2021 Climate Leadership Awards.

The awards highlight exemplary corporate, organizational, and individual leadership in reducing carbon pollution and addressing climate change. To learn more about the award recipients, visit [2021 Climate Leadership Award Winners](#).

DCAS's Inside Citywide Podcast

DCAS's [Inside Citywide podcast](#) provides a behind-the-scenes look at New York City government. Episode 2 is out now and takes a look at the future of the City of New York's vehicle fleet as it transitions to all-electric by 2040.



COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, please be reminded to wear a mask when operating a fleet vehicle with others in the vehicle. Attached again are the [Department of Health's COVID-19 Safety Guidelines relating to vehicle operation](#).

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 367, September 21, 2021](#): Eric Ritter, DSNY Mechanic, Eclipses World Speed Record for Electric Vehicles

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 366, October 15, 2021](#): NYC Fleet Performance in Mayor's FY21 MMR

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 365, October 8, 2021](#): DCAS Pilots Biodiesel 50 Percent (B50) With Parks, NBB

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 364, October 4, 2021](#): The Sun Shines on 32nd Annual NYC Fleet Show

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 363, September 24, 2021](#): Mayor Announces New Fleet Electrification Investment

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