

Truck Side Guards Save Lives

A Simple Improvement Makes Large Trucks Safer for Pedestrians and Bicyclists



When a large truck hits a pedestrian or bicyclist, the impact often happens on the side of the truck. Side guards help keep pedestrians and bicyclists from falling between the axles.



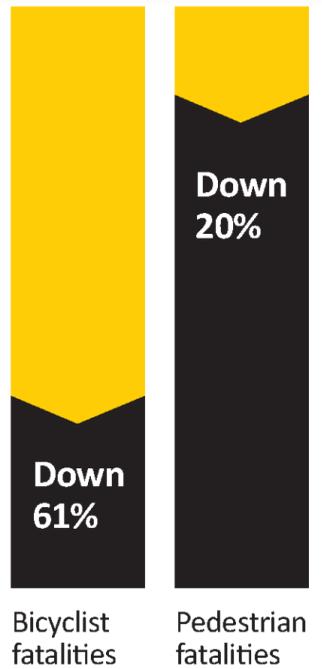
Volpe Scans and Analyzes Global Side Guard Data



Volpe analyzed international data on side guard design, best practices for implementation, and crash outcomes.

Volpe's review coalesces years of analysis.

After the United Kingdom enacted a national side guard requirement in the 1980s, bicyclist fatalities **decreased 61%** and pedestrian fatalities **decreased 20%** for side impacts with large trucks.



Why do side guards matter?

Nearly **half** of bicyclists and more than **one-quarter** of pedestrians killed by a large truck **first impact** the **side** of the truck.

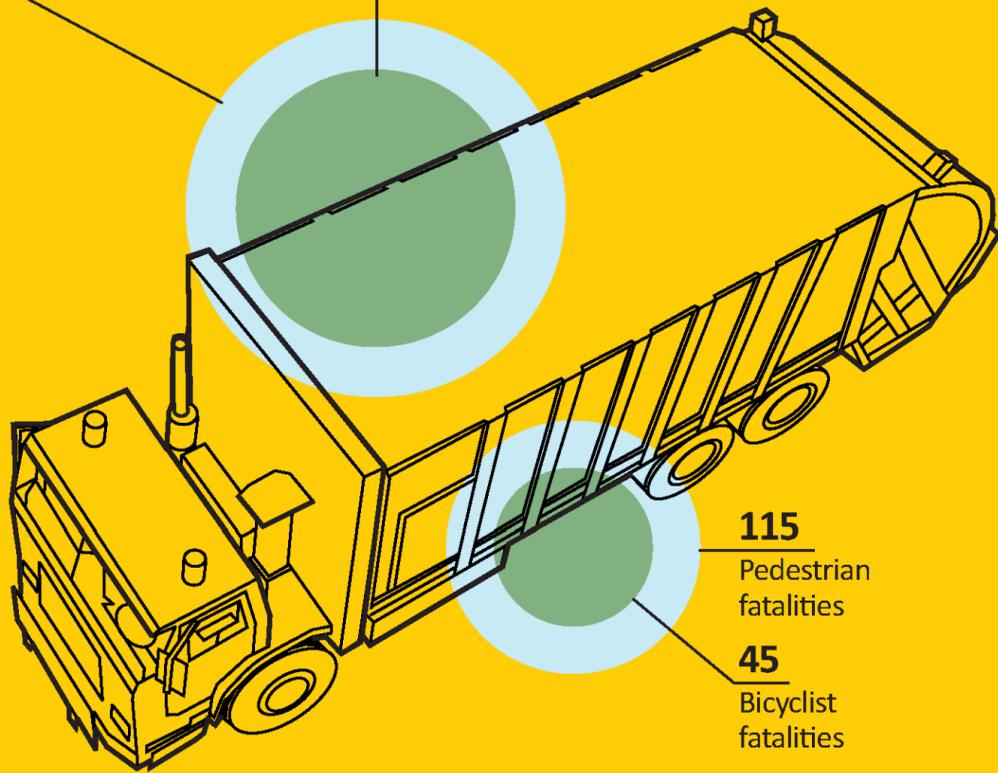


During a recent five-year period, **374** bicyclists and **1,372** pedestrians in the U.S. were killed from impacts with large trucks.

32% of these **1,746** fatalities happened after an initial impact with the side of a truck

257 Pedestrian fatalities 139 Bicyclist fatalities

37% of bicyclist fatalities happen on the right side when trucks impact bicyclists.



Ref: National Transportation Safety Board

Action

Boston and Volpe develop the largest **pilot program** of side guards in the U.S.

Impact

In 2014, **Boston** passes the nation's first **side guard ordinance**.

Action

Volpe reviews regulatory and voluntary side guard precedents and international technical specifications, and recommends further study.

Impact

Based on Volpe recommendations, **New York City** retrofits 240 city trucks with side guards in 2015, as part of the city's **Vision Zero** initiative.