Update on NHTSA Research Activities and Current Regulatory Agenda related to Automated Driving Systems

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OVERVIEW

• Research
• Regulatory Efforts
Overview of Automated Driving System Research

- Support Updating and Modernizing Regulations
  (removing assumption of a driver from current regs)
- System Safety Performance
  (tests, test methods, safety performance metrics)
- Functional Safety, ADS Subsystems, Cybersecurity
  (safety assurance of vehicle electronics and software)
- Human Factors
  (signaling, telltales, disabled user needs)
- Occupant Protection
  (alternative cabin configurations)
FMVSS Considerations for Vehicles with ADS

• Multi-year project, initiated in September 2017
• Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI)
• Identify unnecessary/unintended regulatory barriers to self-certification and compliance verification of innovative vehicle designs with Automated Driving Systems (ADS)
• Focus is on ADS-Dedicated Vehicles (ADS-DVs) that lack manually operated driving controls (e.g., steering wheel, brake pedal)
• Provide technical translation options of FMVSS and related compliance test procedures for ADS-equipped vehicles
# FMVSS Considerations for Vehicles with ADS

## Phase 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crash Avoidance</th>
<th>Crashworthiness &amp; Occupant Protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>101</strong> Controls and displays</td>
<td><strong>201</strong> Occupant protection in interior impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>110</strong> Tire selection and rims and motor home/recreation vehicle trailer load carrying capacity information</td>
<td><strong>206</strong> Door locks and door retention components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>124</strong> Accelerator control systems</td>
<td><strong>216a</strong> Roof crush resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>102</strong> Transmission shift position sequence, starter interlock, and transmission braking effect</td>
<td><strong>202a</strong> Head restraints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>111</strong> Rear visibility</td>
<td><strong>207</strong> Seating systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>125</strong> Warning devices</td>
<td><strong>219</strong> Windshield zone intrusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>103</strong> Windshield defrosting and defogging systems</td>
<td><strong>203</strong> Impact protection for the driver from the steering control system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>113</strong> Hood latch system</td>
<td><strong>208</strong> Occupant crash protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>126</strong> Electronic stability control systems for light vehicles</td>
<td><strong>222</strong> School bus passenger seating and crash protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>104</strong> Windshield wiping and washing systems</td>
<td><strong>204</strong> Steering control rearward displacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>114</strong> Theft protection and rollaway prevention</td>
<td><strong>210</strong> Seat belt assembly anchorages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>138</strong> Tire pressure monitoring systems</td>
<td><strong>225</strong> Child restraint anchorage systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>108</strong> Lamps, reflective devices, and associated equipment</td>
<td><strong>205</strong> Glazing materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>118</strong> Power-operated window, partition, and roof panel systems</td>
<td><strong>214</strong> Side impact protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>141</strong> Minimum Sound Requirements for Hybrid and Electric Vehicles</td>
<td><strong>226</strong> Ejection Mitigation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Technical Translation Approach

- Detailed evaluation of both regulatory text and Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance (OVSC) test procedure to identify unnecessary barriers
- Develop potential translation options
- Maintain consistency through development of crosscutting themes
- Document FMVSS requirements where a technical translation was evaluated but not performed
- Document potential considerations for technical translation options
- Engage stakeholders for review and feedback
Technical Translation Example

**FMVSS No. 126: Electronic Stability Control Systems**

- Defines performance criteria for a system’s output (the vehicle’s yaw and lateral position) in response to a given input (steering wheel angle).
- In the absence of a steering wheel, a means to control the lateral direction of an ADS-equipped vehicle is still required.
- Translation options developed:
  1) New definitions for “steering wheel” and “steering wheel angle” based on generic interface with the steering system
  2) Inputs into the system via the steering wheel have been translated to refer to equivalent inputs into the steering system
  3) Input defined at the road wheel angle (angle of the tires relative to the longitudinal centerline of vehicle).
### Vehicle Functionalities and Test Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functionality</th>
<th>101</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Steering control</td>
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<td>Speed control (vehicle/engine)</td>
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<td>Service brake application</td>
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<td>Gear selection</td>
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<td>Telltales/warnings/indicators</td>
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- Human Control (i.e., external controller)
- Programmed Control
- ADS Normal Operation
- Simulation
- Technical Documentation
Programmed and Human Control Example

Basic Driving Functionalities: FMVSS No. 114

(a) Drive the vehicle forward up a 10 percent grade and stop it with the service brakes.
(b) Apply the parking brake (if present).
(c) Move the gear selection control to Park
(d) Note the vehicle position.
(e) Release the parking brake. Release the service brakes.
(f) Remove the key.
(g) Verify that the gear selection control or transmission is locked in Park.
(h) Verify that the vehicle, at rest, has moved no more than 150 mm from the position noted prior to release of the brakes.
Programmed Control Example

*Precise Steering Control: FMVSS No. 126*

- Vehicle conditioning
- Vehicle characterization: Slowly increasing steer test
  - Purpose: establish relationship between steered input and lateral acceleration of vehicle for the linear range of the vehicle using controlled input
  - Output: initial conditions for ESC test
- ESC test: Sine with dwell test
  - Purpose: methodically increase steering wheel angle magnitude for double lane change type maneuver at fixed speed to cause ESC to activate
  - Output: vehicle response (yaw rate) during ESC operation
Programmed Control Example

Precise Steering Control: FMVSS No. 126

Sine-with-Dwell (6.5*delta): Manual vs ADS

- SteeringAngle
- SteeringWheelAngle_ADS
- Yaw_rate
- Yaw_rate_ADS
Monitoring Vehicle “State” Example

FMVSS No. 138: Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems
ADS Normal Operation Example

FMVSS No. 138: Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems
Next Steps

- Phase 1:
  - Volume 1 Final Report (12 FMVSS)
  - Volume 2 Final Report (18 FMVSS)

- Phase 2:
  - Kicked off July 2019
  - Scope:
    - FMVSS not considered in Phase 1 (e.g., FMVSS 135: Light vehicle brake systems)
    - Refinement of crash avoidance test methods
    - Additional research that stemmed from Phase 1
Regulatory Efforts

• ANPRM: Removing Regulatory Barriers
• Rulemaking Agenda
Regulatory Efforts

Removing Regulatory Barriers for Vehicles with Automated Driving Systems

- Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM)
  - Published May 28, 2019
  - Seeks public comment on the near- and long-term challenges of testing and verifying compliance with existing crash avoidance (100-series) FMVSSs for ADS-DVs that lack traditional manual controls
  - Seeks comments on the suitability of various approaches that could be used to address compliance verification challenges
  - 100 comments received from industry, safety advocates, public citizens, etc.
Regulatory Efforts

Rulemaking Agenda: Published Fall 2019

• 10 ADS-related actions in published rulemaking agenda

• Proposed Rule Stage:
  • Occupant Protection for Automated Driving Systems
    • This action proposes to amend crashworthiness regulations that may be necessary to facilitate the certification of motor vehicles equipped without driver controls.
    • Reginfo.gov: RIN: 2127-AM06
    • https://www.reginfo.gov/public/jsp/EO/EODashboard.myjsp

• Prerule Stage:
  • Considerations for Telltales, Indicators, and Warnings in ADS Vehicles
    • This action seeks comments on amending the FMVSS to address the applicability and appropriateness of safety messaging (telltales, indicators, and warnings) in vehicles without conventional driver controls.
    • Reginfo.gov: RIN: 2127-AM07
Conclusion

• Research ongoing to support removing barriers for ADS-DVs

• Regulatory text ➔ Technical translation options developed

• OVSC test procedures ➔ Multiple test method options investigated

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