

Recommended Vehicle Specification Features

Feature	Recommendation	Comment
Anti-lock braking system (ABS)	Specify an anti-lock braking system	ABS helps maintain control in emergency braking conditions. It is of greatest benefit in wet and/or slippery conditions.
Air Bags	Specify driver airbags as a minimum.	Airbags significantly reduce fatalities in front end crashes. Airbags for passengers should also be seriously considered.
Audible Reversing Alarms	Specify audible reversing alarms for minibuses and similar sized vans.	Even with modern mirrors, driver's view may be restricted.
Bull Bars	DO NOT specify these as a special fit	Bull bars are extremely dangerous to pedestrians and other road users. They can kill a child pedestrian at just 16 kph.
Roll Bars	Roll bars should be specified where possible, especially for 4x4 vehicles.	Roll Bars are a vital safety aid for 4x4 vehicles as they assist in the absorption of energy during a crash, especially a vehicle roll over.
Doors	Specify: For light vehicle with front seats only – 2 side doors. For car/similar light vehicle with 2 rows of seats – 4 side doors.	Each row of passengers should have their own exit doors in order to provide the quickest and least impeded emergency escape route.
Head Restraints	Specify head restraints for front and rear seats. Select best performance head restraints using published manufacturers data.	Head restraints must provide sufficient strength to absorb the whiplash effect of the head following any collision from the rear.
Rear Fold-down Seats, Safety Screens and load constraint features	Specify locks for the fold-down seat that are able to contain the forward movement of the load/luggage in a severe front-end impact. If an estate car is required, specify a fit-for-purpose safety screen between the cargo and the passenger space (all loads and luggage to be placed behind the safety screen) and specify tie down points and safety nets that can adequately constrain the load.	The seat locks on the rear seats of estate cars must be checked to ensure that they are properly engaged.
Seat Belts	Specify three-point inertia-reel lap/diagonal seat belts for all seats.	Reduces risk of death by over 40% compared with occupant unprotected by any restraint system. All occupants must be made to wear seatbelts.

Appendix 10 (... continued): **Recommended Vehicle Specification Features**

Feature	Recommendation	Comment
Hazard Warning Lights	Specify flashing hazard warning lights.	These provide a clear signal to traffic rapidly approaching the tail end of a traffic jam or a broken down vehicle.
Side Impact Protection	Specify side impact bars; padded internal door panels free from raised and hard surfaces.	About 25% of serious and fatal injuries to car occupants involve side impact. Effective protection against side impact is difficult to achieve, as a door panel offers limited energy absorption capability.
Steering Wheel and Column	Specify safety features such as thick padding on spokes, large diameter hub pad, wheel securing nut set deep into the hub and collapsible columns.	In a front end crash there is a high risk that the driver will strike their head on the steering wheel.
Tyres	Specify radial tyres from a reputable manufacturer and assure a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm across the width of the tyre.	Tyres make a major contribution to primary safety. Worn tyres have a substantially reduced performance in wet weather.
Vehicle Condition	Document and follow a vehicle replacement policy and the standards and controls that will screen-out corroded, unreliable and unsuitable vehicles.	The design integrity of a vehicle is only maintained whilst the vehicle is free of corrosion and all its mechanical components are operating and working within their limits.
Fully Adjustable Drivers Seats	Where possible, specify fully adjustable driver seats.	Can assist in the reduction of fatigue.
Windscreens and Windows	Specify laminated glass windscreens and tempered glass side and rear windows. Specify a safety hammer to be included – to break the tempered glass in the event of making an emergency exit.	When broken, tempered windscreens break into small cubes and become opaque. Laminated side windows increase the risk of dangerous sharp edges when broken.