

Toyota's Camry Performs Poorly On New Crash Test

The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The Toyota Camry, the best-selling car in the U.S., performed poorly this year in a new crash test and failed to get the best safety rating from an insurance industry group.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety gave the Camry a "Poor" rating on a test that measures how well people are protected when the front corner of a car hits another car or an object.

The Camry still did well on the institute's other four tests and earned a "Top Safety Pick" designation. But it failed to get a "Top Safety Pick-Plus" rating because of the bad performance on the new "small overlap" test of corner crashes.

Ten moderately priced midsize cars got the institute's highest rating. They include the Honda Accord, Chrysler 200, Dodge Avenger, Ford Fusion, Kia Optima, Nissan Altima, Subaru Legacy and Outback, Suzuki Kashai and the Volkswagen Passat. Toyota's Prius v gas-electric hybrid wagon also performed poorly on the new test, but still earned a "Top Safety Pick" designation.

"Toyota's engineers have a lot of work to do to match the performance of their competitors," IIHS President Adrian Lund said in a statement Thursday.

Toyota said in a statement that IIHS has raised the bar with the new test, exceeding U.S. government requirements. But the company said it will respond to the challenge. "We are evaluating the new test protocols and can say that there will not be one single solution to achieve greater crash performance in this area," the statement said.

Through November, Toyota has sold more than 373,000 Camrys in the U.S. It is the top-selling car in the U.S. almost every year.

Both the Prius v and Camry performed well in moderate front-end crash tests, as well as side impact, roof strength and rear impact tests, the institute said.

Moderately priced midsize cars outperformed midsize luxury cars in the new test, the institute said. The only midsize luxury cars to earn a "Top Safety Pick-Plus" award were the Acura TL and Volvo S60.

IIHS is a nonprofit research group funded by auto insurance companies. It develops crash tests to cut deaths, injuries and property damage losses from car and truck crashes.

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