

Buick Safety Technologies Receive Honors

The 2013 Buick Enclave, equipped with standard front center air bag, has received the highest possible five-star overall vehicle score for safety as part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program.

Previously, the luxury crossover SUV was also named a 2013 Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

"Safety is a key consideration for all car buyers, and particularly when it comes to family-oriented luxury vehicles," said Gay Kent, GM general director of Vehicle Safety and Crashworthiness. "The Enclave is designed to provide excellent crash safety, and goes one step further by offering a front center air bag - an industry first in crash protection."

Katie Bjoerk, assistant communications manager - Buick, Regal LaCrosse, Enclave, said that the front center airbag is nothing new for Buick.

"Safety has always been important to Buick," Bjoerk said. "It's always been prioritized. The front center airbag is standard and it's not required by law to be installed."

"We've been noticing that our customers have been selecting the equipment packages with higher safety features, so we made the front center airbag, which GM invented and made available in the model year 2013 for several vehicles, standard in the Enclave."

The front center air bag helps protect drivers and front passengers in far-side impact crashes where the occupant is on the opposite, non-struck side of the vehicle.

When a severe impact occurs, the air bag inflates between the driver and front passenger, providing added protection for both front occupants.

Bjoerk said that for many years customers have been taking safety for granted. They just assume the cars are safe. And while it's impossible to make a vehicle 100 percent safe, GM in general and Buick in particular has been taking safety one step further by going beyond what is required by federal law.

Their engineers are doing things like looking at how accidents happen in real life and taking measures to address what they find, such as offering a front center airbag or other Enclave safety features such as the Available Side Blind Zone Alert and Rear Cross Traffic Alert systems, which use radar to watch spots the driver may not see - and provide visible and audible warnings to help prevent collisions.

There are also standard head curtain side air bags with rollover protection for outboard occupants in all seating rows. In addition to providing protection in moderate-to-severe side crash-

es, the roof-mounted head curtain air bags will deploy in a rollover to help provide increased occupant protection and containment.

The StabiliTrak electronic stability control with rollover mitigation technology is standard on all models and incorporates full-function traction control.

The standard rearview camera system provides the driver with added capability to view what is behind the vehicle.

Also standard is the four-wheel-disc brake system with ABS featuring smooth, quiet operation, longer pad life and more resistance to brake pulsation.

Additionally, safety belt pretensioners reduce forward movement during a collision, and are standard on the front safety belts, along with load-limiting retractors that help limit the belts' impact on occu-

pants' chests. The dynamic locking latch plate holds an occupant's pelvis in place.

The LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children) child seat attachment system is included in outboard second-row seating positions.

Tire pressure monitoring system is standard on all models, as is a strong body structure to absorb crash energy and provide a "safety cage" around occupants.

Standard hill start assist brakes reduce the tendency of a vehicle to roll forward or backward on a hill after the brake pedal is released.

Standard OnStar uses GPS and cellular phone technology to automatically call for help in the event of a crash. OnStar subscribers also can send help to other motorists and call for help in other non-crash emergencies.



The 2013 Enclave with standard front center air bag offers the kinds of advanced safety features that GM says their customers are demanding.

Starting with 2011 models, NHTSA introduced more rigorous requirements for its five-star safety ratings program.

Changes include a new side pole test simulating a 20-mph side-impact crash into a pole or tree at a 75-degree angle just be-

hind the A-pillar on the driver's side.

The Enclave is classified as a full-sized luxury SUV and is based on the GM Lambda platform. It comes with a six-speed 6T75 automatic transmission and has a 118.9 inch wheelbase.

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