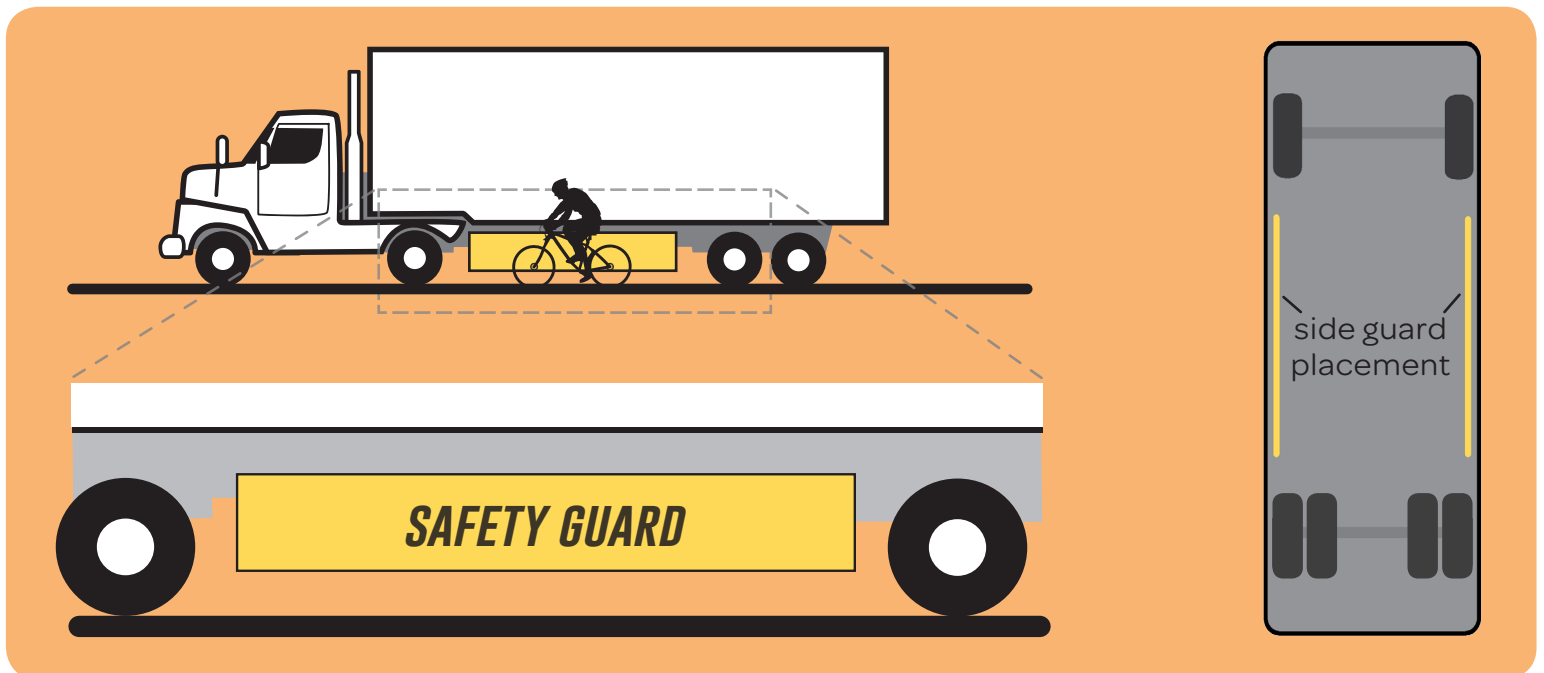




# CITY OF SOMERVILLE TRUCK SIDE GUARD ORDINANCE

Collisions with large vehicles are disproportionately likely to result in cyclist and pedestrian fatalities. The City of Somerville's Ordinance to Safeguard Vulnerable Road Users aims to prevent cyclists and pedestrians from the risk of being struck by a large vehicle because of limited driver visibility and lack of side-visible turn signals, as well as falling under the sides of large vehicles and being caught under the wheels.

The ordinance applies to large motor vehicles that are Class 3 or above with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) exceeding 10,000 pounds, except for an ambulance, fire apparatus, low-speed vehicle with a maximum speed under 15 mph, or an agricultural tractor.



## Questions about inspections?

Please contact the Fleet Superintendent, Ron Bonney, at:  
RBonney@SomervilleMA.gov or (617) 625-6600, ext. 5524.

# ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

## LATERAL PROTECTIVE DEVICES (SIDE GUARDS)

- Vehicles must have device installed between the front & rear wheels to help prevent injuries to vulnerable road users, particularly from falling underneath the vehicle.



## SIDE-VISIBLE TURN SIGNALS

- Vehicles must have at least one turn signal lamp on each side of the vehicle that is visible from any point to the left and right side along the full length of the vehicle.



## CONVEX MIRRORS

- Vehicles must have mirrors which enable the driver to see anything that is three feet above the road and one foot in front of or alongside of the vehicle.



## CROSS-OVER MIRRORS

- Vehicles must have mirrors that enable the driver to see anything at least three feet tall passing one foot in front of the vehicle and the area in front of the bumper where direct vision is not possible.

## SAFETY DECALS

- Vehicles must have a minimum of three reflective decals on the rear and sides.
- The decals must be "safety yellow" in color and include language or images that warn of blind spots.

# COMMON QUESTIONS

**WHAT TYPES OF VEHICLES DOES THIS ORDINANCE APPLY TO?** This ordinance applies to Class 3 or above vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating exceeding 10,000 lbs., except for an ambulance, fire apparatus, low-speed vehicle with max speed under 15 mph, or agricultural tractors.

**CAN TOOL BOXES BE USED AS SIDE GUARDS?** Yes, as long as the tool box meets all of the required measurements in the ordinance.

**IF I RENT TRUCKS FOR A JOB, DO THOSE VEHICLES NEED TO BE INSPECTED AND PERMITTED?** Yes.

**DO SUBCONTRACTORS' TRUCKS WORKING ON A CITY CONTRACT NEED TO BE INSPECTED & PERMITTED?** Yes.

**WILL THE CITY DO AN OFF-SITE INSPECTION FOR LARGER FLEETS?** Yes, depending on the availability of inspectors and the distance to the site.

# REGISTER FOR AN INSPECTION

Email inspection forms to: [FleetInspections@SomervilleMA.gov](mailto:FleetInspections@SomervilleMA.gov)

Questions about inspections? Please contact the Fleet Superintendent, Ron Bonney, at: [RBonney@SomervilleMA.gov](mailto:RBonney@SomervilleMA.gov) or (617) 625-6600, ext. 5524

INFORMATION REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL ORDINANCE

TO: Prospective Bidders for Somerville Avenue Utility & Streetscape Improvements – Invitation for Bid (IFB) #18-24

SUBJECT: Partial Waiver and Acknowledgement of Somerville City Ordinance Chapter 12, Article VII (“Ordinance to Safeguard Vulnerable Road Users”)

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Prospective bidders must familiarize themselves with the City of Somerville’s Ordinance to Protect Vulnerable Road Users. The full text of this local law can be found [here](#).

Application of this Ordinance to IFB #18-24 and the awarded contract will be as follows:

Large vehicles (as defined under the Ordinance) that are owned by the general contractor and which will be used at the construction site at least 50% of the time must comply with the Ordinance.

Within one year of starting contracted work pursuant to IFB #18-24, these vehicles must be inspected at the Somerville Department of Public Works and meet all requirements under the Ordinance.

Acknowledgement

In accordance with Sec. 12-119 “Requirements” in the Ordinance, bidders must sign the following:

Unless otherwise waived, I acknowledge that my company has installed (or will install prior to commencing work for the contract) side guards, cross-over mirrors or equivalent blind spot countermeasures, convex mirrors or equivalent blind spot countermeasures, side-visible turn signals, and appropriate warning signage, in accordance with SCO Chapter 12, Article VII on all large vehicles it uses or will use within the City of Somerville in connection with any contract.

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Authorized Signatory’s Name

Date

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Company Name

**TO:** City Vendors  
**FROM:** Fleet Division, City of Somerville  
**SUBJECT:** Vehicle Inspections Process under Somerville City Ordinance Chapter 12, Article VIII (“Ordinance to Safeguard Vulnerable Road Users”)

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1. **Request for Inspection:** Inspections are conducted on Thursdays from 4pm-7pm at the Somerville Department of Public Works, located at 1 Franey Road. Each inspection takes approximately 20 minutes.
  - a. Any vendor covered by this Ordinance shall complete an inspection request form and email it to [fleetinspections@somervillema.gov](mailto:fleetinspections@somervillema.gov).
  - b. Please submit request form no later than 3pm on the Tuesday before the requested inspection date.
2. **Fee:** The fee for the initial inspection is \$100. The fee for a renewal inspection (every two years) is \$50.
  - a. Payment of the fee is due upon scheduling of the inspection. The fee can be paid via check or credit card. Checks should be made out to the City of Somerville and include the vendor’s phone number.
3. **Approval:** Vehicles inspected and approved by the Fleet Division will have an inspection approval sticker affixed to the windshield of the vehicle. A copy of the inspection report and certificate of inspection shall be issued to the vendor.
  - a. Inspection stickers are not transferable.
  - b. Any major overhaul of safe guard equipment shall be required to be re-inspected.
4. **Rejection:** If a vehicle is rejected for failing to comply with any of the technical specifications outlined in the ordinance, it shall be corrected and henceforth re-inspected within 30 days at no additional fee.
  - a. If a second inspection results in a rejection, a fee of \$50 will be required for any subsequent inspections.
  - b. Any vendor who fails to comply within 60 days of their first inspection may be subject to having their contract cancelled.
5. **Questions:** Please direct questions about vehicle inspections to Fleet Superintendent Ron Bonney at [rbonney@somervillema.gov](mailto:rbonney@somervillema.gov) or at (617) 625-6600, ext. 5524.