



Heavy Truck Occupant Crash Protection (A Historical Chronology – Compiled by Farrel Krall) January 2006

Significant progress has been made in recent decades in advancing the state-of-the-art of mitigating truck occupant crash injuries. This document provides a 35-year chronology of accident investigation, crash analysis, research development programs, and codification of *SAE Recommended Practices* that have contributed to these real-world improvements.

(1966) Ernst & Ernst Truck Accident Study¹. In October 1966, one month after the U.S. Congress passed the 1966 Safety Act, truck manufacturers launched the pioneering *Ernst and Ernst Truck Accident Study* under the auspices of their trade association known at that time as the *Automobile Manufacturers Association (AMA)*; later renamed *Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association (MVMA)* to improve the Association's focus on large commercial vehicles. MVMA continued to sponsor specialized truck accident data studies until the organization was dissolved in 1992.² The principal objective of these studies was to determine the types and frequency of truck accidents and their consequent injuries. Exhibit No.1 provides a listing of accident studies sponsored by MVMA from 1966 through 1992.

(1972) The Williamsburg Conference on Highway Safety Research...a technical conference to develop a plan of needed safety research. (Nov. 29 – Dec. 1, 1972)³

The Group VII panel of truck safety experts participating in this hi-level three-day conference developed a list of priority safety research needs for large trucks. Pertinent to the topic of crashworthiness, the panel identified the subject of truck occupant crash protection as a top priority research topic needing further in-depth study.

