

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, re-codified under Title 49 of the United States Code, Chapter 301, Subchapter V, Section 30181, gives the Secretary authorization to conduct research, testing, development, and training as authorized to be carried out by subsections of this title. [See 49 U.S.C. 30181, 30182(a)(1)].

AUTHORITY¹

Title 49 of the U.S. Code, Chapter 301, Subchapter V. Motor Vehicle Safety Research and Development

§ 30181. Policy

The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct research, development, and testing on any area or aspect of motor vehicle safety necessary to carry out this chapter.

§ 30182. Powers and duties

(a) In general.--The Secretary of Transportation shall--

(1) conduct motor vehicle safety research, development, and testing programs and activities, including activities related to new and emerging technologies that impact or may impact motor vehicle safety;

(2) collect and analyze all types of motor vehicle and highway safety data and related information to determine the relationship between motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment performance characteristics and--

(A) accidents involving motor vehicles; and

(B) deaths or personal injuries resulting from those accidents.

¹ U.S. Code available from the NHTSA website [Laws in effect as of May 2013] [US Code for year 2012]
[<https://www.nhtsa.gov/document/motor-vehicle-safety-unrelated-unmodified-provisions>]