Safety Checks Ahead of 2029 Rule | Automotive Alignments and Calibrations

How Alignment and Calibration Services Prevent Costly Repairs in NH?

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NORTH HAMPTON, NH, November 12, 2026 - Automotive Alignments and Calibrations is highlighting wheel alignment in North Hampton, NH, ahead of a federal safety requirement. The requirement will make automatic emergency braking standard on new cars and light trucks by September 2029.

The change is drawing attention to vehicle sensors, steering systems, and post-repair inspections.

Modern vehicles rely on cameras, radar, and other sensors for driver-assistance features. Repairs can affect components connected to these systems. Suspension and steering work can also change vehicle handling.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration finalized its automatic emergency braking standard in 2024. NHTSA projects the rule will save at least 360 lives annually. The agency also expects the standard to prevent 24,000 injuries each year.

Why Can Vehicle Repairs Affect Driver Assistance Systems?

Vehicle repairs can change positioning around steering, suspension, and sensor components. Post-repair checks can help identify related issues on applicable vehicles.

Common situations may include:

Suspension or steering repairs

Windshield replacement

New tire installation

Work near cameras or radar sensors

Dashboard warnings involving driver-assistance features

Reputable shops provide alignment and calibration services based on a vehicle's inspection findings and manufacturer requirements. Technicians can use OEM scan tools and diagnostic equipment to evaluate wheel positioning, sensors, and related systems before recommending any necessary service. These services may also be performed after qualifying repairs when vehicle systems require realignment or recalibration.

"Drivers may notice changes in steering or lane behavior before a warning appears," said Derek Lighthall, Owner of Automotive Alignments and Calibrations. "A check can help identify whether the issue involves alignment, steering, or a sensor."

What Signs Can Indicate a Steering or Driver Assistance Issue?

Changes in handling can provide useful clues during everyday driving. A steering wheel that sits off-center may indicate a vehicle alignment concern.

Other signs include pulling, drifting, highway vibration, or loose steering. Drivers may also notice that the wheel does not return properly after turning.

Dashboard warnings can provide another indication. These alerts may involve lane departure, forward collision, adaptive cruise control, or other assistance features.

AAA tested active driver-assistance systems during more than 4,000 miles of real-world driving. The study found some issue every eight miles on average. Nearly 73% of system errors involved lane departure or erratic lane position.

These findings can help drivers recognize unexpected changes in vehicle behavior. A repair facility may evaluate steering calibration when handling symptoms appear, including after certain repairs.

When Should Drivers Consider ADAS Calibration?

Vehicle manufacturers use different sensor layouts and calibration requirements, so procedures can vary by make, model, and repair history.

ADAS calibration may be required after windshield replacement, suspension repairs, or other work that affects vehicle sensors. Some vehicles require static calibration, while others require dynamic calibration

under specific driving conditions.

Factory-approved diagnostic equipment may be used for applicable calibration procedures, with repair parts selected according to the vehicle manufacturer's requirements. An inspection can help determine whether alignment or sensor-related issues need attention and whether changes in vehicle handling may be connected to recent repairs.

About Automotive Alignments and Calibrations

Automotive Alignments and Calibrations is a family-owned and operated automotive repair shop founded in 2023. The shop works primarily with late-model vehicles and provides mechanical repairs, routine maintenance, brake and tire services, suspension repairs, state inspections, towing, wheel alignments, and ADAS calibration in North Hampton, NH. Its diagnostic process includes OEM and Bosch scan systems, with an ASE-certified technician handling applicable repairs and inspections.

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