

Introduced for the 2000 model year, Lincoln LS models have standard side airbags designed to protect drivers' and front passengers' heads and chests. Front shoulder belts include crash tensioners designed to prevent slack from allowing excessive forward movement in a crash and devices to limit belt forces on occupants. Antilock brakes are standard.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has evaluated the crashworthiness of the Lincoln LS8, based primarily on performance in a 40 mph frontal offset crash test into a deformable barrier. This model and all 2000 and later LS models manufactured after February 2000 include structural changes to improve occupant protection in frontal crashes. (Note: information about when a specific vehicle was manufactured is on the certification label typically affixed to the car on or near the driver door.) Head restraint and bumper designs are evaluated separately:

STRUCTURE/SAFETY CAGE: GOOD There was minimal intrusion into the driver footwell area and no rearward movement of the instrument panel.

RESTRAINTS/DUMMY KINEMATICS: GOOD Dummy movement was well controlled. After the dummy moved forward into the airbag, it rebounded into the seat without its head coming close to any stiff structure that could cause injury.

INJURY MEASURES: GOOD Measures taken from the head, neck, chest, and both legs indicate low risk of injury to these body regions.

OVERALL EVALUATION: GOOD The driver space was maintained well in the frontal offset crash test, and dummy measures indicate that significant injury was unlikely. This plus side airbags with head protection earn the LS a "best pick" rating. Belt crash tensioners are pluses.