For the past 5 years, the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) has biannually published the CARS Theft Risk Rating, which provides a five star rating system that shows the theft risk of vehicles in Australia - the more stars the lower the risk. The ratings are based on car theft rates making it a useful tool when buying a used car.

Another rating that is helpful when purchasing a used car is the Used Car Safety Ratings (UCSR) published by Monash University’s Accident Research Centre together with the Vehicle Safety Research Group. This also uses a five star rating system and is designed to show how well each vehicle protects its driver from death or serious injury in a crash. These ratings are based on real-world crash data which helps buyers to select vehicles that provide the best protection for all road users including themselves.

On the other hand, the ANCAP safety ratings are assessed by a combination of data obtained from the simulation of common crash scenarios undertaken on new vehicles in a controlled laboratory setting. ANCAP crash tests are conducted on new passenger and light commercial (PLC) vehicles entering the Australian market. They are published using a rating system of 1 to 5 stars which indicate the level of safety a vehicle provides for occupants and pedestrians in the event of a crash, as well as its ability, through technology, to avoid a crash.

In 2014, the NMVTRC compiled the CARS Theft Risk Rating and the UCSR to show the used cars which have received five stars for the UCSR and their corresponding CARS Theft risk rating. This was conducted for each of the PLC market segments.

Recently, the NMVTRC CARS project went a step further and compiled three ratings, namely the CARS Theft Risk Rating, the UCSR and the ANCAP ratings together to provide a more comprehensive rating reference based on the latest ratings data.

The UCSR and ANCAP ratings were matched against the CARS Theft Risk Rating tool so that all the vehicles that were in the 2016 CARS theft risk rating tool were linked to a corresponding UCSR and ANCAP star rating, where possible.

Using these ratings it is now possible to choose a vehicle that will provide higher safety protection to its driver and other road users and also a low risk of vehicle theft. Consumers are encouraged to consider choosing vehicles which score highest on at least two of the ratings. To view the full report, visit carsafe.com.au/star-rating.

Sources:

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