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Stoughton Trailers Is First Trailer Manufacturer to Earn TOUGHGUARD Award for Its Intermodal Chassis

STOUGHTON, Wis. (June 12, 2025)— Stoughton Trailers, LLC, a national leader in transportation equipment, is proud to be the first trailer manufacturer to earn the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)'s **TOUGHGUARD** award for an intermodal container chassis. The award applies to Stoughton's 53-ft intermodal container chassis built after April 2025, further solidifying the company's leadership in transportation safety and innovation.

The **TOUGHGUARD** award is presented to trailers that meet the most rigorous safety standards for rear underride protection in the event of a rear-end collision. Stoughton Trailers previously earned the award for its dry van and refrigerated trailer product lines in 2017. Now, with this latest recognition, Stoughton reinforces its position as a pioneer in advancing trailer safety across multiple product categories.

"We're excited about the commitment that Stoughton has shown to preventing underride crashes," said IIHS President David Harkey.

"The safety of the motoring public is a top priority for Stoughton," said Scott Lubenow, Senior Director of Product Engineering and R&D at Stoughton Trailers. "We're proud to become the first trailer manufacturer to achieve the **TOUGHGUARD** award on an intermodal chassis, another example of how our team remains driven to ensure that our trailer products provide superior protection against underride crashes."

Underride guards that meet IIHS's **TOUGHGUARD** criteria significantly improve safety. Until now, only dry van, refrigerated and flatbed trailers have met these more rigorous standards. However, with the growing role of shipping containers in global trade, an increasing amount of freight is being moved using these chassis.

Designing an underride guard for an intermodal chassis that meets **TOUGHGUARD** requirements presents unique engineering challenges. Unlike dry van, refrigerated or flatbed trailers—whose frames run the full width to support the guard—intermodal chassis have a narrower, more limited structure.

An intermodal chassis is a ladder-like framework positioned between the trailer's wheels to support a removable container. Because it lacks the continuous structural frame found in other trailer types, designing an underride guard required an entirely new approach. Rather than using vertical supports attached to a trailer deck, the new guard features long, angled supports that extend from the outer edges of the guard to the chassis rails, providing the necessary strength and stability.

Stoughton's intermodal chassis product line is supported by three dedicated manufacturing lines in Stoughton and Evansville, Wisconsin, and Waco, Texas. The company is one of the largest chassis manufacturers in North America.

Stoughton's continued investment in safety innovation underscores its long-standing mission to raise industry standards and deliver superior performance across all trailer types.

Photo: <Stoughton Chassis with Rear Underride Guard> and <Stoughton Chassis Test>

About Stoughton Trailers

Stoughton Trailers is a top 10 international supplier of semi-truck trailers. The Wisconsin-based, family-owned company designs, manufactures and markets a wide range of dependable semi-truck trailers and intermodal container chassis used for over-the-road trucking, as well as agricultural trailers and other specialty transportation equipment. It provides one-stop build, finance, rental and fleet management solutions through world-class responsiveness and design value. For more information, visit StoughtonTrailers.com.