

List of contents

Chapter 1

Personal qualification

Physical ability	1
Restrictions to physical ability (Illness, alcohol, medication, drugs, tiredness, deflection)	1

Chapter 2

The risk of being human	3
--------------------------------	---

Chapter 3

Legal requirements

Classes of drivers licences	4
Approval time	5
Registration of vehicles	5
Insurance	6

Chapter 4

Street systems and railroad junctions

Street and carriageway	7
Special ways	7
Driving in lanes (Zipper method, arrows, roadway boundary marking, solid/yellow lines)	7
Motorways and clearways	10
Level crossings	11

Chapter 5

Basic rule, priority and traffic regulations

Basic rule (§ 1 StVO)	12
Priority	13
Traffic regulations	15
Special traffic situations	16

Chapter 6

Traffic signs

Warning signs	17
Signs giving orders	19
Information signs	22
Traffic control facilities	24

Chapter 7

Participants in local traffic and their behaviour

Vehicles	25
Pedestrians	28

Chapter 8

Speed, safety distance, environmental protection

Speed	30
„Rule of thumb“	32
Safety distance	33
Environmental protection	34
Warning signals	34

Chapter 9

Behaviour at traffic manouevres

Moving, passing	35
Overtaking	35
Turning	37
Reversing	40

Chapter 10

Stopping and parking

Stopping and parking	41
Broken-down vehicles	43
Towing and starting help	43

Chapter 11

Lights, accidents, contravening the regulations

Lights	44
Tunnel	45
Conduct towards special vehicles	46
Conduct at accidents	46
Fines, points, MPU	47

Chapter 12

Learning for life

48

Chapter 13

Engineering, physics, loads

Engineering	49
Physics of driving	50
Loads	50
Environmental protection	52

Chapter 14

Driving with powered vehicles and combinations

Handling of the vehicle	53
Different road or weather conditions	53
Brakes	54
Trailers	55
Driving bans	56

Pictures of official test questions

57

Index

Chapter 1

Personal qualification

Physical ability

You must be fit in all regards if you want to participate in traffic. An eye test is required by law (TÜH, eye doctor, optician). If you have to wear glasses or contact-lenses you're not allowed to drive without them. This will be noted in your licence. As a driver you must be able to concentrate, to handle the vehicle, to realize danger situations immediately, to act correctly in difficult situations. Take care of your health. If you realize you're not fit enough to drive, don't do it!

Restrictions to physical ability

There are a lot of influences that may reduce your ability to drive, sometimes leading to inability.

Illness

Physical diseases, pain and indisposition reduce your ability to concentrate on the traffic and safe handling of the vehicle is no longer guaranteed. Do not drive if you are not feeling well. Bandages may reduce your ability to handle the vehicle. If you have bad physical disabilities, you're only allowed to drive if your vehicle is prepared for the special disability.

Alcohol

Alcohol is the most used „drug“ and even a small amount is noticeable. Alcohol enters your stomach, it enters your body and spreads all over, even to your brain. Even a little bit of alcohol may be dangerous when:

- ◆ quickly drinking
- ◆ drinking before eating
- ◆ in connection with medication

The effects of drinking for the driver:

- ◆ awareness (your sight decreases, „tunnel-view“, hearing decreases, it gets harder to judge speed and distances correctly)
- ◆ reaction (you act slower and insecure)
- ◆ foresight (you lose perspective on the traffic get lost, it gets harder to combine special situations)
- ◆ self-judgement (you act free from inhibitions, carelessly taking risks in most situations)

Alcohol level limits

- ◆ 0.0 permill: for all drivers younger than 21 years of age and for everybody in the approval time period
- ◆ 0.3 permill: the driving ability is restricted. Who causes an accident or does mistakes must calculate with punishment by law. *Your licence can be taken away if a doctor certifies driving inability.*
- ◆ 0.5 permill: driving is going to be fined if contravening the regulations, even if nothing happened. This leads to a driving ban a fine and points registered in Flensburg. (too many points cause trouble for your licence)
- ◆ 1.1 permill: the driver is deemed absolutely unable to driving (criminal act). This causes a big fine and the licence will be taken away.
- ◆ 1.6 permill and over: here an MPU (medical-psychological-test) is required by law.

Tests: control of breath, blood-probe

Decrease of alcohol – restalcohol

A driver under the influence of alcohol can not decrease it by drinking coffee, sleeping half an hour, walking for half an hour because the liver is only able to reduce the permill rate at about 0.1 permill per hour. This means, for example, 1.0 permill is reduced to zero after 10 hours. The quantity of alcohol in your blood depends on to your own weight.

DON`T DRIVE DRUNK

Medication

Some medication cause the same results as alcohol. Concentration and reaction ability decrease. Some medication increase the effects of alcohol when combined. If you have to consume medication look for the directions on the packet. If in doubt call your doctor or the pharmacist.

Drugs

Drugs influence feelings, mood, awareness and they may lead you into addiction. From the first consumption of drugs onwards (hashish, marihuana, heroin, cocaine, LSD, etc.) it leads to intoxication over several hours. Let's look at the example hashish and the results of consumption:

- ◆ intoxication including hallucinations, confusion and depression
- ◆ decreased reaction ability
- ◆ decreased awareness of danger
- ◆ the brain makes mistakes with the processing of information
- ◆ misled decision about speed and distance
- ◆ disturbed concentration

Those who have just smoked a hashish cigarette are not allowed to drive because he is not able to drive. He who smokes hashish constantly is not able to drive vehicles at all. Hashish does not break down the way alcohol does and you will find it in urine weeks after the consumption. The consumption of drugs leads to severe consequences by the authorities:

- ◆ driving ban or the loss of the licence
- ◆ big fines and/or jail
- ◆ MPU

He who takes drugs constantly is unsuitable as a driver even if he's able to drive correctly at the moment he wants to. Ex-drug addicts must complete one year of non-addiction if they want to continue participating in traffic.

Tiredness

Tiredness causes the decrease in your ability to pay attention, your concentration and awareness of danger situations. Long and monotonous trips lead to tiredness as well as travelling at night time. If you want to avoid tiredness:

- ◆ start travelling after you have rested
- ◆ eat small and light meals
- ◆ stop timely for breaks, do some gymnastics
- ◆ allow for fresh air (open the windows even if it's wintertime)
- ◆ if tiredness is too much take a longer rest and go to sleep

Deflection

You can be deflected by several situations causing a decrease in your concentration:

- ◆ smoking
- ◆ making phonecalls

Making phone-calls during driving is forbidden as in most of the country's of the world.

The renewed version of §23 StVO says:

It is forbidden to use cell-phones or car-phones if the driver has to hold or pick up the cell-phone or the talking unit of the car-phone. This does not count if the vehicle has been stopped and the engine is turned off.

This means that car-, motorcycle- and bicycle users have to use a free-speech device if they want to talk during driving.

**Up from May 2014 you would be fined if you do not obey the rule.
For drivers of a vehicle it is going to be €60.00 (1 point registered in Flensburg),
for bicycles it is going to be €25.00.**



- ◆ loud and intense music
- ◆ feelings as: fear, joy, stress, anger
- ◆ accidents



Chapter 2

The risk of being human

Our style of driving is under the influence of many different feelings like love, hate, joy, stress, anger, aggression or thrill. They sometimes cause dangerous situations. We must try to get those feelings under control to make driving safer. We have to understand our own behaviour in certain circumstances, so that we have a better chance to understand our actions and reacting to the other participants in traffic. Some of these feelings will be released right at the moment we are driving:

- ◆ somebody is overtaking us and cuts our way so we are forced to stop
- ◆ we are overtaking on the motorway and somebody driving really fast comes up from behind and forces us forward
- ◆ slow driving vehicles in front obstructing us
- ◆ driving with very fast cars
- ◆ to get through hard traffic (traffic jam)
- ◆ looking for our own limits in the use of a vehicle

We have to change our thoughts if we want to avoid aggression in these situations:

- ◆ „Does this slow-driving vehicle want to obstruct me or is he just a stranger to this area?“
- ◆ „Is the stress worth a few minutes less time?“
- ◆ „Is the aggressive pusher from behind egotistical? Maybe he's under a lot of pressure? Does it make sense to hate him, shall I take revenge?“

Ask yourself about the sense or the wisdom of these feelings and analyse the situation. You will become calmer and the situation gets safer for everybody.



„Feelings“

Chapter 3

Legal requirements

Classes of drivers licences:

	AM	A1	A2	A	B	B96	BE
Kind of vehicle	motorcycles max. 50cm ³ max. 45 km/h Three-and Fourwheelers Til 45 km/h Til 50 cm ³	motorcycles max. 125cm ³ max. 11 kw Three- wheelers More than 45km/h More than 50 cm ³ Til 15 KW	motorcycles even with sidecar til 35 kw	motorcycles even with sidecar more than 50 cm ³ 45 km/h Three- wheelers Above 15 KW	power vehicles max. 3.5 t p.w. max 8 seats without driver trailer max. 750 kg above 750 kg max.3.5t per combination	combinations with a vehicle belonging to class B with a trailer above 750 kg max.4.25 t per combination	combinations with a vehicle belonging to class B with a trailer til 3500 kg (practical test)
Minimum age	16 years	16 years	18 ears	20 years	18 years	alike B	alike B
Required	-	-	-		-	-B	-B
Includes	-	AM	A1,AM	A1,A2,AM	L,AM	-L,AM	-L,AM
Remarks	Empty mass Til 350 kg Fourwheelers (Electro Vehicles witout battery)		2 years existing class A1 only practical test	21years Three- wheelers Above 15 KW older than 24 direct access	From the age of 17 Accompanied driving	No test, Training through a driving school required	Practical test

Other classes:

D1E	D1	DE	D	C1E	C1	CE	C	T/L	

For further details ask your driving school!

Without licence: selfdriving machines, country and forest trucks to 6 km/h, disabled (wheel) chairs to 15 km/h

Test certificate: mofas and disabled chairs to 25 km/h

Automatic transmission: doing tests with automatic cars, only allows you to drive vehicles with automatic transmission (not for class M)

Carriage of people: taxi, ambulance car, public transport, holiday travel agency; special allowance is required

Restricted motorcycle licence: until the age of 25 (25 kW), older than 25 -no restrictions

Nessesaries for the application: proof of personal dates, photo, eyetest, first aid certificate

Approval time

Applicants who get their licence for the first time obtain it after a two year trial time. Those who contravene against certain law requirements have to do a special course (*Nachschatlung*). On plus you get two years more of approval time. This does not belong to the classes L, M, S and T. Serious offences are noted in catalogue A, the less serious offences are noted in catalogue B. The *Nachschatlung* is required after one offence in catalogue A and two offences in catalogue B. Non-participation during the course may cause removal of the licence. On the spot cautionary fines do not cause an effect for the licence.

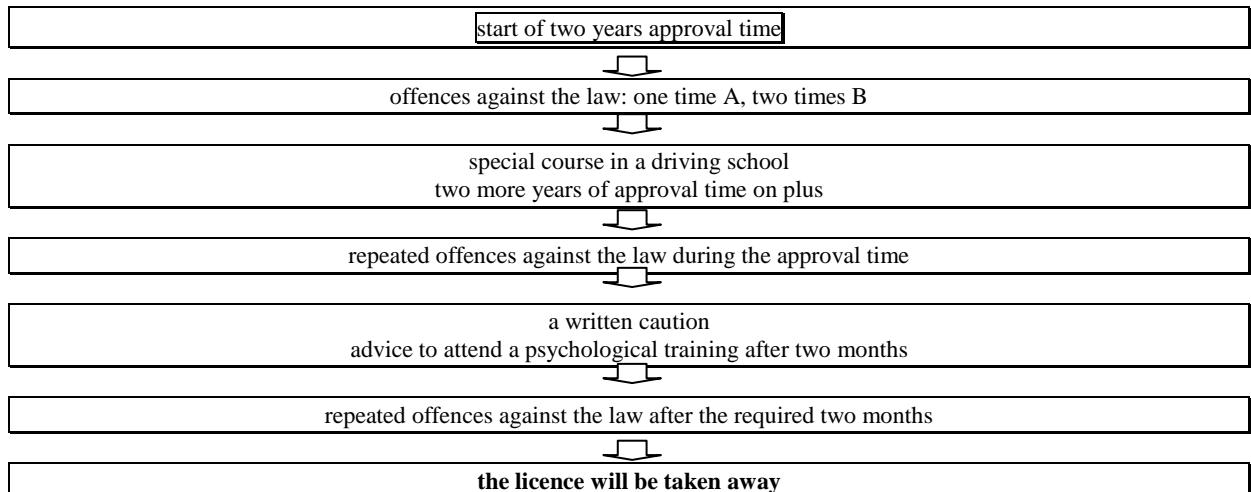
Catalogue A:

- ◆ ignoring/driving through red lights
- ◆ going over required speed at more than 20 km/h
- ◆ forbidden overtaking on the right side outside built up areas
- ◆ ignoring priority and causing danger for others
- ◆ driving when drunk
- ◆ making illegal turns and causing danger for others

Catalogue B:

- ◆ not taking enough care of wrecked vehicles and causing danger for others
- ◆ forbidden parking on motorways or clearways
- ◆ driving without headlights on during bad weather conditions outside built up areas
- ◆ making forbidden phone-calls with a cell-phone
- ◆ forbidden turning in a tunnel
- ◆ for carrying load in an unsecured way

The procedure of approval time



Registration of vehicles

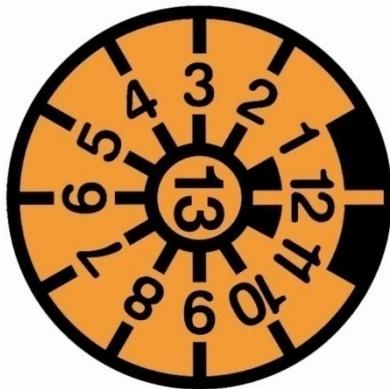
Powered vehicles and trailers have to be registered by the local authority. Assumed is a general allowance of the vehicle and insurance. The authority issues a number-plate and the certification of the vehicle. Registration for vehicles up to 6 km/h (type of construction), mofas, mopeds and sports-trailers is not necessary. The general allowance (ABE) of the vehicle will be certified by the manufacturer. The general allowance expires if serious parts of the vehicle have been changed. The registration of the vehicle expires as a result of the change. Driving without a valid ABE causes loss of the insurance, the risk of being fined and „points“ in traffic-file. The registration authority must be informed of any of the following changes:

- ◆ the purchase of a registered vehicle causes a change in the registration of your personal dates, including a certificate from your insurance company is required
- ◆ a change in your personal dates
- ◆ if the vehicle has not been driven for more than one year
- ◆ a change of the address(location) for more than three months or permanently

- ◆ sale of the vehicle leads to a change of personal dates from the new owner
- ◆ installation of a different engine
- ◆ installation of a trailer coupling

Registration plates

Registered vehicles will get an official plate, including mopeds and sports trailers. The official plates will get a registration stamp from the responsible authority. The plate on the back (has to be lit up in the dark) carries the stamp of the vehicle examination.



2008	2014
2009	2015
2010	2016
2011	2017
2012	2018
2013	2019

HU (vehicle examination)

Vehicle	
cars	first time: 3 years afterwards: 2 years
motorcycles	every 2 years
trailers up to 0.75 t	first time: 3 years afterwards: 2 years

Colours of the stamps which define the year

trucks up to 3.5 t	first time: 2 years afterwards: 2 years
trailers up to 3.5 t	every 2 years

The date for the next HU is on the plate (**year in the middle, month at 12 o`clock**) and also in the registration papers of the vehicle. The date for the next ASU is the same as the HU. The black parts of the plate are for better recognition by the police from a far distance.

Red plates: for test-, transfer- and repair station travels

Season plates: registration for a season

Export plates: month of expiry on the plate

Green plates: tax free vehicles

Oldtimer plates: with the letter H (historic)

Insurance plates: mofa, moped, disabled chair

The driver and the owner of the vehicle are responsible for the traffic safety of the vehicle.

Insurance

Liability insurance is required. As well, there is insurance for the damage to your own vehicle (*Vollkasko*) and insurance for fire, storm, thunder, wild animals, broken glass, theft (*Teilkasko*).

You have to carry

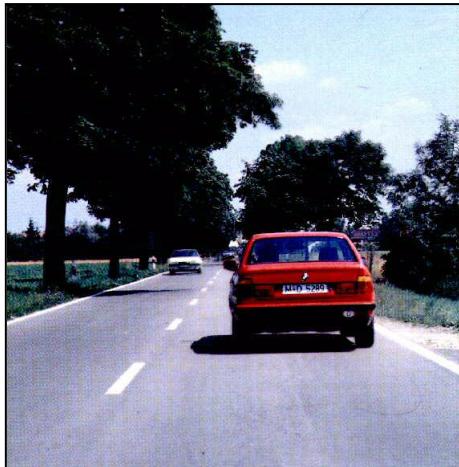
Drivers licence, ASU certification and the registration of the vehicle must be carried while using the vehicle. Vehicles free from registration must carry the general allowance of the vehicle, the insurance certificate and for mofas, the test certificate. The owner's certificate does not have to be carried by the driver of the vehicle.

Chapter 4

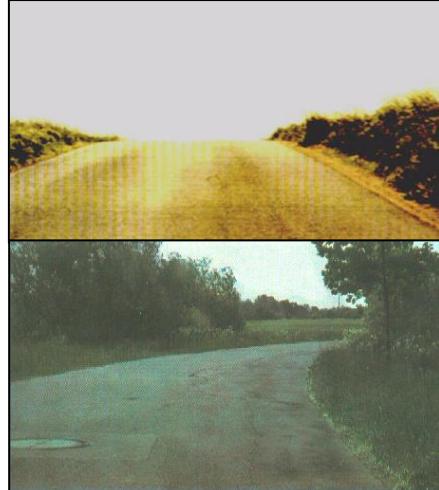
Street systems and level crossings

The street and carriageway

The street is for all participants in traffic. Powered vehicles must use the carriageways; out of two the right one. Streets may have a special way and / or a hard shoulder.



Drive on the right side



Always drive on the right side: if there is oncoming traffic, if you would be overtaken, at blind spots, inside curves, in front of humps. Maybe there are wrecked vehicles right in the curve or just behind the hill.

Special ways: It is forbidden to drive here with cars and motorcycles



pedestrians



cycle track



cycle track
(mofas on plus)



horse riders
only



pedestrian zone
driving is not allowed here

Driving in lanes

Inside built up areas

You are allowed to choose the lane you want to drive if there is more than one lane in your direction, up to 3.5 tonnes of permissible weight. You are allowed to drive quicker on the right than on the left lane.

Outside built up areas

If there is nothing to overtake you are required to drive on the right lane. You are not allowed to drive quicker on the right than on the left lane except:

- ◆ in traffic jams up to 80 km/h
- ◆ on speed lanes
- ◆ from the first sign-bridge onwards for different directions and starting white block lines simultaneously

If you are driving faster on the right lane not above 20 km/h more .

If arrows are posted on the street leading to different directions you are allowed to pass on the right lane (inside and outside built up areas). If you want to change lanes you must be aware of following traffic. The procedure of changing lanes is: *LOOK, INDICATE, HEADTURNING, CHANGE*. If somebody driving in front of you wants to change lanes help him by slowing down.

Zipper method (A)

If a lane ends because the number of lanes decrease or because of a construction area you should use the zipper feed-in method to let other drivers change their lane (**not on acceleration lanes**).

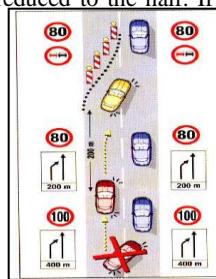
Correct use of the method shortens the queue

If one lane ends you have to change to the ongoing lane, but where? Some driver's do that very early, some wait until they reach the end of the lane. Some driver's get angry about the ones doing it late. How to do it right?

The StVO says now: do it right in front of the end of the lane!

If the use of lanes is impossible, because lanes end for any reason, you have to use the method of zipper to let the vehicles feed in right in front of the end of the lane.

This makes sense, because the queue is going to be reduced to the half. If there are overtaking-bans you have to use the zipper feed in up from the sign.

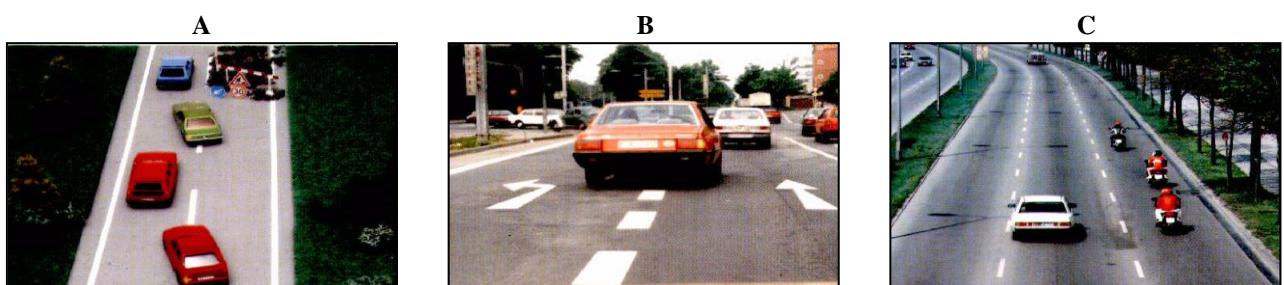


Arrows on the street (B)

Arrows on the street give you notice to get into the correct lane early. If the lines are broken you are allowed to change, if they are unbroken you must follow the direction of the arrow.

Guiding lines and roadway boundary marking (C)

You are allowed to pass guiding lines if you want to overtake. If there are more than two lanes in the same direction you are allowed to use the middle lane constantly if vehicles are driving on the right lane (even in a bigger distance). Trucks upwards of 3.5 tonnes permissible weight or carriers with trailers more than 7 m length are not allowed to use the left out of three or more lanes (only first and second lane).



Unbroken (solid) lines

You are not allowed to cross unbroken lines or to drive over them. You are allowed to overtake someone if you don't cross the solid line. Obstructions are allowed to pass if they are parked (except a bus at a bus stop). If unbroken lines have a broken (dotted) line beside them, it is possible to cross the lines from that lane where the dotted line appears next.



Yellow lines

Yellow lines take the precedence over from the white lines.



Hatch markings (obstacle area)

You are not allowed to drive, stop or park on it.



Direction on command



You have to follow the direction the arrow tells you. At bended arrows you have to indicate the direction.

Avenues (german:Allee)

Avenues are streets where there are trees on both sides in a periodical distance. The danger is on one side that the trees are very close to the street and on the other that the road is vaulted and most of the times very tight. Overtaking is almost impossible(even cycles). If you overtake and you come over the middle of the road your angle of inclination changes. There is also the problem if the sun would shine brightly through some spaces between the trees that you do not see properly because of the adaption of your eyes. Vehicles being higher as cars move over, sometimes more than the middle of the road(because of branches of the trees). So do not drive too fast!

Roundabouts

If the sign 215(roundabout) is being posted beneath sign 205(give way) the traffic on the roundabout has priority. You are prohibited to indicate if you are going to enter the roundabout, but you have to indicate if you are going to leave the roundabout. Stopping inside the roundabout is prohibited. You are allowed to drive on the center island, if it is unavoidable.

If you are going to indicate while entering the roundabout, or you forget to indicate when you are leaving the roundabout, you are going to be fined with €10.00



Motorways and clearways

You are only allowed to use motorways and clearways if your powered vehicle is able to drive at least more than 60 km/h. Throughgoing lanes take priority.



Motorway (start/end)



Clearway (start/end)



Motorways are without intersections and slow driving vehicles (under 60 km/h) are not allowed to drive here.

Clearways may have intersections and inside built up areas is a maximum speed of 50 km/h.

Acceleration lane

You are only allowed to enter motorways on acceleration lanes; onto clearways only at intersections. Speed up on acceleration lanes (ca. 80 km/h) if it is possible and use them until the end (three quarters of it). Avoid stopping on acceleration lanes. You are allowed to drive quicker on the acceleration lane than on the throughgoing lane (min. more than 20 km/h).

Exit lanes

You are only allowed to leave motorways at signed exits; on clearways only at intersections. Get into the right lane as soon as possible if you want to leave the motorway. Indicate at the three-striped-beacon. Use the exit lane to reduce your speed, not the throughgoing lane (not under min. speed 80 km/h).

You missed the exit

You are not allowed to turn or reverse. You must drive to the next exit and change the direction there.

Overtaking

It is strictly forbidden to overtake on the right-hand lane, except: *during traffic-jam, multi-direction lanes (on big white broken lines) and acceleration lanes (not at exit lanes)*.

Fuel

If you drive on motorways or clearways and your fuel runs out, you are fined.

Parking

It is forbidden to stop on motorways or clearways outside marked parking areas, except if your car breaks down..

Required maximum velocity

Powered-vehicles:	Motorways And Clearways with a built up separation	Clearways without a build up separation	
		Minimum two lanes each direction	Only one lane each direction
Motorcycles cars and trucks up to 3.5 tonnes	No restriction	130 recommended speed	100
Cars and trucks up to 3.5 tonnes with trailer	80	80	80
Trucks between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes	80	80	80
Trucks between 3.5. and 7.5 tonnes with trailer	80	60	60
Motorcycles with trailer <i>All tonnes are permissible weight</i>	60	60	60

Distance

Trucks 3.5 tonnes and more of permissible weight and busses must keep a minimum of 50 m safety-distance on motorways if they are driving more than 50 km/h.

Jam

If there is a Jam, you must keep a “free channel” for police/ambulance/fire brigade. At 2 lanes each direction in the middle, more than 2 lanes between the very left lane and the next one.

Level crossings

Approaching level crossings means driving at a moderate speed. Look to the left and the right as a matter of self-protection. If you approach from fields or country tracks listen if you can hear a whistling or ringing from a rail vehicle. If you cross a level crossing do it rapidly. Look out for bumps on the drive-way. Wait in front of the St. Andrew's cross if there is crowded traffic behind the junction. Overtaking is prohibited up from the three-striped beacon. Rail vehicles have priority at:

- ◆ level crossings with a St. Andrew's cross
- ◆ level crossings over walk-, field-, forest- or biketracks even if there is no St. Andrew's cross
- ◆ at all level crossings inside harbour and industrial estates if there is a St. Andrew's cross at the entrance with the extra sign „harbour- or industrial estate, rail vehicles have precedence“

You must wait at the St. Andrew's-cross:

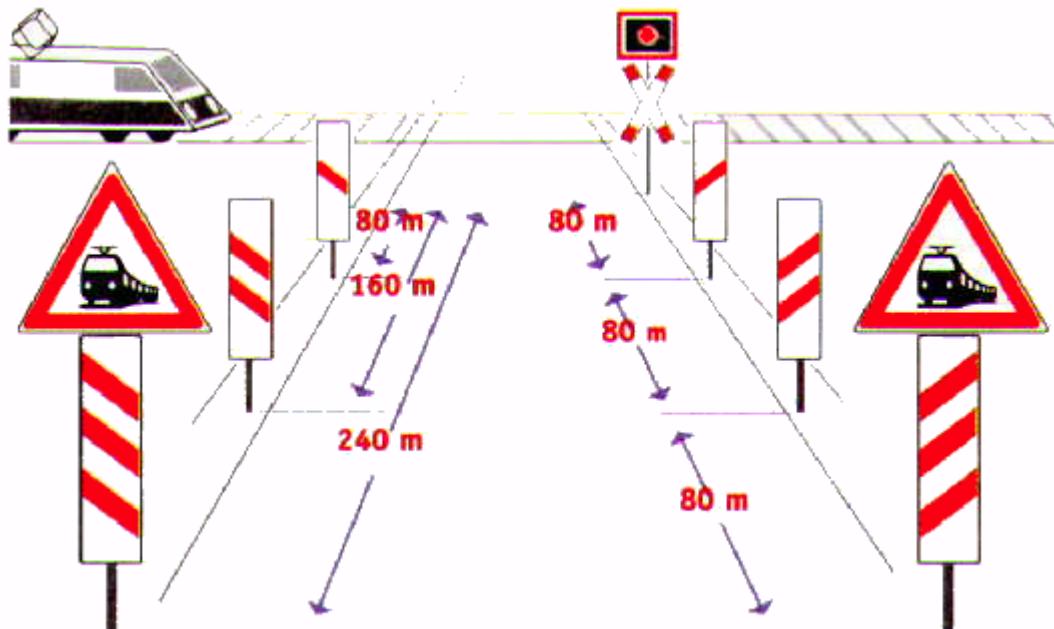
- ◆ if a railroad approaches
- ◆ the barriers are closed or are being lowered
- ◆ if there is a red light or red and yellow lights are flashing (even if a half barrier is still open)
- ◆ a railway employee waves a white-red-white flag or a lamp

You have to take care during a stop at a level crossing:

- ◆ do not stop in front of intersections and obstruct them
- ◆ switch off the engine because of environmental awareness
- ◆ if it is dark do not blind anybody with the headlights of your vehicle (no flashlights, may be switched to parking lights)
- ◆ you are not allowed to overtake up from the three striped beacon, this includes the crossing itself as well

Proceed after the stop when:

- ◆ the red light goes off
- ◆ the barriers are opened
- ◆ no other rail vehicle is approaching
- ◆ the level crossing can be crossed rapidly



Chapter 5

Basic rule § 1 StVO

Participating in local traffic means constant caution and reciprocal consideration. Every participant in local traffic must behave in this way so that no other participant is harmed, endangered; or because of unavoidable circumstances obstructed or bothered.

Defensive driving

Being cautious means foresighted driving and to count on mistakes of other participants. So your behaviour should be:

- ◆ to not insist on your right of way
- ◆ to take care of others
- ◆ to count on mistakes
- ◆ to avoid any risk

For example: If you drive behind somebody you might realize he is not familiar with the area (foreign number plate). Be careful and count on unexpected brakeing/stopping or indicating the direction too late

To cause any harm to others means:

- ◆ to hurt somebody
- ◆ to damage vehicles
- ◆ to soil somebody's clothes

To cause an endangered situation means:

- ◆ to force priority
- ◆ to cut curves
- ◆ switching over from flashing to driving lights too late
- ◆ driving with excessive speed
- ◆ driving too close behind others
- ◆ to drive with vehicles which have technical faults
- ◆ not to mark wrecked vehicles safely
- ◆ to badly soil the roadway
- ◆ to open doors unsafely

To obstruct somebody means:

- ◆ to have a breakdown because you have run out of fuel
- ◆ driving too slowly for no good reason
- ◆ stalling the engine in dense traffic
- ◆ to park incorrectly

To bother somebody means:

- ◆ to honk the horn for no reason
- ◆ intensive playing with the accelerator for no reason
- ◆ to drive with a defective exhaust causing fumes or causing thick smoke

Basic confidence

Based on the basic rule the jurisdiction decides if there are normal circumstances everybody can count on the correct behaviour of all other participants in local traffic if his behaviour is also correct. This rule is not valid for special circumstances for example, bad weather conditions or bad visibility. You must count on incorrect behaviour of others if there are old, disabled people or even children on the street.

Priority

Basic rule

The right of way lies on the side of the vehicles approaching from the right. This is also valid at roundabouts. Who ever wants to enter a street leaving a farm, forest track or a traffic calmed area must give way to the left and the right. If you are leaving a street with a sunken curbstone the priority is to the left and the right.

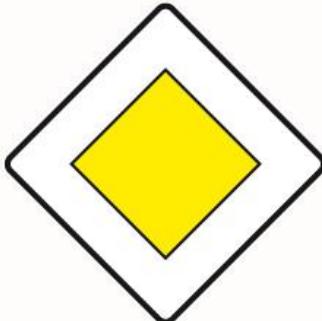
Priority signs

Traffic signs overrule „right before left“. There are positive and negative signs.

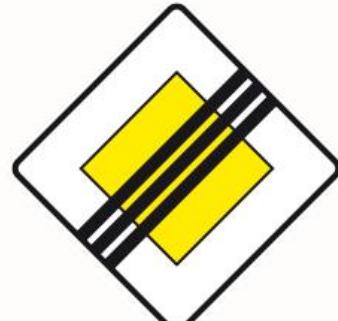
Positive:



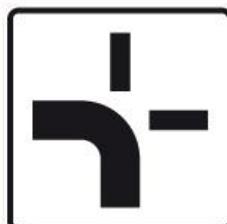
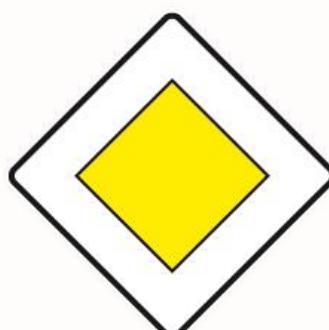
priority at the next intersection
(valid only once)



priority road
(beginning)



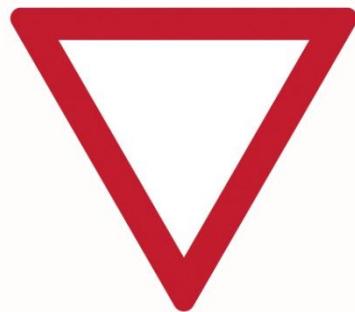
priority road
(ending) Stop and Yield end priority as well



turning priority

The thick line tells you which direction the priority road leads to. If you follow the priority road you have to indicate. You have priority if you follow the thick line (even if you are leaving the priority road straight ahead or right). Vehicles coming from the thin lines must wait. You have to be aware of pedestrians if you turn and you must wait if necessary. If the priority road turns to the right and you want to drive straight on or you want to turn left you must give priority to the vehicles approaching from the right (just the same as if you turn left at normal intersections you must give right of way to the opposite traffic).

Negative:



Give way (yield sign)
Be careful, drive with
moderate speed!



Announcement: stop in 100 m

Stop! (give way)
You must stop:
at the stop line if there is one,
if necessary wait (traffic comes),
if there is no stop line, stop at
the sight line, if necessary wait



Turning priority, the thin lines must
wait; between the thin lines there is:
„right before left“



Look out!
This sign announces an intersection
with the rule „right before left“
(important for the practical test)

Conduct in the case of priority

If the priority is yours:

- ◆ take care with other participants in local traffic, they may make mistakes
- ◆ you should never insist on your priority, give in if you can make the situation safe

If the priority is *not* yours:

- ◆ you must show through your behaviour that you are going to wait (moderate speed)
- ◆ you are only allowed to proceed if you do not obstruct or endanger anybody
- ◆ if you have decreased visibility enter the intersection „step by step“
- ◆ if the situation allows, proceed properly

If the priority is not quite clear:

- ◆ wait and watch for traffic
- ◆ if necessary observe the others, make eye-contact and come to an agreement (hand signs)

Danger inside built up areas

The priority may change at every intersection. Do not count on priority depending on the condition of the roads (wide = priority). Throughgoing road lights mislead drivers: they might think they have priority (priority signs might not be seen).

Traffic regulations

Traffic light signals

Traffic lights overrule priority signs. If traffic lights are out of order, the yellow light is flashing or switched off (inside built up areas at night after 10 p.m.) the traffic signs are valid again.

Green light

Proceed rapidly if you are driving straight ahead. Let other vehicles exit the intersection. Be careful if you are turning (left = the opposite traffic might have green; left and right = pedestrians might have green: as a warning for pedestrians there are yellow flashing lights above the pedestrian lights). If a traffic light has been green for a longer period of time be aware that this light may soon change.

Yellow light

Wait for the next sign. If the traffic light changes from green to yellow, stop if it is possible without sudden braking. If you are driving at a speed of 40 km/h and you are 10 m in front of a traffic light which is changing from green to yellow, proceed (speed up); at 40 m distance you should stop.



For example:

If you want to turn
left you should stop

Yellow flashing light

The traffic light is out of order. Drive cautiously and stop at the stop or sight line if it is necessary.

Red light

Wait at the stop line. If this line is missing keep enough space before the pedestrian crossing.

Red light plus green arrow plate

Turning right if the light is red is allowed. First you must stop at the stop line, if there is none you must stop right before the intersection. Turning is only allowed from the right lane without causing an obstruction or danger to others.



Red and yellow lights on at the same time

Wait until green is on, do not proceed.

Green arrow light

The traffic is allowed to proceed in the direction of the arrow.

Yellow arrow light

Wait for the next change of light.

Red arrow light

Wait at the stop line.

Green arrow across the intersection

If you want to turn left proceed. Drive rapidly because the opposite traffic has got a red light.



Permanent control signals

The cities can change those control signs as they need it. The signs give way to lanes or close them.

- ◆ Red crosses: it is forbidden to drive on this lane; it is forbidden to stop in front of the red crosses
- ◆ Yellow flashing arrow: you must change the lane in the direction of the arrow
- ◆ Green arrows: you are allowed to drive on this lane



Police

The orders of police overrule every other regulation. You must follow the orders of policemen in all situations.

The signals of the police:

- ◆ if you see the profile of the policeman you are allowed to proceed
- ◆ if you see the back or the front of the policeman you must wait
- ◆ if you see the policeman holding up his hand wait for the next sign
- ◆ if you see special handsigns of the policeman (a wink) you personally are meant

Special traffic situations

There are traffic situations in which you are not allowed to proceed, even if you have priority. You are not allowed to proceed if:

- ◆ you would have to wait on the crossroads because of traffic congestion
- ◆ you are ordered by a policeman to stop
- ◆ you would obstruct a vehicle with flashing blue light and a siren
- ◆ somebody does not pay attention to your right of way

If you are caught in traffic congestion keep pedestrian crossings, intersections and level crossings free.



Do not enter the intersection and stop, because the intersection is blocked



Slow down and stop

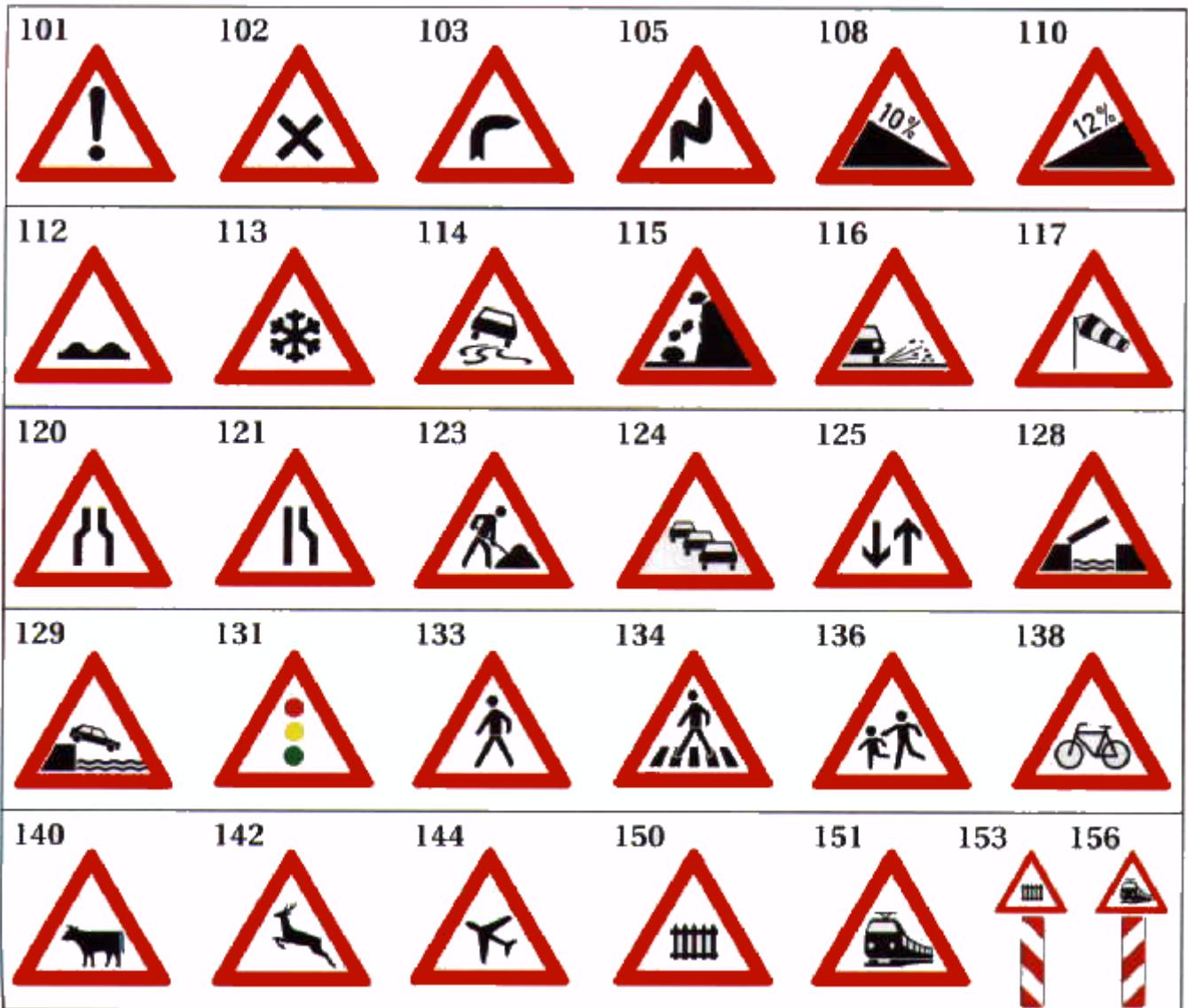
Free channel

If there is traffic congestion on the motorway you must leave a channel in between the two lanes. If there are more than two lanes leave the channel between the left and the middle lanes free (because of ambulance, police).

Chapter 6

Traffic signs

Traffic signs are posted inside built up areas, before the cause, outside built up areas within a distance of 150 m to 250 m. The numbers at the traffic signs are the official numbers given by the government.



Warning signs

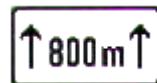
- ◆ **101:** Danger!/ slow down, eventually brake, used in connection with the signs: the road is used for wintersports, there may be packed snow or black ice on the roadway; you must expect soft verges
- ◆ **102:** Cross-road at a junction with priority from the right
- ◆ **103:** Sharp right bend/ slow down
- ◆ **105:** Double bend (first right)/ slow down- drive as far as possible to the right
- ◆ **108:** Steep descent/ braking distance is greater on downhill slopes than on even ground, braking power may decrease with prolonged use
- ◆ **110:** Steep ascent/ if necessary change down a gear
- ◆ **112:** Uneven road/ reduce speed as it may cause damage to the load or axle, and cause a spring fracture, causes a skid
- ◆ **113:** Danger of snow or ice/ unexpected, steer slowly and reduce speed (at bridges or forest aisle)

- ◆ **114:** Road slippery when wet or dirty/ do not brake sharply, do not accelerate and avoid sudden movements of the steering wheel
- ◆ **115:** Falling rocks/ avoid stopping and parking, be prepared for falling rocks or rocks on the street, somebody in front of you may brake because of rocks on the roadway
- ◆ **116:** Loose chippings/ do not accelerate sharply, avoid sudden movements of the steering wheel, keep a distance to the vehicle in front of you
- ◆ **117:** Cross-wind/ you must count on sudden wind, drive slowly, steer against the wind (at bridges or forest aisles)
- ◆ **120:** Road narrows on both sides/ reduce your speed, do not overtake
- ◆ **121:** Road narrows on the right side/ use the zipper method (two lanes for one direction), give precedence to the oncoming traffic
- ◆ **123:** Road works/ count on construction vehicles, men at work or construction material on the road
- ◆ **124:** Congestion/ hazard lights in case of congestion, count on sudden braking by vehicles in front
- ◆ **125:** Two-way traffic straight ahead/ oncoming traffic may dazzle you
- ◆ **128:** Opening bridge/ check if bridge is passable, stop if bridge is raised
- ◆ **129:** Quayside or river bank/ road leads to a river, in bad visibility or at night the river could be confused with the surface of the road
- ◆ **131:** Light signals/ oncoming light signals, sometimes in connection with a yellow flashing light (this means red)
- ◆ **133:** Pedestrians/ count on pedestrians
- ◆ **134:** Pedestrian crossing/ drive slowly, do not overtake
- ◆ **136:** Children/ drive slowly, be ready to brake, greatest alertness
- ◆ **138:** Cyclists crossing/ count on cyclists crossing the road
- ◆ **140:** Cattle crossing/ farm animals on the road, heavily soiled road
- ◆ **142:** Wild animals crossing/ look out for wild animals crossing the road or animals approaching, brake and switch your lights to driving lights, do not get into the opposite lane, if necessary use your horn
- ◆ **144:** Airfield/ sudden aeroplane noise, the attention of other road users may be diverted
- ◆ **150:** Level crossing with barriers/ drive at moderate speed, uneven road at the crossing (valid until 2019)
- ◆ **51:** Level crossing without barriers/ be careful, sometimes in connection with  (level crossing ahead if you turn right)
- ◆ **153:** Triple bar level crossing with barriers/ 240 m on to the crossing, one bar = 80 m
- ◆ **156:** Triple bar level crossing without barriers

Warning signs can be used in connection with:

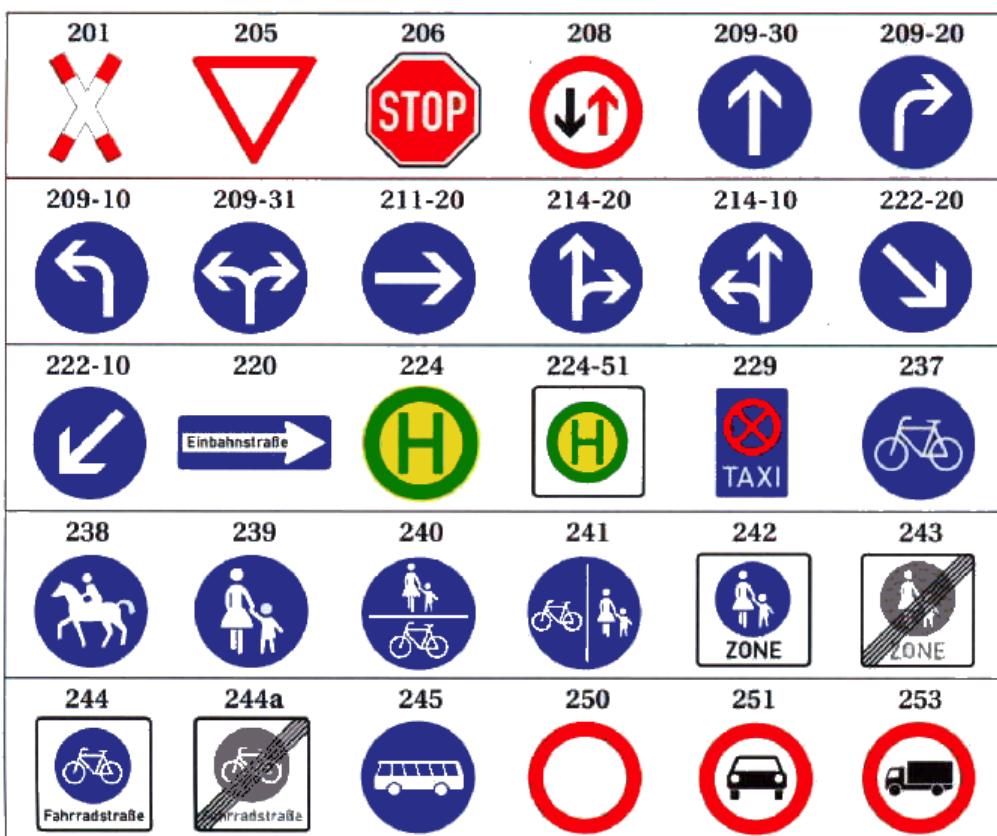


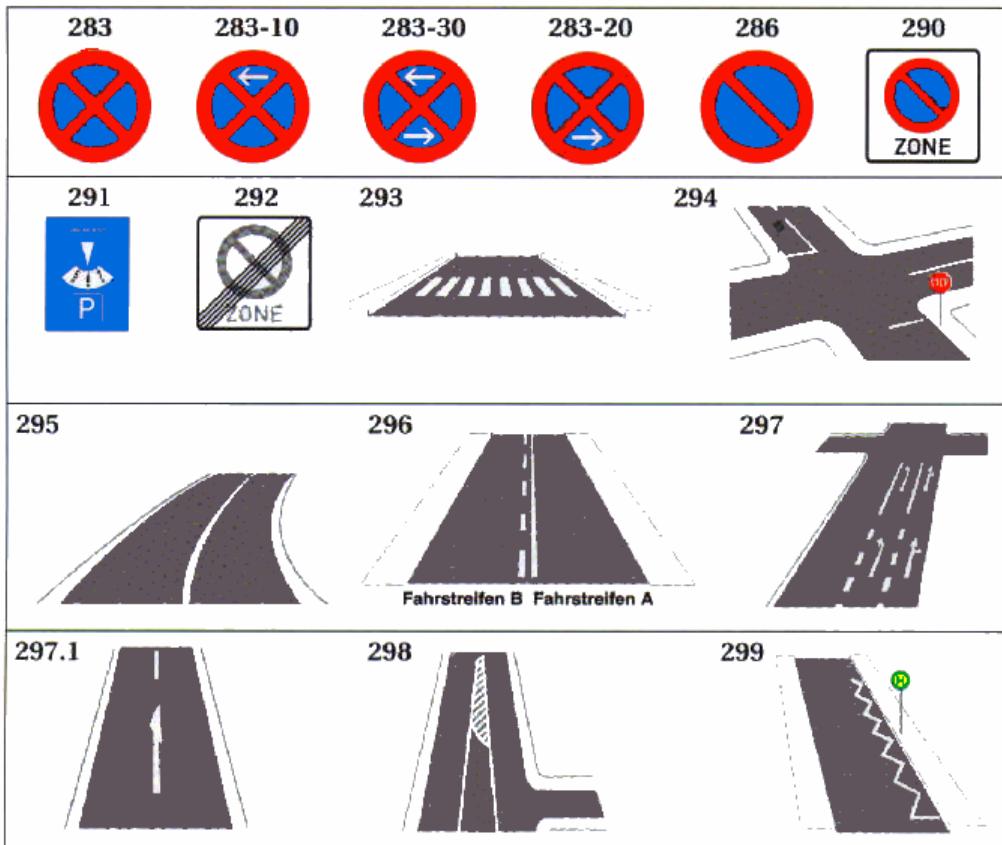
The distance to where the danger starts



The immediate distance to the danger

Signs giving orders





- ◆ **201:** St.Andrew`s cross/ a lightning in the middle=electricity lines above, wait in front if rail vehicles are approaching,a railroad employee waves a flag, if you can not cross without waiting on it, in connection with a flashing light=proceed when the light is out, flashing arrow lights tell you the direction to the crossing
- ◆ **205:** Give way/ moderate speed, give way
- ◆ **206:** Stop and give way/ stop at the stop line, if there is no stop line stop at the sight line
- ◆ **208:** Oncoming traffic has priority/ give precedence to oncoming traffic
- ◆ **209-30:** Straight ahead only
- ◆ **209-20:** Turn right/ indicate
- ◆ **209-10:** Turn left/ indicate
- ◆ **209-31:** Turn right or left/ indicate
- ◆ **211-20:** Turn right/ indicate
- ◆ **214-20:** Ahead or right only
- ◆ **222-20:** Pass on the right
- ◆ **222-10:** Pass on the left
- ◆ **220:** One way street
- ◆ **224:** Tram or bus stop/ reduce your speed and be ready to brake
- ◆ **224-51:** School bus stop/ reduce your speed and be ready to brake
- ◆ **229:** Taxi rank/ taxis maybe pulling in and setting off
- ◆ **237:** Cycle track
- ◆ **238:** Horse riders only/ prohibited for all others
- ◆ **239:** Pedestrians only
- ◆ **240:** Pedestrians and cyclists only, lane is not separated
- ◆ **241:** Pedestrians and cyclists only, seperated lanes
- ◆ **242:** Pedestrian zone
- ◆ **243:** End of a pedestrian zone
- ◆ **244:** Cycle road
- ◆ **244a:** End of a cycle road
- ◆ **245:** Bus lane/ no other vehicles allowed
- ◆ **250:** No vehicles/ hand driven vehicles, and motorcycles or bicycles being pushed are allowed
- ◆ **251:** No motorcars or other multitrack motor vehicles
- ◆ **253:** No power-driven vehicles with a permissible weight exceeding 3.5 tonnes including their trailers
- ◆ **254:** No bicycles
- ◆ **255:** No motorcycles/ with or without side-car, mopeds or motor-assisted cycles

- ◆ **256:** No motor-assisted cycles
- ◆ **258:** No horse riders
- ◆ **259:** No pedestrians
- ◆ **260:** No motorcycles with or without side-car, no mopeds or motor-assisted cycles and other multitrack power-driven vehicles
- ◆ **261:** No power-driven vehicles carrying dangerous goods
- ◆ **262:** No vehicles over weight shown in tonnes including load (total weight), carriers and trailers are counted separately
- ◆ **263:** Axle weight limit in tonnes
- ◆ **264:** No vehicles over width shown including carriage
- ◆ **265:** No vehicles over height shown including carriage
- ◆ **266:** No vehicles or combinations over length shown including carriage
- ◆ **267:** No entry/ sometimes bicycles are allowed to proceed but this has to be shown by a special sign
- ◆ **268:** Snow chains mandatory/ max. speed 50 km/h
- ◆ **269:** No vehicles carrying water-polluting substances
- ◆ **270:** Driving ban to reduce air-polluting substances/
motorised vehicles are allowed with one of these badges:

- ◆ **272:** No U-turns allowed
- ◆ **273:** Keep minimum distance shown/ power-vehicles over 3.5 tonnes permissible weight or trucks
- ◆ **274:** Maximum speed
- ◆ **1052-36:** wet surface/ in connection with speed limits
- ◆ **274.1:** Speed limit zone
- ◆ **274.2:** End of a speed limit zone
- ◆ **275:** Minimum speed/ according to the weather conditions you are not allowed to go slower, otherwise it is forbidden to drive here
- ◆ **276:** No overtaking/ multitrack powered vehicles are not allowed to be overtaken, single track vehicles are allowed
- ◆ **277:** No overtaking upwards of a permissible weight of 3.5 tonnes/ multitrack powered vehicles are not allowed to be overtaken, single track vehicles are allowed to be overtaken
- ◆ **278:** End of a speed limit
- ◆ **279:** End of a minimum speed
- ◆ **280:** End of no overtaking
- ◆ **281:** End of no overtaking
- ◆ **282:** End of all previous prohibitions and restrictions (overtaking ban as well as speed reduction)
- ◆ **283:** No stopping
- ◆ **283-10:** No stopping (beginning)
- ◆ **283-30:** No stopping (middle)
- ◆ **283-20:** No stopping (end)
- ◆ **286:** No parking
- ◆ **290:** Entance to controlled parking zone
- ◆ **291:** Parking disc
- ◆ **292:** End of controlled parking zone
- ◆ **293:** Pedestrian crossing
- ◆ **294:** Stop line
- ◆ **295:** Solid white line/ it is forbidden to drive on or over it, parking is forbidden if the distance between the vehicle and the solid white is less than 3 m
- ◆ **296:** Solid white line in combination with a dotted white line/ allowed to be crossed if the dotted white line is in your lane
- ◆ **297:** Direction arrows/ no stopping in this area
- ◆ **297.1:** Lane will be delimited or end
- ◆ **298:** Area not to be entered by vehicles (hatch markings)
- ◆ **299:** No parking area

Hard Shoulder:

This sign orders to use the hard shoulder for driving.
The order to drive on the right applies here.



This sign orders to leave the hard shoulder.



This sign orders not to use the hard shoulder anymore.



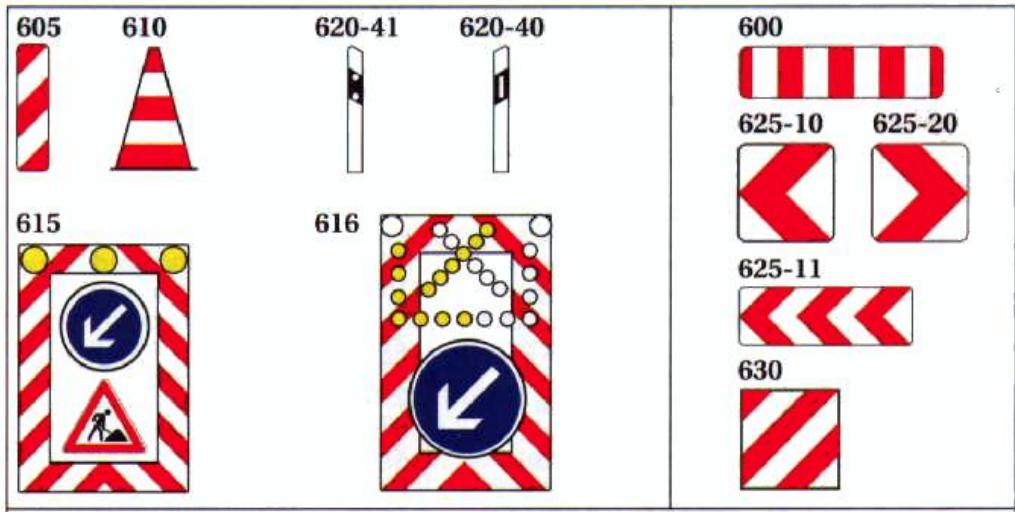
Information signs



- ◆ **301:** Priority at next intersection
- ◆ **306:** Priority road/ outside built up areas, forbidden parking at this sign
- ◆ **307:** end of priority road
- ◆ **308:** Priority over vehicles from opposite direction/ only take precedence when the narrowing is clear, you must be ready to stop despite taking precedence
- ◆ **310:** Built up area (entering)/ maximum speed 50 km/h, do not use your horn when overtaking, the choice of lane is free up to 3.5 tonnes
- ◆ **311:** End of a built up area
- ◆ **314:** Parking place/ 10 = beginning, 20 = ending
- ◆ **315:** Parking on pavement/ only vehicles up to 2.8 tonnes
- ◆ **316:** Park and ride
- ◆ **317:** Park and hike
- ◆ **325:** Walking speed area/ pedestrians have precedence, do not drive faster than walking speed
- ◆ **326:** End of walking speed area/ if you pass this sign left and right lanes have priority
- ◆ **330:** Motorway
- ◆ **331:** Clearway (power road)
- ◆ **332:** Exits/ 20 = motorway, 21 = federal roads, 22 = local
- ◆ **333:** Exits/ 20 = motorway, 21 = federal roads
- ◆ **334:** End of a motorway
- ◆ **336:** End of a clearway (power road)
- ◆ **340:** Guiding line (white dotted line)
- ◆ **341:** „Give way“ line (waiting line)

- ◆ **350:** Pedestrian crossing
- ◆ **353:** One way street (new)
- ◆ **354:** Water protection area
- ◆ **355:** Pedestrian subway or bridge
- ◆ **356:** Guards/ flowing traffic will be stopped to let children cross the street, children may run across the roadway
- ◆ **357:** Dead end street
- ◆ **358:** First aid station
- ◆ **359:** Breakdown assistance
- ◆ **360:** Public telephone
- ◆ **361:** Petrol station (also unleaded)
- ◆ **363:** Police station
- ◆ **366:** Camping site
- ◆ **367:** Information
- ◆ **368:** Frequency of traffic information radio
- ◆ **375:** Hotel or motel
- ◆ **376:** Motorway restaurant
- ◆ **377:** Refreshment or cafeteria
- ◆ **378:** Toilets
- ◆ **380:** Recommended speed/ even the weather or road conditions are good you are not allowed to go faster
- ◆ **381:** End of recommended speed (**Sign 380 and 381 are still valid until 2019**)
- ◆ **385:** Place name
- ◆ **386:** River name
- ◆ **386:** Tourist attraction
- ◆ **388:** Unsafe hard shoulder
- ◆ **389:** Unsafe hard shoulder up from 3.5 tonnes of permissible weight
- ◆ **392:** Customs
- ◆ **393:** Speed information at customs
- ◆ **394:** Street lights do not stay on all night/ outside built up area = holding light, inside build up area = parking light
- ◆ **401:** Federal road number
- ◆ **405:** Motorway number
- ◆ **406:** Motorway exit number
- ◆ **410:** European road number
- ◆ **415:** Direction sign on federal roads
- ◆ **418:** Direction sign on other primary roads
- ◆ **419:** Direction sign on secondary roads
- ◆ **421:** Direction sign for certain types of vehicles
- ◆ **430:** Direction to the motorway
- ◆ **432:** Local direction signs
- ◆ **434:** Direction sign
- ◆ **435:** Direction sign on federal roads
- ◆ **436:** Direction sign on other primary roads
- ◆ **437:** Street names
- ◆ **438:** Direction sign
- ◆ **439:** Direction sign
- ◆ **440:** Direction sign
- ◆ **442:** Direction sign for bicycles
- ◆ **448:** Motorway exit with number
- ◆ **449:** Direction sign on motorways
- ◆ **450-2:** Distance markers to motorway exits, one bar = 100 m, two bars = 200 m, three bars = 300 m
- ◆ **453:** Distance sign on motorways
- ◆ **454-459:** Diversion signs
- ◆ **460:** Alternative route
- ◆ **466:** Outline of alternative route
- ◆ **467:** Channelizing sign (this motorway is not highly frequented)
- ◆ **468:** To turn left drive this way
- ◆ **500-551:** Signs indicating the use of lanes

Traffic control facilities



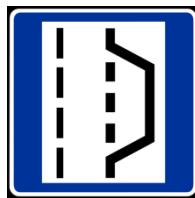
- ◆ **600:** Barrier rail
- ◆ **605:** Guiding beacon (warning beacon)
- ◆ **610:** Guiding cone
- ◆ **615:** Mobile barrier board (for roads with counterflow)
- ◆ **616:** Mobile barrier board with flashing arrow (for at least two lanes in one direction)
- ◆ **625:** Deliniator/ 10 = to the left, 20 = to the right
- ◆ **625-11:** Sharp deviation of the route
- ◆ **630:** Warning plate (parking)/ used inside built up areas for parked trailers and vehicles with extensive width

New:

- ◆ **327:** Tunnel/ driving through, dipped headlight is required/ turning (U-turn) is forbidden/ in a case of emergency, stopping is only allowed in emergency stopping areas or lay-by's



- ◆ **328:** Emergency stop/ stopping is only allowed in the case of emergency or a breakdown



- ◆ **391:** Toll road/ valid for all vehicles



Chapter 7

Participants in local traffic and their behaviour

Vehicles

Public transport

At public transport vehicle stops (tram, bus, school bus) you may only pass the vehicles cautiously even if you are driving in the opposite traffic. If passengers are stepping in or out you are only allowed to pass at walking speed. Pass with greater side distance so you do not endanger or obstruct them. If it is necessary stop and wait.

Bus or tramstop



Stay behind a tram driving towards a stop. Do not try to pass in the „last second“ if there are passengers waiting at the kerbstone. Pass stop-islands (trams) in the middle of the street in a cautiously, because sometimes passengers leave the stop-islands in a careless way to cross the street. Pass buses waiting at a bus stop with moderate speed (A) even if you are driving in the opposite of the direction to the bus. Do not endanger passengers by passing the bus with a short side distance. Think about passengers crossing the roadway in front of the bus. If a bus or a schoolbus drives close to a stop with **hazard warning lights** switched on you are not allowed to overtake it (B). If the bus or schoolbus is waiting at a bus stop with the **hazard warning lights** switched on you are only allowed to pass at walking speed (C) including oncoming traffic. If necessary, stop and wait (passengers crossing the street). If a bus or a schoolbus indicates to the middle of the street you must let it proceed.

Trams are only allowed to be overtaken or passed on the right side, except if you are in a one-way street or the rails are on the right side of the roadway. If you want to get into the correct lane to make a turn, keep the rails free if a tram is approaching.

(A)



Moderate speed

(B)



No overtaking

(C)



Walking speed

(D)



Normal speed (opposite traffic)

If there is something bulid up in between, the rules do not affect the opposite traffic.

Schoolbus

Waiting school buses with hazard warning lights switched on are only allowed to be passed at walking speed and when keeping sufficient lateral distance. Children may get in or out of the bus. If a school bus is driving towards a stop, count on running children when the schoolbus has already stopped. Think about unsafe behaviour of the children. If you could endanger or obstruct children you must stop and wait. If you drive close to a bus stop and children are waiting for the bus, slow down and be ready to brake because children may suddenly cross the street.



Schulbus
werktags
7-9h 11-13h



Schulbus
werktags
7-9h 11-13h

school bus stop



school bus

Taxi

Taxis have their own special stops. You must count on incoming and outgoing taxis. You are not allowed to stop at those special stops specified by a sign. Think about taxis driving in front of you. They are allowed to stop on the street in the second row.



Taxistop



Trucks and buses

Because of their size trucks and buses may obstruct traffic signs or lights. Those vehicles are not able to accelerate quickly if they are carrying a heavy load. At right turns you must count on the vehicle swinging over to the lane next to the right one. They are also reducing their speed.

Cars and single-track vehicles

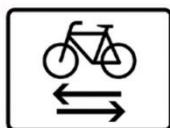
Cars with high power engines lead some drivers to accelerate rapidly, reducing safety-distance to a very dangerous reduced distance.

Because of their silhouettes, single track vehicles are often not seen in time. Some motorcycle drivers use their small size to pass in dangerous situations (traffic congestion=they use the channel between two lanes). A lot of those motorcycles are doing risky manoeuvres because of their possible acceleration (at lane changes). If they are driving through curves the upper part of their body can sometimes come into contact with the opposite traffic.

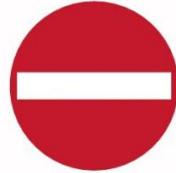
Some cyclists (extremely young ones) do not know much about the traffic rules. If cyclists are driving with some load on their carrier they swing out, also if they try to keep their balance. You must keep a bigger side-distance. If there is a bike-way beside the road, count on cyclists (they have priority if they drive straight ahead). Generally, in Germany cyclists are allowed to drive through one-way streets against the direction of oncoming traffic but it has to be allowed by a sign.



Cyclists may appear „right before left“



Cyclists may appear ahead



Cyclists are allowed to proceed

If you or one of your passengers wants to step out of the car, count on bikes passing before you open the door and take care.

Farm vehicles

If you are driving in farm areas, count on soiled roads and slow driving vehicles carrying a heavy and wide load. Sometimes parts of the load fall down, count on soiled or covered indicators. These vehicles sometimes swing out before making turns.



Minicars and Quads

For these vehicles the driver's licence class **AM** is required. For light vehicles until the speed of 45km/h. Faster ones need the licence class **B**.

These vehicles can be a problem outside build up areas:

- they will be noticed to late as a slow driving vehicle
- they might tempt to risky overtaking maneuvers
- Quads have only one headlight and one rear light, this is bad at night – they could be noticed very bad

Pedestrians

Pedestrians often cross the streets without being cautious. The visibility for driving vehicles or pedestrians is often obstructed by parked vehicles. Old people are more endangered than younger, because they see and hear less. Their reaction time decreases and their decisions about speed and distance may be wrong. In residential areas you must count on children playing and pedestrians or bikes crossing the streets without care.

Pedestrian crossing (zebra crossing)

Pedestrian crossings should help pedestrians and disabled people in wheelchairs to cross the street safely. Pedestrians have precedence. The crossings are marked (sometimes) by a warning sign and (everytime) an information sign. Drive towards zebra crossings at a moderate speed to show pedestrians you are going to stop for them. Avoid sharp breaking because of traffic following and do not make pedestrians uncertain (especially on slippery roads). If cyclists want to cross the zebra crossing while riding the bike, be generous and let them cross (normally forbidden for cyclists). Be extra cautious if:

- ◆ pedestrians step on to the crossing
- ◆ your sight is obstructed
- ◆ the vehicle in front of you is waiting at a zebra crossing
- ◆ elderly people want to cross, because they do not look to the left and right (often), they may step on the street suddenly, sometimes they are uncertain and turn around and walk back

If you are turning left or right it does not matter if the pedestrians have a zebra crossing (in the next street right after the turn), they have precedence. Keep zebra crossings free if there is traffic congestion right behind it. Do not stop at the kerbstone in front of zebra crossings (keep 5 m minimum distance).



Warning sign



Information sign

Children

Children are endangered more than any other participants in local traffic. Children under 8 years of age are not able to judge traffic situations like grown ups. As a result of this you must count on unsafe, sudden or careless behaviour. If you see children on the street, or even close to it, drive at a moderate speed, be prepared to brake and stop if necessary. Be careful if you see this sign:



Drivers of vehicles have to keep the following in mind about children:

- ◆ their sight is not the same as that of grown ups, they are not as tall
- ◆ their hearing is not fully developed
- ◆ their gross motor system is not fully developed
- ◆ they try to copy the behaviour of grown ups (crossing the street)
- ◆ children leaving their school may act carelessly, look out for this sign:



- ◆ if a „ball“ rolls onto the street count on sudden approaching children

- ◆ if you see children on the sidewalk be prepared to brake and count on sudden movements of the children
- ◆ if you see fighting children on or at the sidewalk, be prepared to brake and stop if necessary
- ◆ be careful with children riding their bikes, sometimes they may suddenly follow their friends, or cross streets unexpectedly.

Walking speed area

Pedestrians have precedence over traffic in a walking speed area. You are only allowed to drive in first gear at a speed of 5-6 km/h. Think of a walking speed area as a giant zebra crossing. Inside walking speed areas every intersection follows the rule „right before left“. If you are leaving a walking speed area remember the priority: left and right have priority.



30 Zone

Residential areas more and more are turning into 30 km/h zones because of the safety for pedestrians and especially children. The speed reduction lasts for the whole area and you have to keep it in mind until the „end of 30 km/h zone“ sign appears. Almost every intersection follows the rule „right before left“.



In most German cities it is usual to place so called „sleeping policemen“, like bumpers on the street, flower pots or concrete blocks to reduce the speed driven. The new version of §39 says:

Inside built up areas you have to count on 30-zones if you are going to leave priority roads.

Practical there should be only two kind of roads inside built up areas:

main-roads you are allowed to go 50km/h

secondary-roads you are allowed to go 30km/h

Chapter 8

Speed

The speed has to be adapted to the sight, weather and road conditions. Furthermore, you have to take care with the vehicle (plus the load) and your personal qualifications. The speed should also take into account environmental awareness. Some drivers believe they are „good“ drivers and so their behaviour leads to risky situations. Some drivers believe they are „bad“ drivers and their habits are slow driving close to an obstruction for other drivers. Some drivers use speed to get into a state of euphoria. According to the law you are not allowed to go faster than the required speed, also you are not allowed to go slower for no reason. Basically you are only allowed to drive at a speed so you are able to stop within your distance of sight. Driving on narrow roads causes a decrease of the distance down to a half. If you drive at night time you should be able to stop within the distance that your driving lights are beaming. If the distance of your sight is obstructed by fog, snow or rain and cut to less than 50 m, or you installed snow chains, you are only allowed to drive a maximum speed of 50 km/h.

If you want to know the speed, there is a formula that calculates the distance your vehicle travels according to the actual velocity:

V = velocity
RW = reaction distance

$$\frac{V}{10} \times 3 = RW$$

Permissible maximum velocity

Inside built up areas speed limit is **50 km/h** for all powered vehicles. If the speed limit is more than that (announced by a sign), it applies to all vehicles.

Outside built up areas the speed limits are:

Powered-vehicles:	Motorways And Clearways with a built up divider	Clearways without a built up divider	
		Minimum two lanes each direction	Only one lane each direction
Motorcycles cars and trucks up to 3.5 tonnes	No restriction	130	100
Cars and trucks up to 3.5 tonnes with trailer	80	80	80
Trucks between 3.5. and 7.5 tonnes	80	80	80
Trucks between 3.5. and 7.5 tonnes with trailer	80	60	60
Motorcycles with trailer <i>All tonnes are permissible weight</i>	60	60	60

Speed and street conditions

If you are driving on well-constructed streets without anything built up beside the street your feel for speed decreases (the result=less distance, driving too quickly into curves). You should check your speed often! If danger or warning signs appear (for example signs no. **103, 112, 114**) reduce your speed according to the situation. Remember the escape-power inside curves. If your speed doubles, the escape-power squares. In bad road conditions it is sometimes extremely hard to brake or steer, so: **adjust your speed!** Soiled streets also lead to dangerous situations; if you soil the street you are responsible for of cleaning the street immediately (if necessary call the police).

Speed and traffic situations

You must reduce your speed according to special traffic situations, as there are

warning signs!
for example: no. **108, 136, 142**

Speed signs



Start of a speed limit



End of a speed limit



If the speed reduction is used in combination with this sign, the speed limit is only valid if it's wet



Start of a minimum speed

End of a minimum speed

If the traffic condition allows it, you are required to drive a minimum speed of 30 km/h. If this is not possible, you are not allowed to use this road.



Recommended speed

The advice is not to exceed the announced speed, also on a good road, in good weather, sight or traffic conditions. Cars carrying trailers are not allowed to go quicker than 80 km/h, even if a higher speed is announced. (These signs “recommended speed” start and end are valid until 2019)

Sight and weather conditions

Rain impairs your visibility. The contact between tyres and the road surface decreases (aquaplaning). Your breaking distance increases. As soon as it starts raining, if it has been dry for a longer period of time, a slippery endangering film can arise on the road surface. Depending on the situation you must drive slower and keep a bigger distance from the car in front. Your visibility, when first using the wipers, is immediately impaired. Also wheel-spray can impair visibility. If the oncoming cars are driving with dipped headlights, count on sudden banks of fog and heavy rain.

-Aquaplaning- is dangerous because the tyres swim upon water and steering and breaking is not the same than on a dry road. High speed, driven down tyres and gauge-grooves (as a result of heavy loaded trucks) increase the chance of aquaplaning. This effect starts around a speed of 70-80 km/h. Slow down, otherwise there is the chance of water-skiing!



Fog

Drive at a speed according to the visibility. Switch on your driving lights even if it's daytime. Switch on the front fog lights if existing. The rear fog light is only allowed to be switched on if visibility is less than **50 m**. Keep a bigger distance to the vehicles in front. You must count on fog at rivers, swamps and lakes. If your sight range goes down to 50 m or less, your maximum speed must be 50 km/h.

Snow and ice

Driving in the winter time requires very cautious driving behaviour. Slow down early because sharp breaking must be avoided. Also, quick and extensive steering or accelerating is dangerous. You must count on ice at bridges or stretches of the road running through a forest (wherever cold wind blows). Be cautious at roads cleared of snow. Pedestrians are often not able to leave the road because the snow has been piled up on the sidewalk.

Sidewind

Driving while heavy wind is blowing becomes more dangerous the more you accelerate or when the wind increases. The size of your vehicle matters, as well as the effects caused by sidewind. If you are overtaking vehicles larger than yours, it gets dangerous when entering the slip stream and leaving it (you must steer against the wind). Sidewind appears often while driving on bridges or passing forest breaks.



Darkness

If you are turning from a brightly lit road into an unlit road your eyes adapt slowly to darkness. During these seconds of adaption, obstructions (pedestrians) are harder to make out than before. Your visibility decreases if rain falls at night time (headlights of oncoming traffic may confuse). Driving through brightly lit streets (advertisements) sometimes causes a decrease in ability to recognise traffic lights.

Speed and stopping-distance (rule of thumb)

„Reaction-distance“: From the moment you realize a situation causing a brake in concentration it takes up to 1 second until you start to brake. During this second your vehicle continues without breaking. The distance you driving while not braked, you can find out by using the rule of thumb:

V = velocity
RW = reaction distance

$$\frac{V}{10} \times 3 = RW$$

„Braking-distance“: The braking distance follows the reaction distance. If you double your speed, the braking distance becomes 4 times longer! You must consider braking according to the weather, road or vehicle conditions. The rule of thumb for the braking distance is:

V = velocity
BW = braking distance

$$\frac{V}{10} \times \frac{V}{10} = BW$$

„Stopping-distance“: If you want to know work out or calculate the distance from the moment you realize the need to brake until the moment you stop, you must add both formulas

$$\frac{V}{10} \times 3 = RW$$

$$+ \quad \frac{V}{10} \times \frac{V}{10} = BW$$

“Braking-distance” at an emergency(evasive) brake. You can get much better results for an emergency brake with modern cars or motorcycles than the rule of thumb tells you. So the formula for an emergency brake is:

$$\frac{V}{10} \times \frac{V}{10} = BW : 2$$

This means: If 20m ahead of your vehicle (while driving a speed of 50km/h) in a narrow road a pedestrian steps onto the road you can not avoid an collision, because your stopping-distance would be 27,5 m.

Safety distance

The reasons for a lot of accidents are too little safety distance. You need time to react if you see the car in front is braking. The safety distance depends on the traffic situation, road and sight conditions, also speed. Basically you must keep the distance as big as it is necessary to brake if the vehicle in front of you brakes unexpectedly. By rule of thumb this means:

- ◆ good road and weather conditions = **half of your speed counted in meters** (example: 100 km/h=50 m)
- ◆ bad road or weather conditions = **total speed counted in meters** (example: 100 km/h=100 m)

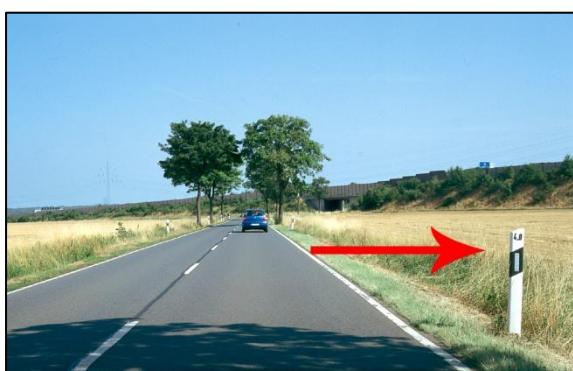
Inside built up areas in good weather and road conditions you are allowed to decrease your distance to 3 times the length of a car = 15 m. To determine the distance there are 2 methods:

„Counting method“



Drive with a **2 second distance**, this means, take a solid point right in front of you, start to count if the vehicle in front of you is right at that point. If you reach the same point counting more than 2 seconds, your distance is alright. Counting less than 2 seconds, you are too close.

„Delineator method“



You can also count on the delineators, their distance between each other is 50 m (except at exit or entry at intersections)

You must keep a certain distance between your vehicle and the one driving in front of you, if you are driving a vehicle with a special speed limit (trucks more than 3.5 tonnes of permissible weight or a combination of vehicles longer than 7 m). If somebody overtakes you must give him a space between you and the one driving in front of you, so he is able to check in. On motorways (autobahn) trucks 3.5 tonnes of p.w. and above and buses must keep a distance of 50 m, if they are allowed to drive faster than 50 km/h.



According to the sign, trucks 3.5 tonnes of p.w. and above, must keep a minimum distance of 70 m.

The required side distance to any vehicle parked or object standing beside your vehicle must be a minimum of 1m. If the streets are narrow, you are allowed to pass with less than 1 m, but you must slow down according to the distance. The side distance to every object on two wheels or two feet must be a minimum of 1.5 m (**it is forbidden to get less distance, even if the streets are narrow**).

Environmental protection

Think about the environment immediately before the purchase of a vehicle. If possible choose one with a catalytic converter. Do the routine checks right on time. If the exhaust is emitting a lot of smoke get the engine checked immediately. If your exhaust system or the engine does not work well, you will cause noise or emission pollution, so get it checked! Take care of your catalytic converter: **use unleaded fuel only, avoid misfires!**

Take care that your vehicle does not lose oil, because a single drop of oil can pollute **600 litres** of drinking water. Check your fuel consumption regularly. When refuelling, do not breath in any fuel fumes or carry on refuelling if the tank is full. Take care with the pressure of your tyres: too low pressure leads to increased fuel consumption and your tyre wear increases as well.

How a driver should behave:

- ◆ do not let the engine run for no reason, set off at low revolutions per minute without running the engine until it had warmed up
- ◆ switch off the engine at level crossings, in traffic congestion, at construction areas with a long waiting time
- ◆ avoid extensive acceleration and sharp breaking, drive at constant speed and with foresight (traffic light turns red=use the momentum of the car)
- ◆ change to higher gears early (try to reach the highest as soon as possible), to lower gears late, at low revolutions per minute your fuel consumption is at its lowest point (plus the exhaust emission is at its lowest point)
- ◆ do not drive in a hectic manner, do not „play with the accelerator“ during when stationary
- ◆ avoid fast starts, revving up the gears, driving back and forth for no reason
- ◆ avoid driving into overcrowded town centers
- ◆ avoid short trips (to the next letter box) or driving at high speed
- ◆ think about the use of public transport or bicycles instead of driving car

Noise

Noise also pollutes the environment and may harm your health. All the above behaviours relating to environment also protect you from noise.

Warning signals

You are allowed to use your horn and flashlight within and outside of built up areas if there is any situation endangering you or others. Furthermore you are allowed to use the horn and flashlight as an overtaking signal outside built up areas.

Chapter 9

Behaviour at traffic manouevres

Moving off

If you want to step into the traffic from the edge of the roadway, you must check the traffic by using the inside and outside mirror. You must turn your head too, because of the blind spot (dead corner). Do not obstruct anybody and use a comfortable space in between the traffic to proceed. You must use the indicator. Avoid heavy acceleration, because your tyres might slide (slippery road).

Turning in

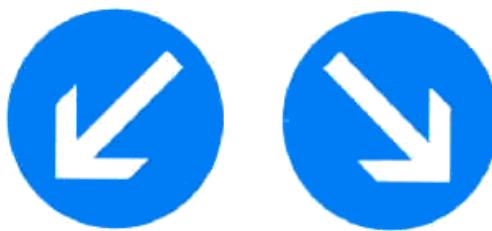
If you want to pull out of a private driveway, a walking speed area, over a sunken kerbstone or a pedestrian zone onto the road, you must consider priority from the left and right. The priority is given not only to the road, but also to the sidewalk or a bikeway, if they do exist. You must give pedestrians and bikes their priority. You are not allowed to obstruct or endanger anybody. A lot of times the sight onto roads out of calmed areas is obstructed by flowerpots, parked cars or concrete blocks, so pay attention and be cautious.

Driving side by side

If you are driving side by side (more than two lanes each direction), you have to keep in mind that inside built-up areas it is up to your choice which lane you are driving in up to 3.5 tonnes of permissible weight. You are not allowed to „jump“ between the lanes to take the fastest one. If you are driving on roads with more than one lane in each direction for a longer period of time, you have to count on somebody driving in your „blind spot“ of the mirror for a longer period of time.

Passing

If you want to pass parked or stopped vehicles you must wait, if you have an obstruction on your side and the road is too narrow. Before leaving your normal driving line more than 1 m (because of an obstruction) you have to take care about your backroom: **mirror-indicator-turn your head** (as well as when you get back into your line). If you and the oncoming traffic both have obstructions, get eye contact and communicate with handsigns or the flashlight. If the oncoming traffic has the obstruction and there is no chance for him to stop in such a way that you are able to pass him, be smart and let him proceed. Take care, behind an obstruction there is the chance that somebody wants to cross or turn into a street. There are signs telling you which way to pass the obstruction (at those signs you are not obliged to indicate):



Overtaking

If you want to overtake, keep in mind that nobody should be endangered or obstructed. You are only allowed to overtake, if you are much quicker than the overtaken vehicle (look out for speed-reductions!). Basically, overtake on the left side, except: trams should be overtaken on the right side (on the left side only if you are in a one way street; the rails are on the right side of the street), vehicles want to turn left and get into the right lane, should be overtaken on the right side as well. You must take care of oncoming traffic, so look in front and try to imagine the speed of the oncoming vehicles and compare it with your own speed and the one you want to overtake. Indicate right in front of the manoeuvre, then pass him with a distance that fits, watch your inside mirror and if you can see the overtaken vehicle (do not endanger or obstruct him) indicate right and get back onto the right side of the street.

Overtaking distance

The overtaking distance can be measured by following formula:

$$V1 : (V1 - V2) * L = \text{Overtaking distance}$$

V1 = speed of the vehicle that overtakes in km/h

V2 = speed of the vehicle going to be overtaken in km/h

L = two second distance in front and after the overtaking and the length of both vehicles

Overtaking time

The overtaking time can be measured by following formula:

$$S : V1 = \text{Overtaking time}$$

S = overtaking distance

V1 = speed of the vehicle going to be overtaken in m/sec

Example

You are driving a car (length=5m) on a country road with a speed of 100 km/h. If you want to overtake a truck (length=12m) driving 70 km/h you have following overtaking distance:

$$100 : (100 - 70) * (60m + 12m + 42m + 5m) = 396.7m$$

The overtaking distance is rounded up 400m.

$$396.7m : 30m/sec = 13.2sec$$

The overtaking time is rounded up 13 seconds.

Under such circumstances you have to keep, for example on narrow roads in front of humps, a minimum distance of **800m** because you have to count on oncoming traffic.

How long are overtaking distances, how much time goes by?

70	32 sec / 665 m	CAR
60	TRUCK	
80	17 sec / 404 m	CAR
60	TRUCK	
90	12 sec / 321 m	CAR
60	TRUCK	

90	40 sec / 1071 m	CAR
80	TRUCK	
100	21 sec / 625 m	CAR
80	TRUCK	
130	10 sec / 372 m	CAR
80	TRUCK	

Overtaking bans



↑ 3 km ↑

Powered vehicles are not allowed to overtake other multitrack powered vehicles from this point onwards for the next 3 km (so motorcycles are allowed to be overtaken, but not with a sidecar).



200 m

Powered vehicles 3.5 t and more of permissible weight (except: cars and buses) are not allowed to overtake other multitrack powered vehicles, starting in 200 m from here.

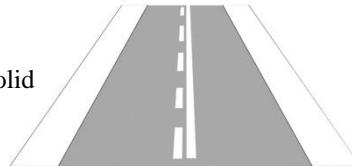


End of a driving ban

Indirect overtaking bans



You are not allowed to drive over or onto the solid white line



If the dotted line is on your side, you are allowed to cross both lines

You are not allowed to overtake at zebra or level crossings (otherwise you will be heavily fined!). In any unclear traffic situation or in front of curves or humps it is forbidden to overtake. Avoid overtaking if somebody overtakes you, or if it is not possible to keep the safe side distance.

Overtaking gets dangerous if you underestimate the speed of the oncoming traffic, or you overestimate the distance of the oncoming traffic and your own speed. The speed of following traffic is often underestimated on motorways. If you are driving in a convoy behind slow vehicles it is the first car behind the slow vehicle that starts the overtaking (one by one). Often road and weather conditions forbid overtaking (snow, rain, soiled roads, crowded traffic).

If you are being overtaken, drive as far as possible on the right side of the road and do not accelerate; slow down if somebody overtakes you in a risky way. If you are driving a slow vehicle (farm-, forest-, or heavy loaded vehicles) you must give the following traffic the chance to overtake (use the hard shoulder if there is one; use parking bays; **this is not required on motorways**).

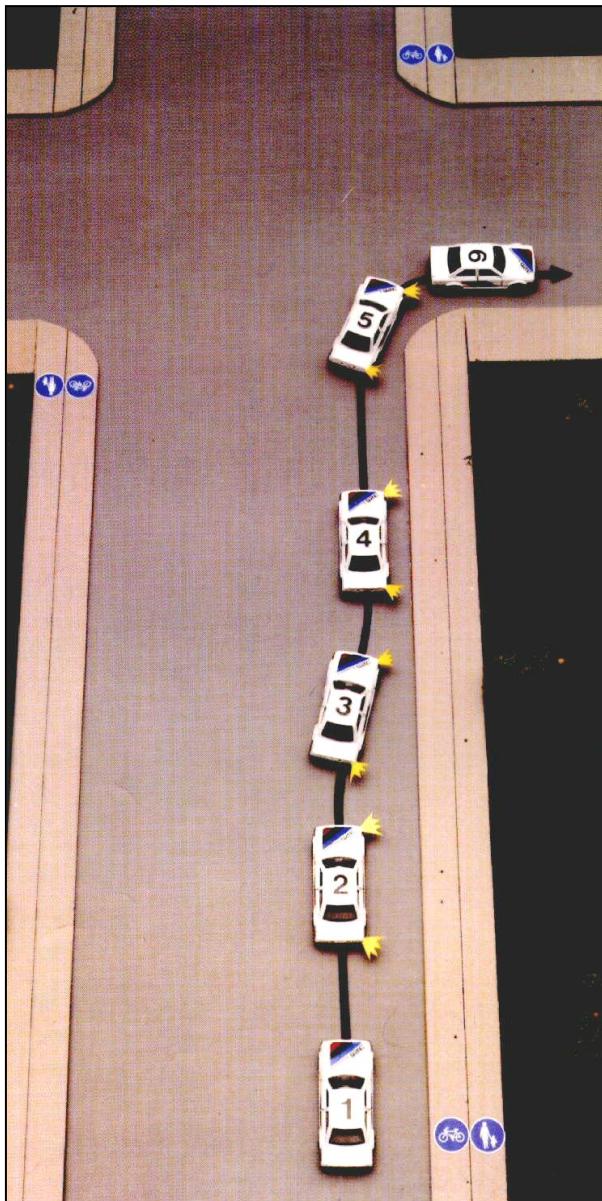
Turning corners

If you want to make a turn, you must indicate soon and turn into the correct lane. You must indicate if:

- ◆ you want to make a turn
- ◆ you want to turn into a private driveway
- ◆ you want to follow the turning priority road

If you have chosen the wrong lane for your turn, you must follow the direction the lane leads to, even if it causes a diversion. If there is more than one lane and you want to make a turn: **keep to your lane!** (beware of lane-changes inside curves). At turns you are obliged to let all others proceed if they want to go straight ahead (powered-vehicles, trams, pedestrians, bikes). If you want to turn left, you must give way to the oncoming traffic; except to other vehicles wanting to turn left (tangential turning).

Turning right

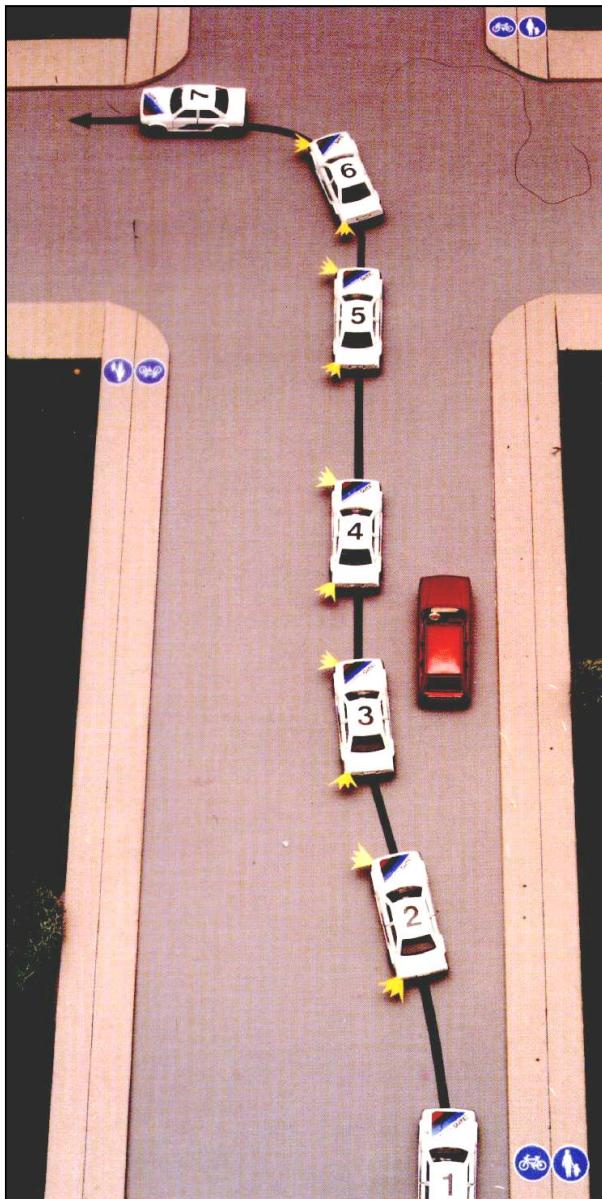


1. Observe the traffic ahead and behind
2. Indicate soon to the right
3. Get into the correct driving line soon
4. Be aware of priority and traffic lights, if necessary stop and wait, reduce to a speed that fits the situation
5. Let vehicles upon or beside the road proceed, look out for pedestrians (they have precedence) observe the traffic ahead and behind once more
6. Proceed

Danger situations:

- ◆ Pedestrians crossing the street are sometimes hard to make out in bad weather conditions
- ◆ Cyclists may drive in your dead corner (blind spot), sometimes approaching rapidly
- ◆ Sometimes you must wait at a red light, when it turns green observe first the traffic ahead before proceeding

Turning left



1. Observe the traffic ahead and behind
2. Indicate soon to the left
3. Get into the correct driving line soon. In broad streets with oncoming traffic to the middle; in narrow streets to the right. In one way streets to the left. There are three signs to recognise one way streets:



One way street



No waiting/No parking
(posted on the left side)



Opposite
(at the end of
of the street)

Don't go for parked cars on the left side!

4. Be aware of priority and traffic lights, if necessary stop and wait, reduce to a speed that fits the situation.
5. Give way to opposite traffic
6. Let vehicles upon or beside the road proceed, look out for pedestrians (they have precedence) observe the traffic ahead and behind once more
7. Proceed

Danger situations:

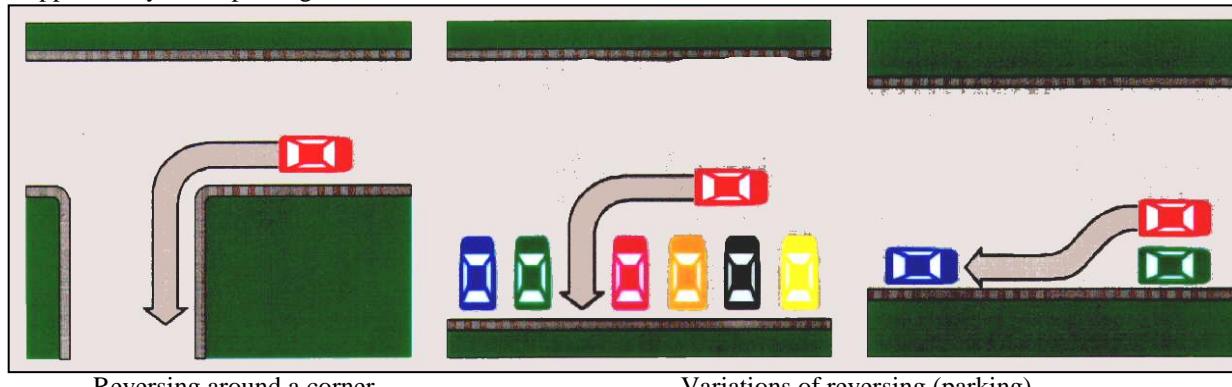
- ◆ At tangential turns count on opposite traffic proceeding straight ahead (obstructed sight by oncoming vehicles turning left)
- ◆ Misleading and confusing situations, if the oncoming traffic wants to turn right behind you

Reversing and U-turns

If you want to reverse or do a U-turn you are obliged not to endanger or obstruct anyone. In one way streets, on motorways and clearways, in tunnels it is strictly forbidden to reverse or to do a U-turn.

Reversing

Do not reverse if it is forbidden. You are obliged to take care with surrounding traffic when reversing. You must turn your head and look through the rear window. Drive cautiously and be patient. If it is impossible to look out for the traffic behind, you need somebody to give you advice. If you see a parking place you want to use, indicate, so the following traffic can see you are going to slow down or stop. Count on your car swinging to the opposite if you are parking.



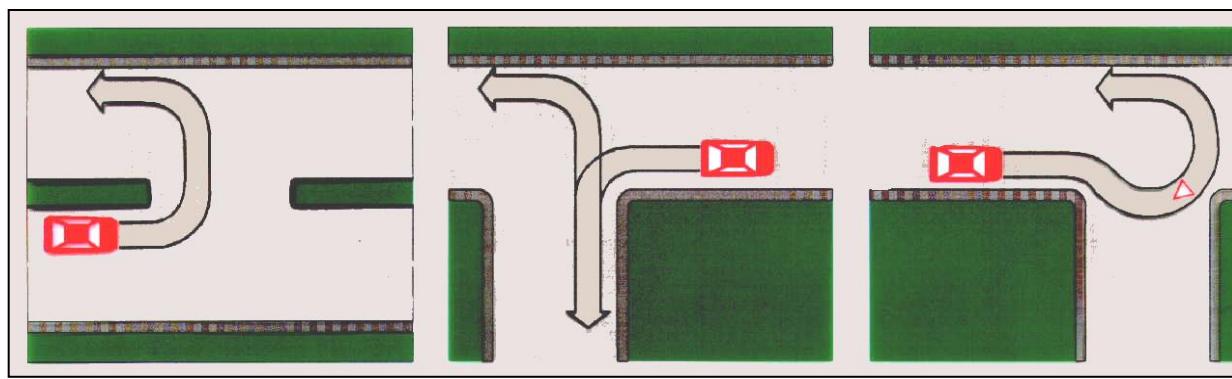
U-turns

Do not turn in crowded or rapid traffic, at unclear traffic situations, in bad visibility (weather), in tunnels, behind a curve or at this sign:



U-turn forbidden

If you are turning observe the oncoming as well as the following traffic. Do not turn into flowing traffic. Use entrances of driveways or streets. Turn behind traffic-islands, at parking-sides, at a fuel station or turn around the block. Imagine at a turn, you are entering the oncoming traffic and there is the possibility of a danger situation arising.



Possible variations of turns

Chapter 10

Stopping and parking

Waiting

This is an un voluntary stop during driving, caused for example, by closed barriers at a level crossing or traffic congestion.

Stopping

This is a voluntary break during driving, not caused by orders or traffic situations. „Stopping“ turns to „parking“, if it takes longer than 3 minutes or the driver leaves his vehicle. Leaving means it is impossible to have a good sight of the vehicle and move it if it obstructs someone. You should park in a way that saves space. Do not park in a way that nobody is able to leave his/her parking place next to yours. You are allowed to stop at the kerbstone on the right side; a side-, or park-stripe on the right side. To stop on the left side of the road is only allowed in one way streets, or if there are rails on the right side of the street.

Stopping is prohibited at:



All stopping is prohibited on the driveway



The extra sign prohibits stopping on the side-stripe as well



This sign allows you to stop up to 3 minutes, to step in and out, loading or unloading without delay.



This special-sign for disabled, with a special identification, allows them to park here.



Begin of a End of a
Controlled parking zone
(these signs limit an area with no parking)

Stopping is also prohibited:

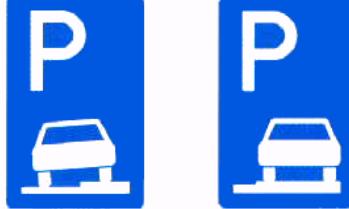
- ◆ On narrow lanes or in unclear traffic situations
- ◆ Inside curves
- ◆ On acceleration or exit lanes
- ◆ Upon zebra crossings or within 5 m in front of it
- ◆ Between lane dividers with direction arrows
- ◆ On the roadway, if there is a sufficiently wide hard shoulder on the right
- ◆ On level crossings
- ◆ In front of or in an entrance for fire brigades
- ◆ Within a distance of 10 m in front of the following signs if you were to obstruct the sight, within 5 m if you do not obstruct the sight:



- ◆ On motorways or clearways outside parking sides
- ◆ On lanes in front of permanent control signals
- ◆ At taxi ranks
- ◆ On rails
- ◆ On limiting lines of no stopping areas

Parking

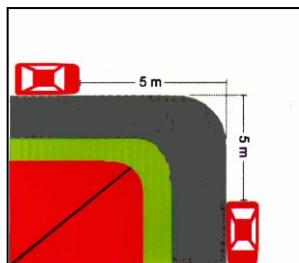
You are allowed to park at the kerbstone on the right side; a side-, or park-stripe on the right side. To park on the left side of the road is only allowed in one way streets, or if there are rails on the right side of the street. Also you are allowed to park at public park lots or at parking areas charging money („parking-meter“-„parking-automat“). You are allowed to park on sidewalks up to 2.8 tonnes of total mass (as well motorcycles), if they are marked specially:



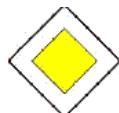
The vehicle that reaches a free parking place first is allowed to take it.

Parking is prohibited at:

- ◆ Up to 5 m in front or behind intersections



- ◆ At the edge of the roadway, if this would prevent others from using designated parking areas
- ◆ In front of private driveways, or opposite of them, if the street is narrow
- ◆ On limiting lines of no parking areas
- ◆ Up to 15 m in front or behind bus- or tramstops (stopping up to 3 minutes is allowed)
- ◆ 5 m in front or behind a St. Andrew's cross inside a built-up area, outside built-up area 50 m
- ◆ Upon shafts or similar, if parking is allowed on the sidewalk
- ◆ If there is less than 3 m between a vehicle and a solid white line used as a lane divider
- ◆ In front of kerbstones
- ◆ In the second row beside other vehicles
- ◆ On the roadway, if there is a sufficiently wide hard shoulder on the right
- ◆ These signs prohibiting parking:



Outside built-up area on the roadway



Outside built up area on the roadway



Without a special residential identification



Without a special disabled identification

The trailers of powered-vehicles are allowed to be parked on the roadway without the carrier for 2 weeks. If you are parking inside built-up areas at a light marked with this strip:  , you must switch on the parking lights. Outside built-up areas you must switch on all four parking lights, even if you are parking on side-stripes (hard shoulder). For 3.5 tonnes and more of permissible weight the warning plate should be used.

Stepping in and out

Open the doors cautiously, as soon as the traffic allows it. You should remind your passengers to take care as well. Passengers (especially children) should step out on to the sidewalk side.

Keep the vehicle secure

Secure your vehicle against rolling (pull the handbrake, put the car in a gear, automatic should use the „P“ position) and unauthorised use (take the key out, lock the steering wheel, close windows, lock the doors and the trunk). Registration papers and anything of worth should be taken out.

Controlled parking

In controlled parking zones, sometimes a parking disc is required (an extra sign announces how long you are allowed to park). If parking meters or machines are posted, you have to pay the required money. You are not allowed to stay longer than the announced maximum time. If the automats are out of order, you are obliged to use the parking disc:



The time you indicate, is from the next beginning half hour after your arrival. Place the disc in the vehicle so that it can easily be seen.

Broken-down vehicles

If your vehicle has a breakdown at a spot where others cannot see it well, you must switch on the hazard warning lights and place the warning triangle. Powered vehicles over 3.5 tonnes of permissible weight must post a warning light (flashing or rotating) as well. If you have the breakdown inside built-up areas, you must post the warning triangle a distance that fits. If the breakdown is right behind a curve, the warning triangle has to be posted right before the curve. On motorways, clearways and roads where it is possible to drive quickly, the warning triangle has to be posted at a distance of 100 m to the breakdown. If it is necessary and possible switch on the lights of the vehicle.

Towing and starting help

Towing

Towing means to pull a vehicle with a technical breakdown (engine). The person driving the vehicle in front needs to hold a driver's licence class **B**, the driver in the towed car should be familiar with the vehicle (no licence required). You are not allowed to tow a vehicle for an indefinite distance: just up to the next repair station; you must leave the motorway at the next exit; do not enter the motorway while towing. **Motorcycles are not allowed to be towed!** To tow a vehicle with automatic transmission: look out for the manufacturer's advice. When towing, switch on the hazard warning lights.

Special form of towing: If the towed vehicle is technically in order, special permission is necessary. Here, towing means you are driving a combination of vehicles and a driver's licence with **E** is required.

The distance between the two vehicles should be not more than 5 m. Mark the rope with a red flag. Drive moderately. If the brake-system is defective, the vehicle should be carried upon a tow truck (if necessary use a tow-stick). The same applies to an engine breakdown if your vehicle has power-steering or a power brakes (both will be out of order in the case of an engine breakdown).

Starting-help

If the engine does not start, you may use jump leads to start it. To fix them remember: first allow contact with the positive pole, then the negative pole; disconnect the negative pole first, then the positive.

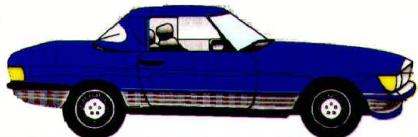


Chapter 11

Lights

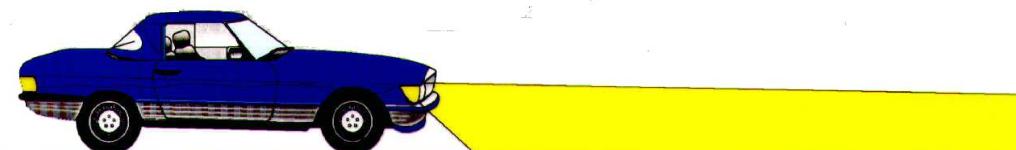
Switch on the lights in bad visibility. You will be noticed soon enough and your own visibility will get better. This requires correctly installed lighting equipment in a clean and good operating condition. Do not dazzle oncoming traffic or traffic ahead. This can be caused even with dipped headlights:

- ◆ Headlights set too high
- ◆ Incorrectly inserted bulbs
- ◆ An overloaded vehicle



Stopped lights

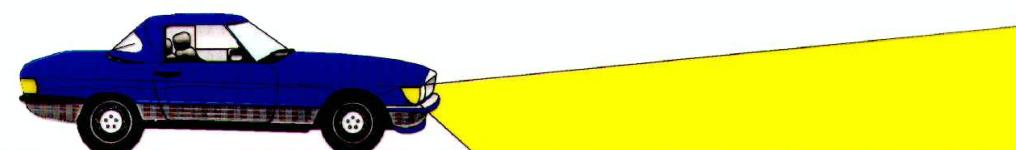
You are not allowed to drive with the stop-light. You must use it if you are parking outside built-up areas (badly lit places).



Dipped headlights

You are obliged to drive with dipped headlights:

- ◆ From dusk and when it is dark
- ◆ At daytime in bad visibility (fog, snow, heavy rain, badly lit tunnels)



Flashlights

You are only allowed to switch on the flashlights, if you do not dazzle anybody.

You can tell if your flashlights are switched on, only by the blue control lamp at your instrument-panel.

You are allowed to use your flashlight inside as well as outside built-up areas if there is any situation endangering you or others. You are allowed to use the flashlight outside built-up areas as an overtaking signal.

When you have to use dipped headlights:

- ◆ If there is a possibility of dazzling the oncoming traffic or traffic ahead, also rail-vehicles beside the road
- ◆ If you are driving through a brightly lit road
- ◆ You are waiting in front of a level crossing
- ◆ Wild animals are ahead (also sound the horn and break)
- ◆ If it is necessary for traffic safety

If you are being dazzled:

- ◆ Do not look into the headlights
- ◆ Look to the right side
- ◆ Drive slower, if necessary
- ◆ Stop if necessary (pedestrians on the roadway)

Fog headlights: You are allowed to use fog headlights in the case of bad weather conditions such as:

fog, snow, heavy rain

Rear fog lights: You are only allowed to use rear fog lights (red, not necessary to be registered at authorities),
if your sight has decreased under 50 m, because of fog.

Lights being required and extra allowed

- A) dipped headlight
- B) flashlight
- C) stopped light
- D) indicator (hazard)
- E) fog headlight
(extra allowed)



- F) rear fog light
- G) reversing light
- H) driving light (back)
(stopped light, parking light)
- I) brakelight
- K) reflector
- L) light for the number plate



Also allowed as an extra: **hunting-spot** (only allowed to search for house numbers or streetnames, **not allowed to be used as a normal driving light**)

Tunnel

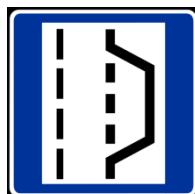
In Germany are around 300 Tunnels with a total length of 240 km. Most of the bigger tunnels have 2 tubes (one for each direction).



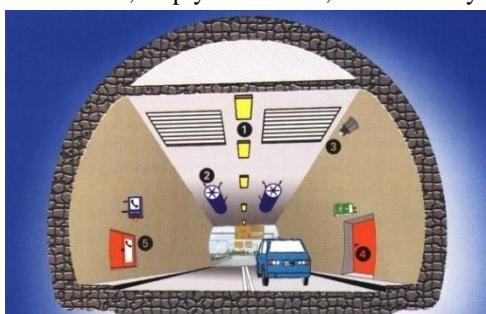
Tunnels are nowadays very well illuminated, but you have to turn on the dipped headlight! Driving with the special daylight-light is not enough, because the rear lights do not shine. Turn on your Radio, you will have the important news according the tunnel you are in. Take off your sun-glasses.

Danger in the tunnel

It is very noisy in tunnels, close your windows and the sunroof. In tunnels with one tube for both directions you can be irritated by the light of the oncoming traffic, so look to the right side. Never drive across the solid white line in the middle. **Do not overtake!** Some tunnels are very long, don't panic. Never drive too fast. If you have a breakdown, only stop in the emergency stops marked with the sign:



Be prepared some other vehicle has already stopped over there. **Never do turns (U-turn) in a tunnel!** If you have a fire, stop your vehicle, leave the key in and look for an emergency exit:



- 1:tunnel illumination (emergency exits have special lights)
- 2:ventilation system (in a case of fire, it is getting the smoke out)
- 3:video cameras (activated, if there is an emergency call)
- 4:emergency exits (special illuminated, in a distance of 25 meter)
- 5:emergency call (together with fire extinguisher)

Toll tunnels

Some tunnels are in private hands and you have to pay directly in front of the tunnel (cash, kredit- or EC-card).



Underpass

An underpass in the city could also have the characteristics of a tunnel. Navigation systems might have problems with the radio reception.

Conduct towards special vehicles

Special rights

Special vehicles from the police, fire brigade or ambulance have special rights if they are approaching with siren and flashing blue light. You should not obstruct them and give way (look out for the direction they are coming from). Drive to the right side, or if necessary onto the sidewalk. On motorways you must leave a free channel (two lanes = in between, more than two = between the farthest left lane and the next one). The radio should be at a moderate volume in order to hear the siren!

Flashing blue and amber lights

Flashing blue lights without a siren:



- ◆ Warning of an accident or other dangers
- ◆ Warning of a vehicle with excessive dimensions
- ◆ Advanced warning of a closed convoy
- ◆ Police, fire brigade, ambulance

Amber flashing lights:



- ◆ Warning in front of a dangerous situations
- ◆ Warning for danger at roadworks or at the scene of an accident
- ◆ Warning for an exceptionally wide vehicle
- ◆ Warning for a large transport proceeding at low speed

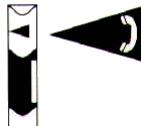
The police use various signs on the roof of their vehicles giving you orders or advice („Ölspur“=trace of oil, „Stop“, „Bitte folgen“=please follow). Policecars can stop you either by using loudspeakers or sticks with a red flashing disk (if the car has a neutral color it is civil police).

Conduct at accidents

Everybody involved in an accident must give their personal details to the others involved. If you are leaving you are called a „hit and run“ (you will be fined hard). You must stay and wait until the situation is clear or controlled by the police. If you are alone at the accident, you have to wait for an amount of time that fits the situation. If nobody appears, call the police from the next phone. Necessities at an accident:

- ◆ Stop immediately, make the spot safe, drive beside if the damage is not severe
- ◆ Inform yourself about the causes of the accident
- ◆ To help the injured, if necessary call police and ambulance
- ◆ Let the others know you are involved
- ◆ Hand over your personal details to others, if they request them
- ◆ Mark the position of the accident vehicles with chalk, if they are able to be moved
- ◆ Make a drawing of the accident
- ◆ Do not proclaim any guilt

If you are approaching an accident first, make the place safe by installing the warning triangle. Support injured with first aid. Do an emergency call at the phones posted on the roads, tell the operator: where the accident is, what happened, how many are injured and the type of injury. You will find the phones looking by out for the black arrow at the top of the delineators.



Fines, points, MPU

Fines

If you do any thing illegal you could be fined for contravening the regulations or criminal offence. Contravening the regulations are offences against the StVO or StVZO (for example: parking incorrectly, driving to quickly). Criminal offences are heavy offences against the StGB or StVG (for example: driving drunk, „hit and run“, killing somebody). Contravening the regulations cause a fine, if you pay the bill the offence will not be pursued anymore. Causing harder contraventions offences can lead to a court appearance and you may receive a driving ban (driving more than 30 km/h inside built-up areas, 40 km/h outside built-up areas, after subtracting the tolerance percent). Hard criminal offences lead to fines or jail (driving drunk, „hit and run“, killing somebody).

Points

If you are fined more than €40, you will have points registered in Flensburg (VZR) as well. The harder the offence, the more points you will get (1 up to 3). From 3 to 5 points the responsible person will be warned and informed that there is a possibility he can do a special course (Aufbauseminar), which decreases his amount of registered points. From 6 to 7 points this special course is required, except the responsible person has absolved one of those courses within the last 5 years. Doing a psychological training course before reaching 8 points, and points will be subtracted. Points are erased after their required time (contraventions = 2,5 years, offences = 5 years, hard offences = 10 years). The licence will be taken away:

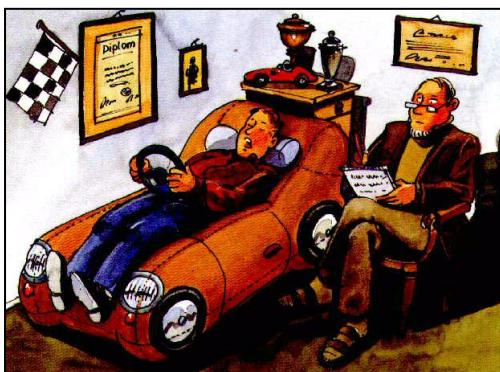
- ◆ if you get 8 points or more
- ◆ if you are not going to join the special course (Aufbauseminar) from 6 to 7 points
- ◆ if you have committed one offence (driving drunk)
- ◆ driving without a regular driver's licence

The judge decides for how long the licence shall be taken away.

If you cause an accident without a valid driver's licence, your insurance expires. The insurance will pay for the accident first, but afterwards they will demand the money back (all or a part of it).

MPU

If somebody is unable to drive power-vehicles according to the opinion of the responsible authority, they will take his licence away. If there are doubts about his qualification, they will require a check of his qualifications. An official authority containing physicians, psychologists or examiners from the TÜH, are going to proof the qualifications. If there are doubts about the character of the person, an MPU will be ordered. The costs of the procedure have to be paid by the qualificant.



Chapter 12

Learning for life

Traffic education starts from early childhood. First you get used to the behaviour of a pedestrian, afterwards a cyclist. From here onwards you try to get familiar with the traffic signs. The next step is the driving school. The result of your driving education should be: Learning the habits of a defensive, considerate and responsible participant in local traffic and to keep your emotions under control. After finishing your driving education (school), it is up to each individual to continue the training. From the first steps of driving alone, most of the beginners drive cautiously. After a while they start to get used to the behaviours of other drivers, to see where the personal limits are, as well as the limits of the vehicle. This turns often into risky and endangering driving styles. Plus, there are several situations for young drivers, causing danger for themselves or others:::

- ◆ „Macho“ driving
- ◆ Driving after discotheque visits
- ◆ Driving an unknown vehicle (from a friend)
- ◆ Driving after „staying up all night“
- ◆ Driving after the consumption of drugs or alcohol
- ◆ Driving „races“ with others

Years have passed by, and you have turned into an old driver. You also need education and training (traffic signs may change, new technical equipment might be installed in vehicles). If you get older you have to count on a decrease in your ability to see and your reactions. From the age of 70 the accident risk increases. Handling danger situations quickly and safely gets more difficult, also because handling the vehicle becomes harder and slower. You should be patient with old drivers, you are getting „old“ as well.

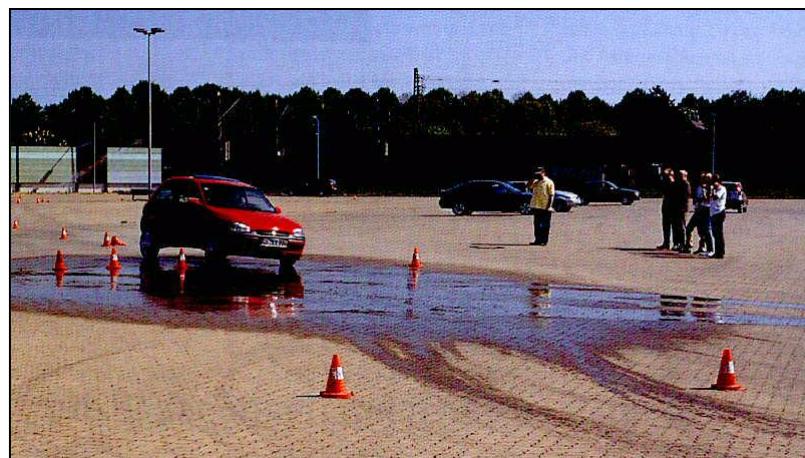
Special courses

„Nachschulung“: If you are caught in between your approval-time, you must do this special course. It contains four meetings of group-dynamic training and one lesson driving with a driving instructor and others who are required to do the same course. Your attitude towards local traffic will be change, as well as training your habits to become a defensive and correct driver.

„Aufbauseminare“: If you collected points in Flensburg you have to do this course, containing the same amount of lessons as the „Nachschulung“.

„Psychological training“: If you have collected more than 14 points in Flensburg you can join this training. It is individual training with a psychologist and will change your behaviour in traffic.

„Safety training“: These courses train your reaction in special traffic situations, and to become a little bit more familiar with the handling of your own vehicle.



Chapter 13

Engineering

Brakes

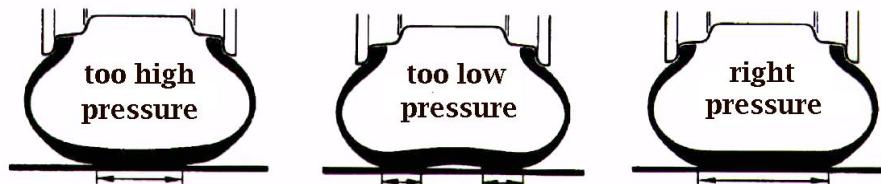
Perfect functioning of the brakes is necessary for safety. If your vehicle had been parked for a long time, or you are driving a vehicle you are not familiar with, test the brakes: push the pedal, at a 1/3 of the way of total pedal-travel there must be pressure. If there is no pressure, get your brakes checked. Pushing it 2/3 of the whole way should be enough, because the rest of the way is safety-reserve. If the pedal can be pushed in almost totally and pressure comes up after pushing it several times, there is air in the system, so have the brakes repaired. If you are breaking and your vehicle moves over to one side, one-side-function is the reason, go and get it checked. Sloping direction is also a cause of different grips of the street surface. If you have been in a carwash, sometimes the brakes are „wet“, let your brakes slightly slide during a slow driving to dry them. If your brake pads are heavily worn or oily, get them renewed.

Tyres

You are only allowed to wear tyres which are permitted and registered in your papers. On one axle only tyres of the same type, size and profile are allowed. If there are cracks or breaks you have to renew the tyre. Take note of how deep your tyre's profile is, it should not be less than **1.6 mm**. Check for the right pressure, you can find the details about pressure in the user's manual or on your tank cap. Check the pressure properly and before long trips. Do not forget the emergency tyre. Carrying heavy load requires increased pressure. The wrong pressure leads to:

Too low pressure: Deformed tyres, causing „swimming“ on the street; increasing fuel consumption; driving through curves or straight ahead is not stable; the tyre heatens up; maybe the tyre breaks up

Too high pressure: The tyre gets „hard“; the contact with the streets surface decreases



If the pressure on one axle is different, the vehicle may slide in curves.

Driving with **M + S** tyres require an increase in pressure of 0.2 bar. These tyres have a special speed limit according to the tyres, so take care.

Driving with a small emergency tyre (often used) causes a maximum speed of 80 km/h. You should not use it for longer distances.

Lights

The lighting equipment has to be in order day and night. If you have to change a bulb, look at the user's manual (do not touch the glass with your fingers). Clean soiled glass. Check the lights properly for installation.

You must carry a warning triangle. 3.5 tonnes and above of permissible weight require an amber warning light.

Steering system

You need latitude in your steering. It should be not more than the width of 2 fingers. Remember if you have power steering and there is an engine breakdown, steering becomes very difficult.

The engine

There are a lot of systems in the engine. You have to take care of:

- ◆ Oil: too little or too old oil may damage the engine, control it properly!
- ◆ Cooler: watch the temperature, overheated engines cause serious damage, check the frost-shelter for winter time
- ◆ Filter: soiled oil filters should be renewed as soon as possible, soiled air filters should be cleaned properly (causes increased fuel consumption and higher pollution rates), driving a „diesel“, you must look for the fuel filter (if soiled engine won't work)
- ◆ Electrics: The drive-belt should be fixed tightly, check the battery (distilled water)

Physics of driving

Centrifugal(or-pedal) force

If you are driving through a curve, the centrifugal force steps in. A physical mass wants to keep going in its direction, so you will be pushed right out of the bend („flying out“). The more you accelerate and the smaller the radius of the bend affects the centrifugal force. For example: If you double your speed, the centrifugal force becomes **4 times** more. The only power avoiding the centrifugal force is the side guidance of your wheels. The centre of gravity is also responsible for how strong the centrifugal force attacks your driving (the higher it is, the more the vehicle wants to tip over). A front wheel drive wants to break out in front (**this is called understeering**), a rear wheel drive in the back (**this is called oversteering**).

Active and passive safety

Active safety means: brakes, easy handling, good acting on streets. Passive safety means: in case of an accident the passengers should be secure (a safe passengers cabin, safety belts, air bags). Not using the seat belts may cause up from **20km/h**: you can not support yourself to avoid a crash against the seats or the instrument panel in front; up from **30km/h** you can be heavily injured (maybe causing death).

Loads

Carrying passengers

Take care with the permissible weight of the vehicle if you are going to carry passengers. You must have an adequate view to the rear window. Take care there are no objects (first-aid kit, road atlas, camera) lying loose on the rear parcel shelf. If using a child seat you have to take care that this seat is appropriate for the height and weight of the child and it must be capable of attachment to the seat of the vehicle. There is a difference between carrying children and grown-ups:

Children:

- ◆ If the child weighs up to 10 kg, aged up to 9 months, you are allowed to carry the child on the front seat in a „reboard-system“, beware of air-bags!, use only an approved child restraint with a test mark
- ◆ If the child is under the age of twelve and smaller than 150 cm, it (5 year old) must sit in the back in a suitable and approved child seat with a test mark; if the child is 11 years old for example on an approved raised seat with a test mark and with three-point safety belt. If the back is filled with children of these heights you are allowed to sit one child on the front seat.



Grown-up's:

- ◆ On the floor of a truck you are allowed to carry up to 8 passengers if they need to work on the floor or they are going to be driven around inbetween building sites
- ◆ For other reasons they have to be driven in the driver's cabin
- ◆ In caravan trailers it is forbidden to carry anybody



„The shown way is legal, as long they are sitting down“

Carrying loads

If you are going to carry a load, you must not allow the load to obstruct your sight or affect the handling of the vehicle. The load should be securely accommodated and fastened to prevent it from sliding or falling down, or causing unnecessary noise (bulk goods which could be blown off by a headwind must be covered). The required weights and dimensions are not allowed to be exceeded. If a load has fallen from the vehicle you are obliged to remove it from the street (if necessary call the police). Overloaded vehicles are unsafe; their breaking distance increases. If you are carrying luggage on the roof of your car, you must count on the vehicle inclining more on bends and the susceptibility to side wind is greater. The roadhandling characteristics are adversely affected. You are not allowed to overtake the maximum roof load stipulated by the car manufacturer.

Bicycles: If you want to carry bikes on the roof of your car, check that the holding device and the bikes are safely attached. Avoid driving at high speed and check the fixing devices regularly. If you are carrying the bikes on a rear-mounted support system, look out for the manufacturer's indications so the system is adequate for your vehicle. The systems must be fixed safely and the bikes as well. The lighting equipment is not allowed to be covered, nor the number plate.

Extending load: Beyond the front of the car it is allowed to exceed up to 50cm in a height of 2.5m. Beyond the back, it is allowed up to 1.5 m (up to 3 m if your driving remains within a 100 km distance). If the load extends over the back, you must mark it at daytime with (maximum 1.5 m above the roadway):

- ◆ A bright red flag of at least 30x30 cm held apart by a crossbar
- ◆ A bright red sign of at least 30x30 cm, pendulously mounted transversely
- ◆ A bright red cylindrical body of at least 35 cm diameter, mounted vertically

At night or in bad weather conditions you must mark it with a red light also you have to install a reflector (maximum 90 cm above the roadway).

If the load extends to the side of the vehicle more than 40 cm over the middle of the head- or rearlights, you must mark it in front with a white light at the back with a red light (maximum 1.5 m above the roadway). Extending loads should be fixed safely.

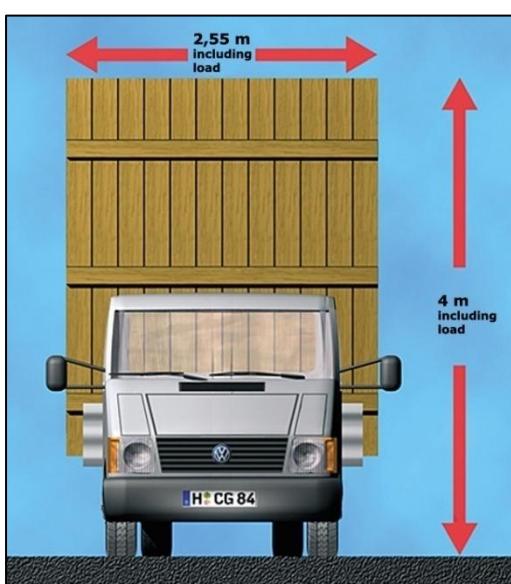
Dangerous goods: You can recognize dangerous goods if the vehicle is marked with an orange warning plate. You are only allowed to drive such a vehicle, if you have an ADR certificate relevant for the form of transport, in connection with your driver's licence.

Waste materials: Vehicles carrying these goods are marked with a white plate with a black „A“ (german=Abfall).

Maximum length: A vehicle connected to a trailer is not allowed to exceed 18 m (20.75 m with extending load).

Maximum height: Including load, maximum 4 m (except country and forest vehicles which may exceed 4 m)

Maximum width: Including load, maximum 2.55 m (cars 2.50m, except country and forest vehicles up to 3 m)



The shown way is wrong because it's below 2.50 m

Weight

The empty mass is the weight of the vehicle without carriage (also passengers). The permissible weight is the maximum allowed weight of the empty mass plus the carriage. The maximum permitted load is the carriage itself. The permissible axle-load is the maximum load on this axle.

Restrictions for vehicles and load:



A ban for powered vehicles 3.5 tonnes and above of permissible weight including a trailer, except cars and buses



A ban for vehicles:

carrying dangerous load

exceeding total mass

exceeding total axle mass

exceeding width including load

exceeding height including load

exceeding length including load

Environmental protection

You should check the possibilities of using public transport vehicles, walking or biking. Avoid driving around for no reason. Think about driving communities.

For example if you increase your speed from 130km/h up to 160km/h your fuel consumption increases up to 35%.

If you want to take care of fuel consumption get your air-filter, injection-pump and ignition-system checked and fixed, if necessary.

Catalyst

The catalytic converter turns exhaust emission into chemicals that do not pollute the environment. Incorrect handling may cause damage to the catalyst if:

- ◆ The vehicle is being towed for a longer distance
- ◆ The engine does not start after being started several times
- ◆ Frequent misfiring
- ◆ The use of leaded fuel

Noise

Avoid powersound through outside loudspeakers. If possible, drive the vehicle on to residential premises. Avoid slamming doors. Do not greet people by using the horn.

Waste management

If you have to dispose of old parts of the vehicle like the battery or the old oil after a oil change, you must take care of a correct elimination of the waste materials. Take the old oil back to the store you have bought it in.

Chapter 14

Handling of the vehicle

Seats

A good seat position is a premise for safe and secure driving. Your arms and legs should be bent a little for a secure grip of the steering wheel.

Mirrors

Visibility is one of the most important basic requirements in driving, so fix your mirrors in a way that you have a good view to the space in the back.

Safety belts

Use of the safety belts is required. If you do not wear them on all seats you will be fined. The existance of air bags does not allow you to not use the safety-belts. Situations allowing you not to wear seat-belts: when you are reversing to park and driving at walking speed. If you do not wear safety-belts on the back seats, you endanger yourself and those sitting in front, in the case of an impact. The backrests of the front seats do not provide adequate protection against injury, even when driving at low speed. You must count on inadequate protection against injury, in the case of impact, from a definite speed of 20 km/h upwards. Plus there is the chance of being projected out of the vehicle. A speed of 30 km/h, and above, you must reckon with serious or deadly injuries.

Automatic

With an automatic transmission, driving becomes more comfortable. When you have selected a gear, you must hold the car by using the brakes, otherwise the vehicle will proceed. If you have to tow an automatic vehicle, look at the user's manual. For correct parking use the position „P“.

Speed

Modern technology makes people believe that of today's vehicles are that safe, that almost nothing can happen. Safety has increased, but there is still danger!

Driving in lanes

Powered vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes of permissible weight are allowed to choose the lane they want to use, inside built up areas. Here they are allowed to drive quicker on the right lane. Outside built up areas, you are allowed to drive quicker on the right lane if there is *traffic-jam, different-direction lanes (including the big white dotted lines), acceleration lanes*. If you drive quicker on the right lane: **not more than 20 km/h than the left lane**. If there are 3 lanes in each direction outside built up areas, you are allowed to use the middle lane constantly, if slower vehicles drive in the right lane, even if the distance between those vehicles is a little bit bigger. Outside built up areas powered vehicles exceeding 3.5 tonnes of permissible weight and connections (car + trailer) may only use the left lane if they want to make a left turn.

Driving in different road or weather conditions

Bends: The more the bend narrows and your speed increases, the more the vehicle wants to slide out of the bend:

- ◆ Bends to the left = the vehicle slides to the right
- ◆ Bends to the right = the vehicle slides to the left

This happens when it is raining, breaking sharply while driving quickly through bends, if tyre pressure is too low, damaged shock absorbers. Your behaviour should be: decrease the speed in front of the bend, do not cut bends, do not accelerate while driving the bend.

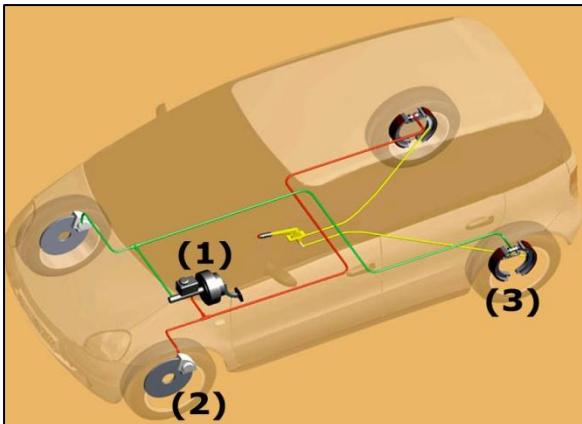
Driving downhill or up slopes: If you are driving downhill, use a lower gear to use the engine breaking plus the brakes (constant breaking heats up the brake). Go down to a gear you would use driving the same slope upwards. Engage the clutch soon after changing the gear, because driving with a disengaged clutch leads to serious danger! Do not switch off the engine to decrease the fuel consumption!

If you are driving uphill, accelerate and take a lower gear. If the engine becomes overheated (mountains), stop and wait until it has cooled down.

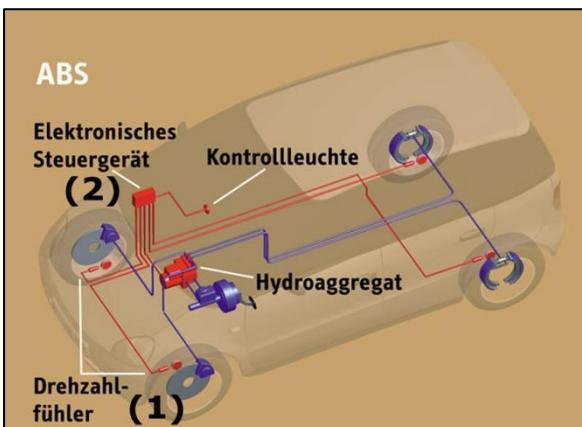
Wintertime: If your vehicle is covered with ice or snow, first you have to scratch the windows (front, side, rear) to free them of ice and snow before you drive. Also, the mirrors must be free from ice and snow. In the case of slush, switch on the wipers, before other cars throw slush towards your windows. If necessary, use the interval-wiper. In the case of possible sliding of your vehicle, drive with moderate speed, break gently and avoid sudden steering. If snow chains are required: a maximum speed of 50 km/h is allowed.



Brakes



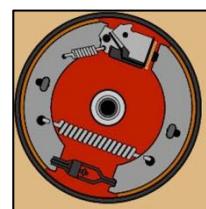
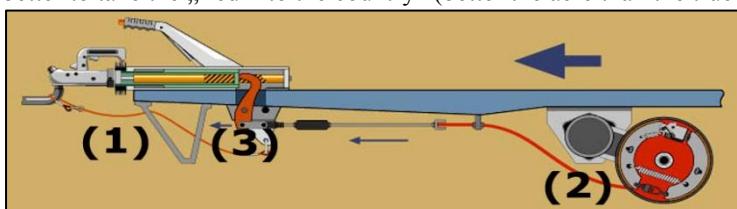
1. Two circle brakes with a brake-booster: The function of the brake-booster is only guaranteed if the engine is working.
2. Disc brakes: These types are used on the front axle, because of wind during driving, the chance of overheating decreases. In the case of rain, disc brakes have a little delay.
3. Drum brakes: Used at the rear axle, their effect decreases in the case of overheating (which happens soon), because of the closed structure water disappears slowly (braking for drying); the handbrake effects are only here on the drum brakes



1. Anti-locking device (ABV, also known as ABS): This system should guarantee the best possible way of braking, even if the road is wet. Steering control is retained when braking. The wheels do not lock, even if you brake heavily and you are not going to be an obstacle at the same time.
2. Electronic element: Counts the revolutions per minute of the wheels.

Also existing: The brake-assistant (BAS). This system regulates the brake booster by electronic control. If you step on the brake hard, the ABV steps in immediately.

He who drives foresighted, must not brake heavily. In the case of danger, brake *degressively*. Start braking hard, and continue decreasing. Interval-braking is only necessary if your vehicle has no ABV. If you brake heavily without ABV, your wheels will lock and steering becomes impossible. So in the case of a sudden obstruction, you should start braking heavily, then stop braking, push the clutch (with a disengaged clutch you will not get the push of the still running engine), steer around the obstruction. In the case of an unavoidable accident, it is better to take the „fled into the country“ (better the acre than the truck).



„reverse lock“, engages here automatically

Trailers combined with cars or small trucks regularly have overrun brakes. The braking action starts when the trailer runs up to the vehicle pulling. Before setting off, the driver of this combination must check the functioning of the overrun brakes. When the trailer runs up to the vehicle in front, a diverting lever (3) leads the braking to the drum brake of the trailer (2). A tear-off rope (1) has to be connected with the coupling, in case of a possible disconnection of the coupling (when the rope tears off, the brakes of the trailer step in immediately). Reversing with an overrun brake system is not possible for all trailers. The „reverse lock“ has to be engaged in the case of certain trailers.

Systems to keep driving stably:

- ◆ (ASR): This system avoids slip of the tyres when acceleration is too extensive.
- ◆ (ESP): This electronic system avoids swinging out.

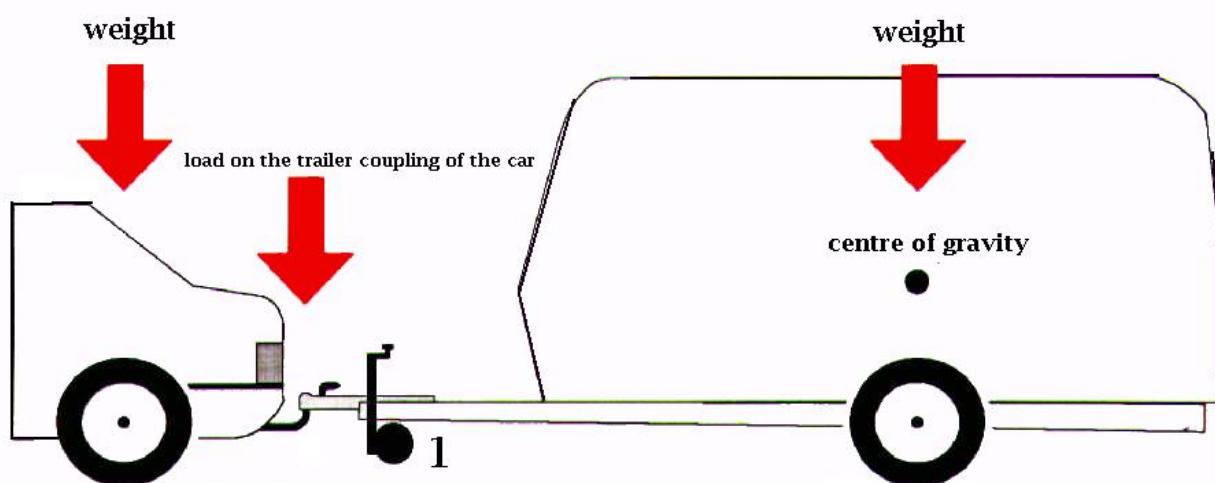
Trailers

Cars and trucks are allowed to carry one trailer. Cars and small trucks connect trailers with a coupling. The coupling must be registered. Trailers must have the same lighting equipment as cars. The reflectors must have the form of a triangle. If the trailer extends 40 cm over the width of the car, position lights have to be fixed. You will find the permissible towed load in the registration certificate or registration book of the car or the truck. Details of the permissible load of the trailer coupling can be found on a sign near the trailer coupling. The manufacturer of the trailer determines the maximum of those loads forbidden to be exceeded. If you have a trailer **without** a brake the trailer should not exceed half of the empty mass of the car.

$$\text{Empty mass of the car} + 75 \text{ kg} / 2 = \text{permissible towed load}$$

The permissible towed load is forbidden to exceed 750 kg (trailer without brake).

If you have a trailer with a brake the permissible towed load is not allowed to exceed the permissible mass of the car. The trailer coupling of the car must lift up 4 % of the actual mass (towed load). For example, if a trailer weight is 600 kg, the minimum load of the trailer coupling of the car must be 24 kg.



If you carry a load it is forbidden to exceed the permissible axle load, load on the trailer coupling of the car and towed load. Loads must be fixed over the axle. Pay attention to the following if you tow a trailer:

- ◆ a safe and secure connection of the coupling
- ◆ connect electricity
- ◆ engage the hand brake of the trailer
- ◆ lift up the jack wheel of the coupling (1)
- ◆ fix the tear-off rope around the coupling
- ◆ carry wedges (two if permissible weight is more than 750 kg)

Disconnecting the trailer requires the above obligations.

If you are driving a truck and trailer combination you must count on tight brakes after a long time of non driving. The electricity lines may be damaged. The tyre pressure may be too low. Raise the tyre pressure of the car according to the mass you want to carry. If visibility is obstructed because of the extending width of the trailer, you have to fix extra mirrors. If you are reversing a truck and trailer and visibility is impaired, you need a person giving directions. Be careful to keep constant sight contact, it must be maintained. It is impossible to accelerate like a single vehicle. Mass increases as well as the size. Reduce speed in order to avoid skidding when you are driving on a road with potholes and your trailer starts „jumping“. Conform your speed to weather conditions (rain = sliding). Maximum allowed speed is 80 km/h, except combinations having registered a maximum speed of 100 km/h at the responsible authority (*Zulassungstelle*). A certificate proves the increased speed for this combination and has to be carried while driving. Think about a decreasing radius of the trailer within curves. Sidewind effects increase. Driving down hill the braking distance increases (reduce speed soon, go down a gear).

A class **B** driver's licence allows you to drive a powered vehicle not more than 3.5 tonnes of permissible weight. You are allowed to carry a trailer not more than 750 kg (in addition 4250 kg for the combination). If your trailer has more than 750 kg you need class **B96**, but you are not allowed to exceed 4.250 kg for the combination. Combinations over the above regulations need a **BE** licence.

Driving bans

To reduce air-polluting substances, some areas are under a ban for powered vehicles. This sign forbids driving in these areas:



With a special badge you are allowed to continue:



Sunday driving ban: On Sundays and public holidays there is a driving ban for trucks exceeding 7.5 tonnes of permissible total mass and for all trucks carrying trailers. The hours of the driving ban are:

From ((0)) hours to ((22)) hours



There is no Sunday driving ban for trucks carrying perishable food.

Pictures of official test questions



Reduce speed, remain ready to brake and drive cautiously past



You must be prepared for that one of the kids could turn back to collect the ball, the girl turns to join the other kids



Brake and, if necessary, stop



*The boy -could set off at any moment
-might look left but still set off*



The car's brake lights go off and the car continues reversing, the motorcyclist may suddenly brake and you need a longer braking distance than normal



The green-coloured car parked incorrectly



Approach at moderate speed and wait



The silver car has stopped incorrectly



You must follow the line on the right



You must follow the line on the left (one-way street)



Both cars must signal the change of direction



I must allow both cyclists to proceed



Only the yellow car is in the correct lane to turn left



I must allow both pedestrians to cross



You may cross the crossroad at a brisk pace



You must wait



You must allow the cyclist and motorcyclist to pass



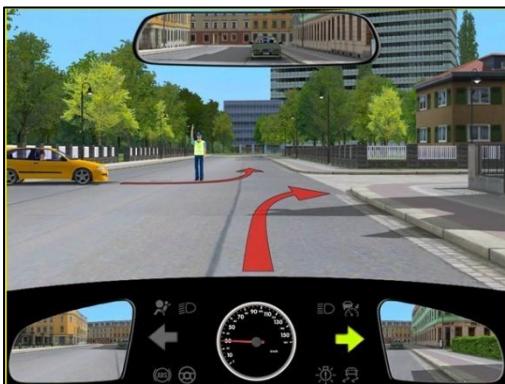
You must allow the cyclist to go. You waive your priority in order not to block the intersection



You must allow the blue car to turn



You must wait



You prepare for proceeding. The yellow car has to clear the intersection



You must allow the yellow truck to pass and you may turn in front of the green car



The yellow car must wait



You must allow the cyclist and the bus to proceed. You have to stop at the stop - line.



You must allow the motorcycle and blue car to proceed



You may proceed



You have to wait



You have to wait



You have to wait



You may proceed



You may proceed



You have to let the tram go first, but you turn in front of the farm machine



You must be prepared for that the boy ahead of you could turn left to follow the other child even without signalling a change of direction



You must brake heavily immediately and remain ready to brake



You must keep a close eye on the children and proceed cautiously



You must be prepared for kids running after the ball, brake and be cautious and stop if necessary



You must be prepared for: Pedestrians often change the side of the road or step into the roadway inattentively and parked vehicles obstruct your view



You must reckon with: Pedestrians(children!) may step onto the road suddenly, cardoors are opened carelessly, cars setting off swerve out unexpectedly



You must reckon with people crossing in front of the bus or running across from the left to catch the bus



The tram stopped, you are allowed to pass at walking speed if you not endanger or obstruct boarding or alighting people



The cyclists may drive unattentive and may suddenly move in front of you, cyclists with the load may drive like the pendulum swings



You have to wait and let the tram pass



If you want to turn right you must be prepared for: the truck will stop, the pedestrian might let the truck pass and then cross in front of you (walkers may come from ahead)



You have to brake early in order to show the pedestrians that they may pass



The hazard warning lights are on, so you and the traffic coming from the opposite direction are allowed to pass at walking speed only so nobody will be endangered



At these tram stops you have to count on pedestrians who step off the traffic island without paying attention or running across the roadway in order to catch the tram



The hazard warning lights are on, so you are not allowed to pass the bus as it is still moving, if the bus has stopped pass at walking speed only (not endangering anybody!)



You have to brake and, if possible, change the lane and keep a sufficient lateral distance to the pedestrian



Dangers if you want to turn right: too fast=skid, you might not be able to stop in time if a pedestrian crosses, vehicles from the right might go into a skid on braking



You must stop to allow the pedestrian to cross the zebra crossing



Hazard warning lights on: pass at walking speed only, make sure nobodys endangered; hazard w. l. off: you and opposite traffic pass the bus with care (moderate)



You have to keep a great safe distance from vehicles in front because of wheel-spray impairs visibility, stopping distance increases, you might react too late to puddles



Driving along this unevenly lit street can be dangerous because of pedestrians crossing in a dark area and badly lit vehicles are difficult to make out in dark areas



You have to drive with particular care because the road ahead is obscured from view, the surface is uneven, oncoming traffic might drive too far on the left



Look out! Uneven road and road grip varies, a tram might come from the opposite, driving on the tracks is dangerous



Road safety is affected in this situation by water thrown up from vehicles in front, the fog tail lamp of the car in front

INDEX

Term	Page	Term	Page
A		cancellation of the vehicle	5
ABV/ABS	54	carriage of loads	55
acceleration lanes	9	carrying bicycles	51
accident	46	carrying passengers	50
accident (make it safe)	46	catalogue A + B	5
accident (personal details)	46	catalytic converter	34
active and passive safety	50	causing harm	12
adaption of eyes	32	centre of gravity	50
aggression	3	centrifugal force	50
alcohol	1	changes at the vehicle	5
alcohol (decrease	1	changing lanes	8
alcohol level limits	1	child seat	50
animals	18	children	28
anti locking device	54	class BE (trailers)	55
application	4	class S	4,27
approval time	5	clearways	10
aquaplaning	31	combinations	55
arrows on the street	8	contravening the regulations	5
ASR/ESP	54	controlled parking	43
ASU certification	6	covering of break-down	43
ASU plate	6	criminal offences	5
automatic (restrictions)	4	cutting somebody	3
automatic transmission	53	cycle lanes	27
avenues	9	cyclists	27
axle mass	52	D	
B		dangerous goods	51
basic confidence	12	dazzeling	44
basic rule §§ 1 StVO	12	defensive driving	12
beginners (young drivers)	48	deflection	2
bends	53	deliniator	24
blood-probe	1	dimensions of vehicles	51
bothering	12	dipped headlights	43,49
boundry marking	8	direction on command	9
brake (test)	49	disabled people	27
brake assistant	54	disc brakes	54
brake booster	54	disconnecting a trailer	55
brakes	54	discotheque visits	48
brakes (checking and renewing)	49	distance	10,33
braking (degressive)	54	distance (2 seconds)	33
braking (one side function)	49	distance (in front of you)	33
braking (progressive)	54	distance (special)	10
braking distance	32	downhill slopes	53
braking downhill	53	drive on the right side	7
broken down vehicles	43	drivers licence	6
bulb	49	drivers licence classes	4
bus or tramstop	25	driving ban	46
busstops	25	driving directions (209-222)	19
C		driving for no reason	51

INDEX

Term	Page	Term	Page
driving in lanes	7,53	G	
driving side by side	35	general allowance	5
driving training	48	general allowance (expires)	5
driving with trailers	54,55	green arrow light	15
drugs	2	green arrow plate	15
drum brakes	54	guiding lines	8
E		H	
elderly people	27	handbrake	54
electrics	49	handling of the vehicle	53
emergency call	46	hard shoulder	21,42
emergency stop	24,45	hatch markings	9
emergency tyre	49	hazard warning lights	25
emission pollution	34	height (maximum including	51
empty mass	52	help for the injured	46
endangering	12	hit and run	46
engine	49	horn	34
engine brake	53	hunting-spot	45
engineering	49	HU-plate	6
environmental awareness	52	I	
exhaust control	6	illness	1
exit lanes	10	indicator (changing lanes)	8
extending load	51	indicator (exit lanes)	10
eyetest	4	indicator (moving off)	35
F		indicator (overtaking)	35
farm vehicles	27	indicator (passing)	35
feelings	3	indicator (reversing)	40
filter	49	indicator (turning)	38,39
fines	47	information signs	22
first aid certificate	4	insurance	6
flashing (blue and amber)	46	interval-braking	54
flashing (yellow light)	15	into the correct lane	8,35,38,39
flashlight	44	J	
flashlight (warning signal)	34	jam	10
fled into the country	54	L	
flensburg (VZR)	47	latitude	49
floor of a truck	50	learning for life	48
flying out	50	length (vehicle plus load)	51
fog	32	level crossings	11
fog headlights	44	liability insurance	6
fog tail lamps (rear)	44	licence (taken away)	47
foresighted	54	light vehicles	27
formula (meters per second)	30	lighting equipment	49
formula for trailers	55	lights	44,49
free channel	10,16,46	lights (allowed)	45
front wheel drive	50	lights (required)	45
frost shelter	49	lights at holding and parking	42
fuel	10	lights at trailers	55
fuel consumption,increase	52	load	50

INDEX

Term	Page	Term	Page
load on the roof	51	power steering	49
load on the trailer coupling	55	priority (basic rule)	13
locking of wheels	54	priority signs	13
loss of the insurance	5	private driveways	35
M		profile deep	49
maximum permitted load	52	psychological training	5
medication	2	public transport	25
mirrors	53	purchasing	5
motorcycles	26	Q	
motorways	10	quad	27
moving off	35	R	
MPU	47	rail vehicles	11
N		rain	31
nachschulung (special course)	5,48	reaction distance	32
noise	52	rear gear light	45
noise (avoid it)	52	rear wheel drive	50
number plate (light)	45	recommended speed	10
O		reflectors	45
obstacle area	8	registration	5
obstructing	12	registration (change)	5
official number plate	6	restrictions for vehicles and	52
oil	49	reverse lock	54
old drivers	48	reversing	40,41
one way street	19,27,39	right quicker than left	7
overloaded	51	road or weather conditions	53
overrun brakes	54	roadway boundry marking	8
overtaking	35	roadway markings	20
overtaking (one by one)	37	roundabouts	9
overtaking distance	36	rule of thumb	32
overtaking time	36	S	
owner´s certificate	6	safe passengers cabin	50
P		safety belts	50,53
papers you have to carry	6	safety distance	33
parking	41	safety side distance	33
parking (prohibited)	41	safety training	48
parking (warning plate)	42	school bus	26
parking automat	43	seats	53
parking disc	43	several lanes turn	37
participants in local traffic	25	shock absorbers	53
pedaltravel (brakes)	49	side guidance	50
pedestrian (zebra) crossing	28	side stripes	42
pedestrians	28	sidewind	32
permanent control signals	16	signals of the police	16
permissible towed load	55	signs giving orders	19
physical ability	1	sleeping policemen	29
physics of driving	50	smog	56
pointsystem	47	snow and ice	32
police	16	snow chains	53

INDEX

Term	Page	Term	Page
solid lines	8	turning in	35
special lanes	26	turning left	39
special rights	46	turning priority	13
special traffic situations	16	turning right	38
special vehicles	46	tyre pressure	49
special ways	7	tyres	49
speed	30	U	
speed (maximum)	10	underpass	46
speed (minimum)	31	uphill slopes	53
speed (personal qualifications)	30	u-turns	40
speed (road conditions)	30	V	
speed (self-controlled)	30	variations of turns	40
speed (signs)	31	various signs	46
speed (traffic situations)	30	vehicle examination	6
speed (weather conditions)	31	vehicle registration	59
st. andrew's cross	11	vehicle secure	43
starting help	43	vehicles	25
steering system	49	visibility	53
stepping in and out	43	W	
stop and wait at level crossings	11	walking speed area	29
stopped lights	44	warning light	43
stopping	41	warning signals	34
stopping (prohibited)	41	warning signs	17
stopping and parking (lights)	42	warning triangle	43
stopping-distance	32	waste management	52
street systems	7	waste materials	51
sunday driving ban	56	wedges	55
sunken kerbstones	13	weight	52
T		wet roads	31
take care of	49	width (vehicle plus load)	51
taxi	26	winter driving	32,53
tip over	50	winter tyres (M+S)	49
tiredness	2	wipers	53
toll	24,46	without licence	4
towing	43	Y	
towing (special form)	43	yellow lines	9
towing of trailers	55	Z	
traffic congestion	7,10,11,16	zipper method	8
traffic control facilities	24	zone 30	29
traffic lights (...out of order)	15		
traffic lights (direction arrow)	15		
traffic regulations	15		
traffic safety of the vehicle	6,49		
trailers	55		
trucks and buses	26		
tunnel	5,24,40,45		
tunnel view	1		
turning	37		

