



2

## BEFORE YOU START THE ENGINE

Safety belts →

Children as passengers →

Your position at the wheel →

Tyres →

 **TRAJET**  
SÉCURISONS-LE!

# Safety belts

**Wearing a seatbelt is compulsory, and not negotiable, even for a distance as short as 200 metres. It should be a reflex action - don't start the engine until everyone's seat belt is done up!**

## What the law says

Wearing a seatbelt is compulsory for all occupants, both children and adults, in all vehicles, whether in a front seat or in the back.

## Exceptions

The seat-belt rule is waived for:

- police and fire services in the course of specifically defined missions
- drivers and passengers of vehicles operating door-to-door in a local area
- people for whom there is a serious medical contra-indication (a doctor's certificate and special authorisation from the Minister of Transport is required)
- drivers while reversing



**Note that the obligation of wearing a seat belt is not waived for pregnant women.**

## Penalties

A driver who:

- does not wear a seat belt is liable to be fined 49 euros and have 1 point taken away
- carries a person under the age of 18 years who is less than 1m 50 tall and not properly secured is liable to be fined 49 euros and have 1 point taken away

A passenger not wearing a seat belt risks being fined 49 euros.

## 3-point seat-belt

### 1. The diagonal strap

should pass over the shoulder, not at the base of the neck

### 2. The head rest

should be almost at the same height as the top of the head

### 3. The lap belt

should lie across the bones of the pelvis, not on the stomach



### Did you know?

- It is extremely rare for a seat belt to get jammed, and for a car to burst into flames or even fall into water. The safety belt gives you your only chance of remaining conscious and hence able to get yourself out of the vehicle.
- Airbags offer additional protection only in the event of a violent impact, and in no way can take the place of wearing a seat belt.
- Airbags are only effective in combination with seat belts.
- Seat belts are particularly effective at low and medium speeds. Beyond a certain force of impact, the human body is completely unable to resist the shock.
- Back-seat passengers not wearing seat belts constitute a danger for the driver and the front-seat passenger. In the event of a collision, they turn into powerful projectiles, with dramatic consequences not only for themselves, but also for the driver and the front-seat passenger.
- In buses and coaches, wearing a seat belt is compulsory in all seats fitted with one.

### Some advice

Despite the exceptions provided for in the Highway Code, for your own safety and that of your children:

- never start a journey until all the passengers have done up their seat belts
- adjust your seat belt properly before starting the engine
- get into the habit of doing up your seat belt even for really short trips (many accidents occur less than 10 minutes away from home, on routes frequently taken)
- if you are travelling in a taxi, a hire car or a mini-bus, check that seat belts are fitted



**For more information, download the road safety organisation's leaflet, the brochure of Axa Assurances Luxembourg and visualize the crash test.**

# Children as passengers

**For your child's safety, you should use a seat adapted to his/her age and weight.**

## What the law says

- Children under 3 years old must always be seated in an approved special restraint system (child's seat).
- If the vehicle does not have seat belts to fix such a seat in place, children may not be carried.
- Children between 3 and 17 years old who are less than 1m 50 tall must be seated in a special restraint system (child's seat or booster seat).



**Note that a child's seat where the child is seated with its back to the direction of travel is not allowed on a front passenger seat fitted with an airbag, unless this has been deactivated.**

## Exceptions

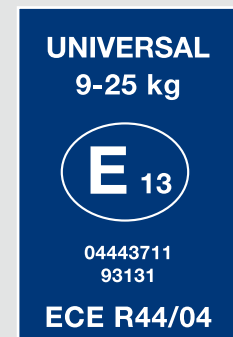
Children must use the standard seat belt (the lap belt is enough; the diagonal strap can go behind the child's back):

- if the child weighs more than 36 kilos (booster seats are only approved for use up to a maximum weight of 36 kilos)
- if there is not enough room on the back seat to fit three child's seats side by side

- if, exceptionally and for a short distance, you are carrying (in a vehicle with 5 seats) more children than there are child's seats available

Above all, the seat must be an approved model. The marking on the restraint systems is a guarantee of their compliance with current European safety standards.

This is what the marking means:



### UNIVERSAL

the term «Universal» means the seat can be used in any vehicle

### E

the letter E indicates that the seat has been approved

### 9-25 KG

this is one of the categories for European approval; there are five groups

### 13

the code (it may be a number or a letter) following the letter E indicates the European country in which the approval process was carried out; approval is recognised by all the countries of Europe

### ECE R44/04

the «04» means that the seat meets the most recent safety standards; standards 01 and 02 are no longer valid

# Your position at the wheel

To ensure your safety and your comfort, seat yourself properly behind the wheel. The wrong position could result in more serious injury if you are involved in a collision.

## Some advice

Adjust and check in order the various following elements, particularly if other the vehicle is also used by other people:

- **the seat** so that you are able to brake fully with your legs slightly bent
- **the back of the seat** so that you can reach the top of the steering wheel with your wrist (with your arm slightly bent) while you are sitting well back in the seat
- **the position of the steering wheel** (height, depth)
- **the rear view mirror and the wing mirrors** so that you can see traffic both behind you and on both sides
- the proper position of **the head rest** so that it is at the same height as your head



# Tyres

**Tyres are the contact point between the vehicle and the road; they transmit acceleration, braking and changes of direction. Since the area of contact with the ground is very small, the quality of the tyre is decisive for road-holding and hence for safety.**

## What the law says

All the tyres fitted on a car or van must be:

- of the same type, summer or M&S (winter or all-season) and
- have the same structure (radial or cross ply)

The **minimum depth** of the grooves of the tread pattern across the full width of the tread of the tyre must be **at least 1.6 mm**.

## Winter and all-season tyres

- It is recommended that winter tyres be fitted once the average daily temperature drops below 7°C. Winter and all-season tyres are marked “M+S” on the sidewall. They are made of types of rubber that perform particularly well at low temperatures, and their tread pattern is heavily siped, making these tyres effective on ice and snow.
- They must be fitted to all the vehicle’s wheels.
- Anti-skid devices (chains, Spikes-Spiders) may be used in snow and ice conditions.
- Snow chains need only to be fitted to the two driving wheels.



**For more information, download the [leaflet \[in French\]](#) produced by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Infrastructures entitled “En hiver, adaptez votre tenue et votre comportement”.**

## Did you know?

- Under-inflating a tyre results in:
  - greater risk of skidding
  - over-heating
  - risk of bursting
  - increased fuel consumption
  - heavier wear
  - longer braking distances
- Over-inflating a tyre results in:
  - a smaller contact area
  - risk of skidding
  - uneven wear
  - longer braking distances
  - a less comfortable ride
- Tyre pressure must be adjusted according to the vehicle’s load and to the dimensions and type of tyre.

- Because their transmission is spread over the four wheels, 4WD vehicles have no problem starting on snowy, icy roads; this advantage leads drivers to believe they also have an advantage when braking, but they don't.



### Some advice

- **Fitting tyres:** Whether your vehicle is front-wheel drive, rear-wheel drive, or four-wheel drive, always fit the tyres with the deepest tread on the back axle. Some tyres can only be used in a certain direction; when changing tyres, make sure you get the direction right.
- **Tyre tread:** The law requires a minimum tread depth of 1.6 mm. As the tyre wears, it loses adherence and the risk of skidding increases accordingly. Special bars indicate when the minimum legal depth of 1.6 mm has been reached. However, it is recommended that tyres should be replaced before they reach that limit.
- **Age of tyres:** The rubber used for tyres hardens with age, and the adherence of the tyre to the ground suffers as a result. Don't use tyres that are

more than six years old (or more than four years old for M+S tyres). The mark "DOT" followed by a four-digit number indicates the date of the tyre's manufacture (see also tyre marking).

The quality of the tyre deteriorates even if the tyre is not used. A tyre will only last for as long as possible if you keep an eye on its condition. If the tyre is cracked or the sidewall has a bulge, replace the tyre without delay. To make sure your tyres last a long time:

- don't hit the kerb obliquely
- don't spin the wheels when starting up
- don't drive over objects such as stones, branches, etc.
- don't take corners at high speed
- don't brake hard unnecessarily
- don't inflate to the wrong pressure (whether under-inflation or over-inflation)
- don't let the tyre come into contact with chemicals (petrol, oil, soap, etc.)
- **Tyre pressure:** Check tyre pressure regularly, while the tyres are cold (at least once a month, and before each long trip). Follow the recommendations of the vehicle's manufacturer. Each time you have checked the pressure, check that the valve caps are in good condition and put them back on properly. Don't forget to check the pressure of the spare wheel.

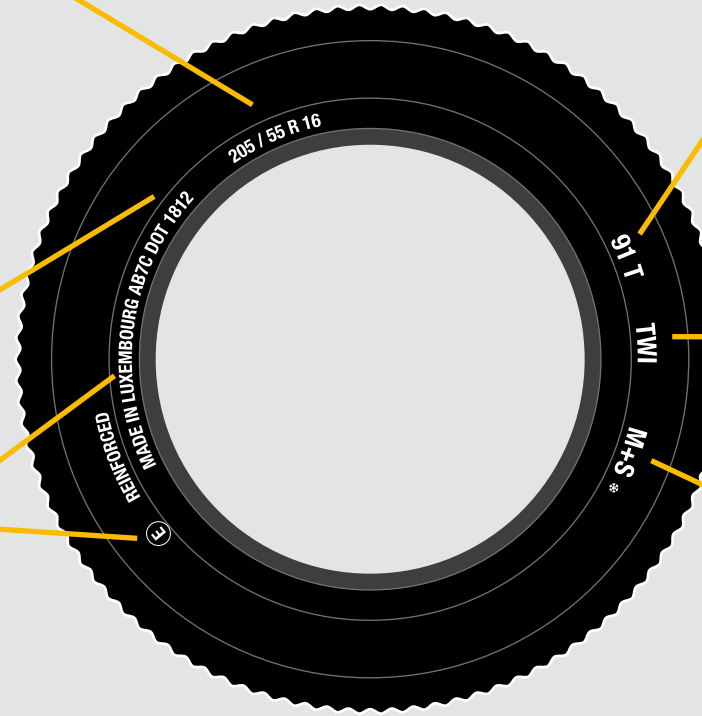
## Tyre marking

Size: **205/55R16**  
**205** is the width of the tyre, in mm, from edge to edge  
**55** is the ratio of height to width, as a percentage, i.e. the height of the wheel flange is 55% of 205mm  
**R** means the tyre structure is radial  
**16** is the diameter of the rim, in inches (1 inch = 2.54 cm)

**1812**  
is the date of manufacture of the tyre, the 18th week in 2012

### Country of manufacture

**E followed by a number**  
indicates European approval (tyres that do not bear this symbol are not authorised for use in Europe)



**91 T**  
is the code for loading (maximum load per tyre at maximum speed)  
**T**  
is the speed code (the maximum speed authorised for the type of tyre)

**TWI**  
Tyre Wear Indicator, marking the place on the tyre where the wear bars are set into the tyre across its width

**M+S\***  
winter or all-season tyre



### Main speed codes

Code	km/h
J	90
L	100
M	110
Q	160
S	180
T	190
H	210
V	240
Y	270
W	300

### Maximum load capacity per tyre when inflated to a pressure of 2.5 bars

Code	kg
74	375
78	425
82	475
84	500
86	530
88	560
91	615
102	850

Sources: [La Sécurité Routière \(Luxembourg\)](#) (Association for road safety), Code de la Route Populaire 2011 (Highway Code 2011), [La Prévention Routière \(France\)](#) (Association for the prevention of road accidents), French national road safety and research institute ([Institut National de Sécurité Routière et de Recherches - INSERR, France](#))