

## STAR RATING SYSTEM – TODAY

From February 2009, Euro NCAP released a single overall star rating for each car tested, with a maximum of five stars achievable. This single overall safety rating now takes into account the scores achieved by the vehicle in four areas: Adult Protection, Child Protection, Pedestrian Protection and Safety Assist.



The overall score for a vehicle is a result of the grouping of the four scores from each area. The overall score also ensures that no one area of the car's safety performance is underachieving. The crash tests carried out for Adult Protection, Child Protection and Pedestrian Protection are identical to those used before 2009, the only exception being the addition of a rear impact test to check for whiplash neck injury protection. Also, Euro NCAP now rewards not only Seatbelt reminders, but other “*Safety Assist*” devices such as speed limiters and the standard fitment of Electronic Stability Control (ESC).

Figure 2 below outlines an example of how a vehicle is currently rated under the new system. In this example the vehicle scored an overall rating of four out of a maximum of five stars available.



**Figure 2:** New NCAP Overall Rating since February 2009.

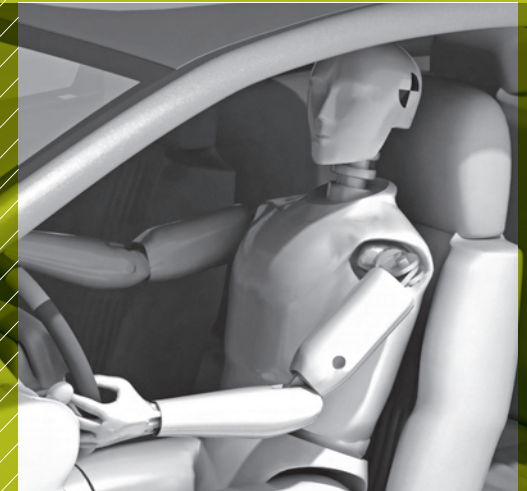
**If you are thinking of buying a new car be sure to ask the dealer about the car's Euro NCAP rating before making a decision to buy.**

## Working To Save Lives

### Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre Road Safety Authority

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## Euro NCAP (European New Car Assessment Programme)

An tÚdarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre  
Road Safety Authority

If you are considering buying a new car for the family you should examine closely information regarding the safety performance of individual car models.

- Euro NCAP provides a realistic and independent measurement of the safety performance of some of the most popular cars sold in Europe.
- Euro NCAP crash tests vehicles in order to provide accurate information for anyone buying a car about the safety performance of their cars. Consumers then have the opportunity to compare the safety performance of similar sized vehicles with their chosen vehicle.
- Established in 1997, Euro NCAP it is backed by seven European Governments, the European Commission and motoring and consumer organisations in every EU country.
- By law, all new car models must pass certain safety tests before they are sold. But legislation provides a minimum statutory standard of safety for new cars, it is the aim of Euro NCAP to encourage manufacturers to go beyond these minimum requirements.

If you want to know the safety performance of your current or future car - Visit [www.euroncap.com](http://www.euroncap.com)

## STAR RATING SYSTEM

The Euro NCAP star rating system is constantly evolving and in recent times (February, 2009) a new overall car safety rating was introduced. This new rating system will challenge vehicle manufacturers and promote the development of safer cars. It also introduces a new test category, "Safety Assist". Safety Assist has been introduced to consider developments that have taken place in active safety technologies and driver assist systems. Euro NCAP now rewards car manufacturers for fitting electronic stability control (ESC)\*, in addition to scores given for the presence of a speed limitation device and intelligent seat belt reminders.

## STAR RATING SYSTEM – PRIOR TO 2009

For cars tested before 2009, Euro NCAP released three distinct ratings in relation to a vehicle's performance during testing. These were: Adult Protection, Child Occupant Protection and Pedestrian Protection. The ratings for adult protection and child protection were achieved as a result of three crash tests that Euro NCAP carried out. These were frontal impact, side impact (when one car runs into the side of another) and pole impact tests (where a car runs into the side of a fixed narrow object such as a tree or pole). Euro NCAP also carried out a separate range of tests to determine the Pedestrian Rating score.

Figure 1 opposite outlines an example of how a vehicle would have been rated under the system pre 2009. In this example the vehicle scored a maximum of five stars for adult occupant protection, five stars for child occupant protection and four stars for pedestrian protection. In each separate category the maximum number of stars achievable is five.

\*ESC senses when the driver loses control and automatically applies braking pressure to individual wheels to help stabilise the vehicle and avoid skidding. This technology could reduce the risk of accidents by as much as 20% especially in wet or icy conditions. Source <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/621&format=HTML&aged=1&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> accessed 15/12/09 @ 15:00



Figure 1: NCAP Ratings prior to February 2009.

When buying a car tested before 2009, Euro NCAP advises that you to take all three ratings into consideration, as outlined in Figure 1 above.

Source: [www.euroncap.com](http://www.euroncap.com)

