

No Seatbelt No Excuse!

- Safety belts are proven lifesavers and should be used on every single car journey.
- Without a safety belt, 3 out of 4 people will be killed or seriously injured in a 50 km/h (31mph) head-on collision.
- Every person in a car is legally required to wear a safety belt where one is fitted.
- The driver is responsible for ensuring that passengers under 17 years of age use a safety belt or a suitable child car seat.

Remember: no safety belt - up to 4 penalty points.

Child Safety in Cars

All children should be restrained in the correct child seat when travelling in a car.



Select a child seat that:

- Conforms to United Nations standard, ECE Regulations 44-03 or 44-04 (look for the E mark).
- Is suitable for the child's WEIGHT and HEIGHT. Do not use age as a guide.
- Is suitable for the type of car.
- Is correctly fitted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

It is safer to fit child seats in the rear of the car. NEVER fit a rearward facing baby seat in the front.

For further information on Child Safety in Cars please see www.rsa.ie/childsafetyincars

RSA

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre

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Supported by



An Garda Síochána

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This leaflet is intended as a general guide.
It is not an interpretation of the law.

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Working To Save Lives

Road Safety & The Law in Ireland



An Garda Síochána

RSA



Introduction

Before driving any car on a road you must ensure that:

- You hold a current driving licence.
- The car is taxed and the tax disc is displayed.
- The car is insured and the insurance disc is displayed.
- If applicable display a valid NCT disc.

Failure to observe any of these requirements is a serious offence.

ALL TRAFFIC DRIVES ON THE LEFT IN IRELAND!

National Car Test (NCT)



- Passenger cars are required to undergo a roadworthiness test when they are 4 years old and every two years after that until their 10th anniversary when they become subject to an annual test.
- For further information please visit www.ncts.ie or call the NCTS directly on 1890 412 413

Penalty Points

Any driver accumulating 12 penalty points at any time inside a three year period will be automatically disqualified from driving for six months. Penalty points remain on the licence record for a period of three years.

- No insurance: 5 penalty points and a fine of up to €2,500 and/or a possible term of imprisonment and/or disqualification for one year or more.
- Careless Driving: 5 penalty points and a fine of up to €1,500 and/or a possible term of imprisonment
- Speeding: 4 penalty points on conviction in court and a fine of up to €800.
- No safety belt: 4 penalty points on conviction in court and a fine of up to €800 for a first offence.

For further information on penalty points please see www.penaltypoints.ie

Speed Limits

Speed limits in the Republic of Ireland are measured in kilometres (km/h). Safety cameras are in use on Irish roads. Locations of cameras are available on www.garda.ie

Check the signs - Check your speed.

SPEED SIGN CONVERTER			
New km/h Limit	Approximate Equivalent	New km/h Limit	Approximate Equivalent
30 km/h	EQUIVALENT TO... 19 mph	80 km/h	EQUIVALENT TO... 50 mph
50 km/h	EQUIVALENT TO... 31 mph	100 km/h	EQUIVALENT TO... 62 mph
60 km/h	EQUIVALENT TO... 37 mph	120 km/h	EQUIVALENT TO... 75 mph

The maximum speed limit for vehicles such as buses, trucks or towing vehicles is 80km/h (50mph).

Slow Down

- Driving too fast is a factor in 1 out of every 4 fatal crashes in Ireland.
- Speeding reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around bends and increases the distance necessary to stop a car.
- A 100 km/h (62 mph) crash is the same as dropping a car from an eleven storey building.
- Slowing down saves lives.



Never Ever Drink And Drive

Many drivers believe they are safe to drive after one drink, they are wrong. The RSA says "NEVER EVER DRINK AND DRIVE"

How alcohol affects driving:

Alcohol affects judgement, vision, co-ordination and reaction time. It causes serious driving errors, such as:

- Driving too fast or too slow.
- Driving in the wrong lane.
- Running over the kerb.
- Not signalling, failure to use lights.
- Straddling lanes.
- Running stop signs and red lights.
- Improper overtaking.



Alcohol & Drugs - The Law:

It is an offence to drive, attempt to drive or be in charge of a car if you don't have proper control due to alcohol and/or drugs.



The Penalty:

The penalty for drink/drug driving is disqualification from holding a driving licence for a minimum period ranging from 3 months to 6 years and a fine of up to €5,000 and/or imprisonment.