

EUROPEAN NEW CAR ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME

Prince Michael International Award 2009 HR Auto Safety Award 2009 What Car? Safetv 2009

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2 Place du Luxembourg 1050 Brussels Belgium T:+32 (0)2 400 77 40 F:+32 (0)2 400 77 41 Email: info@euroncap.com VAT: BE 0465 041 160 & GB 740 565 340

Press Release

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Chinese manufacturers investing in safety

Euro NCAP's fifth and last launch of 2011 presents the results for fourteen new cars. Six models achieved four stars: two Chinese newcomers, Geely Emgrand EC7 and MG6, and the Fiat Panda, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Jaguar XF and the EV Renault Fluence ZE. The Chevrolet Malibu, Kia Rio, Mercedes-Benz B-Class and C-Class Coupe, the Ranger Rover Evoque, Subaru XV, VW Beetle and VW up! were all awarded the top safety rating of five stars. The VW up!'s five star rating is applied also to its VW-group cousins, the Seat Mii and the Skoda Citigo.

The MG6 and Geely Emgrand EC7 achieved four star ratings, creditable results that underline the manufacturers' desire to improve the safety record of Chinese brands in Europe. Michiel van Ratingen, Euro NCAP Secretary General, says 'These results mark a milestone for the Chinese automotive industry. It is a clear sign that Chinese car makers are building on recent experiences and rapidly investing in better vehicle safety. Even with the upcoming increased demands, five stars are expected to be within reach soon.'

Perhaps surprisingly, the full electric sedan Renault Fluence ZE fell short of the anticipated five stars, underachieving on pedestrian protection, driver and passenger protection offered. This result puts it on a par with the Mitsubishi i-MiEV, but behind other EVs such as Nissan LEAF and Opel Ampera tested earlier in the year.

The Fiat Panda lost a star as it is not fitted with ESC as standard, despite the technology becoming mandatory in 2012. By contrast, VW ensured very high standard availability of ESC on the up!, securing a five star rating for that car and its cousins, the Seat Mii and the Skoda Citigo.

The Jeep Grand Cherokee showed disappointing results in child occupant protection. In the frontal impact, the seat rail holding the seat belt anchorage came close to breaking in two, resulting in contact, through the fabric of the airbag, of the driver's head with the steering wheel rim. Euro NCAP urges Jeep to complete its investigation into the cause and implement an improved seat rail design in future production cars soon.

As part of Euro NCAP Advanced's mission to reward advanced systems, the safety organization has assessed a number of new technologies offered on recently tested models. Rewards are given to safety innovations for which the car maker has demonstrated significant safety benefits for consumers. Ford is rewarded for its Driver Alert and Forward Alert systems on the Focus, making the car the first that offers 4 rewarded technologies. Mercedes-Benz is rewarded for Attention Assist and Collision Prevention Assist, Opel for Adaptive Forward Lighting and Volkswagen for City Emergency Brake. Van Ratingen says 'We are particularly pleased to see Collision Prevention Assist being fitted as standard equipment to the new Mercedes B-Class, the first time for a car in this segment to have such equipment so broadly fitted. It demonstrates the carmaker's confidence in the ability of brake support technology, an opinion supported by Euro NCAP.' Learn more about the safety benefits of these advanced systems on Euro NCAP's website and by watching our recent video.

Finally, top scorers VW Beetle and Subaru XV achieved impressive results in child occupant protection, both reaching 90%, which is the maximum score Euro NCAP has yet given for this assessment. It is also the first time Euro NCAP rewards a fully automatic passenger airbag activation system, where the front passenger of the Subaru XV is only activated when an occupant of a suitable size is detected in the seat, effectively minimizing the risk for younger children seated on that position.





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Details on these results and rewards can now be found on www.euroncap.com. For media related information, please contact Marie Brasseur, Euro NCAP Communications Manager at marie-brasseur@euroncap.com or +32 2 4007746.

		YEAR		
		OF	EURO NCAP	
MAKE AND MODEL	CLASS	TEST	ADVANCED	OVERALL SCORE
Chevrolet Malibu	Large Family	2011		5 stars
Fiat Panda	Supermini	2011		4 stars
Geely Emgrand EC7	Large Family	2011		4 stars
Jaguar XF	Executive	2011		4 stars
Jeep Grand Cherokee	Large Off- Road 4x4	2011		4 stars
Kia Rio	Supermini	2011		5 stars
Mercedes C-Class	6 45 3	2011	Attention Assist; Pre Safe;	
Coupe	Small Family	2011	Pre Safe brake	5 stars
Mercedes-Benz B- Class	Small MPV	2011	Collision Prevention Assist; Pre Safe	5 stars
			The suite	
MG6	Small Family	2011		4 stars
Range Rover Evoque	Small Off- Road 4x4	2011		5 stars
Renault Fluence ZE	Small Family	2011		4 stars
Subaru XV	Small Family	2011		5 stars
VW Beetle	Small Family	2011		5 stars
VW up! (Seat Mii and Skoda Citigo)	Supermini	2011	City Emergency Braking	5 stars

About Euro NCAP

Euro NCAP organizes crash tests on new vehicles and provides motoring consumers with a realistic and independent assessment of the safety performance of some of the most popular cars sold in Europe. Established in 1997 and backed by several European Governments, motoring, consumer and insurance organizations, Euro NCAP has rapidly become a catalyst for encouraging significant safety improvements to new car design. Visit our website: www.euroncap.com

Editors' notes

- 1. Consumers should be aware that not all cars are comparable due to their varying size and weight. For comparable cars please consult our website www.euroncap.com.
- 2. Euro NCAP's overall rating includes Adult Occupant Protection, Child Occupant Protection, Pedestrian Protection and Safety Assist. Vehicles are awarded a single overall score from one to five stars. The assessment incorporates Rear Impact (Whiplash) testing, the availability of ESC and the presence of speed limitation devices. The overall rating is based on the car's performance in each of the four main areas and the scores are weighted with respect to each other. Over the next three years, stricter requirements will be introduced increasing the emphasis on all-round safety performance and demanding higher levels of achievement in each area.
- 3. Consumers should be aware that results are time dependent, the more recently a car has been tested, the more accurate and up-to-date the results of its safety performance. Only ratings for the year the car was tested apply for older or second-hand cars. These ratings can be considered compromised if the car has been involved in an accident.

