

Press Release

Safetyplus: DEKRA and DaimlerChrysler introduce their new certificate

Transport safety signed and sealed

Improving transport safety – talks with insurers about discounts and price reductions

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Stuttgart / Vienna - DEKRA and DaimlerChrysler are breaking new ground. Together they have developed the two-pronged Safetyplus concept - Safetyplus Driver and Safetyplus Vehicle - which will be made public with the presentation of the new Mercedes-Benz Sprinter. Between 12th and 29th March 2006, journalists from around the world will be able to complete a driving safety training course based on the Safetyplus Driver concept in a driving safety centre in Vienna. The new transporters used for this training course meet the highest requirements of Safetyplus Vehicle.

With Safetyplus transporters will be made safer and their image in the public perception will be enhanced. The aim is to make a sustainable contribution to reducing accidents on Europe's roads. That is why DEKRA is currently holding intensive talks with a number of insurers to offer holders of the certificates cheaper insurance premiums. The risk of accident with Safetyplus vehicles is much lower thanks to the additional active and passive safety elements and improved driver training.

Safetyplus Vehicle meets the requirements of transporters in terms of equipment and driving dynamics according to a precisely formulated list of criteria. Points are given for the most diverse features ranging from distance control to lashing points. A particularly high number of points can be achieved with assistance and control systems for example.

Each type of vehicle is also evaluated by means of intensive driving dynamic tests. Measurements are taken for example of braking distance, behaviour when changing lanes (the "moose test") of the Verband der Automobilindustrie e.V.

(German Automobile Industry Association), achievable cornering speeds or behaviour when braking on corners. These tests are conducted with both empty transporters and vehicles carrying up to the maximum permissible weight. The Safetyplus Vehicle certificate can only be issued once a minimum number of points in the list of criteria is achieved for safety-relevant equipment and for the driving dynamics tests.

Meeting the requirements of the EU professional drivers directive

The Safetyplus Driver certificate is issued on the basis of road safety training, including training in load securing. The Safetyplus Driver certificate is issued for two years. It can be extended for a further two years following participation in a one-day advanced training course covering such topics as transport law, social welfare legislation, road haulage regulations, health, transport and environmental safety, service and logistics. By participating in the courses, holders of driving licences of classes C and C1 will meet the future requirements of the EU professional drivers directive for the advanced training of professional bus and lorry drivers. All other transporter drivers may wish to take part in a voluntary professional further training programme. As well as a certificate participants will receive an entry in their personal Safetyplus Driver qualification certificate.

Owners and drivers of transporters can document their Safetyplus certificate by placing a Safetyplus Vehicle sticker on the rear of their vehicles. Safetyplus drivers will receive a Safetyplus Driver certificate. If only one certified driver drives the transporters, the accompanying sticker can be placed on the rear of the vehicle.

The certificates are issued by DEKRA according to uniform criteria. Safetyplus is open to all manufacturers and training centres. The Safetyplus Vehicle and Driver logos are standardised and show the period of validity of the certificate. The certificate documents the commitment of manufacturers and fleets towards greater road safety.

Safetyplus implements the measures adopted by the 2004 Conference of Transport Ministers and the 42nd Traffic Court Day to further improve traffic safety. Safetyplus also makes a tangible contribution to the European action programme for transport safety to halve the annual number of traffic fatalities in the European Union to 25,000 by 2010. DEKRA has made a commitment to this by being among the first to sign the “Saving 25,000 lives“ EU Charter.

Further information can be found at: www.safetyplus.info

About DEKRA

DEKRA is an internationally focused expert organisation committed to safety and quality in the everyday relationship between human beings and technology, the environment and mobility. Around 100 subsidiaries and affiliated companies work under the strategic umbrella of DEKRA e.V. in Stuttgart. They are affiliated to DEKRA e.V. via DEKRA AG in the four business units DEKRA Automotive, DEKRA NORISKO Industrial, DEKRA Qualification & Consulting and DEKRA International Operations. These business units provide competent and innovative services in the fields of vehicle testing, expert opinions, industrial services, certification, environmental and building monitoring, vocational training and further education, temporary work, consulting and international claims services. DEKRA currently maintains a presence in 21 countries in Western and Eastern Europe as well as in the USA, Brazil and South Africa. More than 15,000 employees generate sales revenues of approximately 1.2 billion Euro..

Safetyplus at a glance

Advantages for the economy

- Lower accident figures
- Fewer burdens as a result of accidents
- Fewer disruptions to the flow of traffic

Advantages for the transport economy

- Reduced costs as a result of fewer accidents
- Increased transport safety
- Reduced financial losses (drivers, vehicles)
- Enhanced image

Advantages for vehicle manufacturers

- Marketing of safety-enhancing vehicles and vehicle components
- Market opportunities for innovative technologies

Advantages for training centres

- Marketing of safety-enhancing training concepts
- Timely implementation of the professional drivers directive
- Contributing to the voluntary professional qualification of transporter drivers

Advantages for the insurance industry

- Lower accident figures
- Less serious consequences of accidents (personal injury, damage to property and loads)
- Instrument for Risk Management