

Euro NCAP's RECAP: 2009

Last year, the response of manufacturers to Euro NCAP's new rating scheme was a steady stream of five-star results. Behind the scenes, Euro NCAP saw an increase in the level of ESC fitment, better head-restraints and much more focus on pedestrian protection.



REWARDS FOR TRAILBLAZERS: Pedestrian protection is an area that has long been under-prioritised by carmakers. In 2008 barely 25% of the cars tested by Euro NCAP achieved more than two stars for pedestrian protection. With the introduction of a European regulation, Euro NCAP is determined to keep the pressure up. In 2009 three cars, the Honda Insight, the Toyota Prius 3 and the Subaru Impreza proved they were trailblazers in this regard. These cars went beyond Euro NCAP's 2009 requirements for pedestrian protection and met the 2012 demands of 60%.

KNOWING YOUR LIMIT: In 2009, French carmakers made tackling speeding drivers their priority. Citroen, Peugeot and Renault as well as new premium brand in Europe Infiniti were rewarded by Euro NCAP for their fitment of a driver controlled speed limitation device. (In cars: Citroen C3, Peugeot 3008, 308 CC, 5008, the Renault Grand Scenic and Infiniti FX). Speed limits are intended to keep traffic speeds below the maximum that is appropriate, ensuring the safety of motorists and other road users. Research recently carried out by the Transport Research Laboratory has shown that at 25% above the average speed, a driver is six times more likely to have an accident than a driver travelling at the average speed.

TOP FIVE SAFETY ACHIEVERS OF 2009

Last year, tightened purse strings and more cars on dealer forecourts kept consumers on their toes. The good news is that Euro NCAP results in 2009 show smaller, premium, mass market brands are becoming equally expert in safety as bigger, more expensive models.

Here are Euro NCAP's top five safety achievers of 2009:

1. Volkswagen Golf
2. Honda Insight Hybrid
3. Toyota Prius
4. Hyundai i20
5. Toyota Avensis, Volvo XC60 & Opel/Vauxhall Astra





FIVE POINT SAFETY BUYING GUIDE





- Go to www.euroncap.com
- Find five-star achievers
- Look for good whiplash performance
- Demand ESC from your dealer
- Insist on ISOFIX for your child

GET READY FOR A BIG CHANGE IN 2010. This year sees the threshold to achieve Euro NCAP's maximum five stars go up from 75% to 80% in Adult Occupant Protection and from 70% to 75% in Child Occupant Protection. The threshold for Pedestrian Protection rises still further - carmakers will now require 40%, rather than the current 25%, to achieve the maximum five-star reward.

Euro NCAP achievements:

What car? Safety Award 2009 | HR Auto Safety Award 2009 | Prince Michael International Award 2009 | Technical Innovation Award of 2009

MAKE AND MODEL	OVERALL STAR RATING	Adult 	Child 	Pedestrian 	Safety assist 
Audi A4	2009 ★★★★★	93%	84%	39%	71%
Audi Q5	2009 ★★★★★	92%	84%	32%	71%
BMW X1	2009 ★★★★★	87%	86%	63%	71%
Chevrolet Cruze	2009 ★★★★★	96%	84%	34%	71%
Chevrolet Spark	2009 ★★★★★☆	81%	78%	43%	43%
Citroen C3	2009 ★★★★★☆	83%	74%	33%	40%
Citroen C3 Picasso	2009 ★★★★★☆	81%	76%	43%	40%
Citroen C4 Picasso	2009 ★★★★★	87%	78%	46%	89%
Citroen C5	2009 ★★★★★	81%	77%	32%	83%
Citroen DS3	2009 ★★★★★	87%	71%	35%	83%
Honda Accord	2009 ★★★★★	86%	79%	54%	86%
Honda Civic	2009 ★★★★★	79%	76%	67%	86%
Honda Insight Hybrid	2009 ★★★★★	90%	74%	76%	86%
Honda Jazz	2009 ★★★★★	78%	79%	60%	71%
Hyundai i20	2009 ★★★★★	88%	83%	64%	86%
Infiniti FX	2009 ★★★★★	86%	77%	44%	99%
Kia Sorento	2009 ★★★★★	87%	84%	44%	71%
Kia Soul	2009 ★★★★★	87%	86%	39%	86%
Mazda 3	2009 ★★★★★	86%	84%	51%	71%
Mazda 6	2009 ★★★★★	77%	81%	49%	71%
Mercedes C Class	2009 ★★★★★	82%	70%	30%	86%
Mercedes E-Class	2009 ★★★★★	86%	77%	58%	86%
Mercedes GLK	2009 ★★★★★	89%	76%	44%	86%
Mitsubishi Lancer	2009 ★★★★★	81%	80%	34%	71%

MAKE AND MODEL	OVERALL STAR RATING	Adult 	Child 	Pedestrian 	Safety assist 
Opel/Vauxhall Astra	2009 ★★★★★	95%	84%	46%	71%
Opel/Vauxhall Insignia	2009 ★★★★★	94%	79%	40%	71%
Peugeot 3008	2009 ★★★★★	86%	81%	31%	97%
Peugeot 308	2009 ★★★★★	82%	81%	53%	83%
Peugeot 308CC	2009 ★★★★★	83%	70%	33%	97%
Peugeot 5008	2009 ★★★★★	89%	79%	37%	97%
Renault Grand Scenic	2009 ★★★★★	91%	76%	42%	99%
Saab 9-5	2009 ★★★★★	94%	80%	44%	86%
Skoda Superb	2009 ★★★★★	90%	81%	50%	71%
Skoda Yeti	2009 ★★★★★	92%	78%	46%	71%
Subaru Impreza	2009 ★★★★★☆	84%	73%	72%	57%
Subaru Legacy	2009 ★★★★★	79%	73%	58%	71%
Suzuki Alto	2009 ★★★★★☆	55%	46%	35%	29%
Toyota Avensis	2009 ★★★★★	90%	86%	53%	86%
Toyota iQ	2009 ★★★★★	91%	71%	54%	86%
Toyota Prius	2009 ★★★★★	88%	82%	68%	86%
Toyota Urban Cruiser	2009 ★★★★★☆	58%	71%	53%	86%
Volvo V70	2009 ★★★★★	88%	84%	43%	71%
Volvo C30	2009 ★★★★★	91%	78%	26%	71%
Volvo XC60	2009 ★★★★★	94%	79%	48%	86%
VW Golf	2009 ★★★★★	97%	84%	61%	71%
VW Polo	2009 ★★★★★	90%	86%	41%	71%
VW Scirocco	2009 ★★★★★	87%	73%	53%	71%
VW Tiguan	2009 ★★★★★	87%	79%	48%	71%