### Basic Traffic Rules in the Czech Republic

**Speed limits**

The speed limit for motor vehicles with a maximum weight not exceeding 3,500 kg and for buses outside urban areas is 90 km/h. Vehicles exceeding 3,500 kg may go 80 km/h. The speed limit for motor vehicles of weight up to 3,500 kg on motorways is 130 km/h. The speed limit for other vehicles is 80 km/h. The maximum speed in an urban area is 50 km/h; on motorways in this case it is 80 km/h.

**Right-of-way rules**

- **Trams when turning**
  A tram turning or changing direction and crossing the direction of a vehicle moving on the right or left and giving a signal of a change has always priority.

- **Roundabouts**
  A driver approaching a roundabout and “give way”, or the pair of signs “roundabout” and “stop and give way” must give priority to drivers on the roundabout. A driver entering a roundabout or driving in a roundabout (when not changing lanes from one to another) does not turn a signal on.

- **Pedestrian crossings**
  A driver must not endanger or limit the freedom of movement of persons involved in a traffic accident. The drivers moving in a passing lane joined by another lane on the left must allow the drivers advancing from this lane to join passing lane in a way enabling all drivers in both lanes alternate one by one.

**Accident and emergency cases on the road**

It is necessary to call the police to the traffic accident when the visible damage of one of the vehicles involved exceeds the amount of CZK 100,000, or when a person is injured or killed, or if the property of a third party is damaged, not including the damage to the motor vehicle. Driving persons involved in a traffic accident are obliged to write the common record on this traffic accident – the “euroform” is recommended. Additionally, in situations when a motor vehicle becomes an obstacle in traffic due to a traffic accident or the malfunction of the motor vehicle, and it cannot be removed from the road, it is necessary to call the police.

In case of an accident or emergency parking on a motorway, there are milestones every 500 meters indicating the distance from the beginning of the road. The arrows on the milestones indicate the direction to the nearest emergency phone box; each of these boxes has information regarding the kilometer of its location and a button to contact the police.

**Police authorities**

Police may impose and collect fines for traffic offences on the spot. If a person commits a serious traffic offence, the police are empowered to suspend his or her driver’s license.

In cases when the offense cannot be discussed on the spot and it is being reported to the authorities, the police officer may require a deposit paid by the offender to guarantee his or her presence at the hearing. If the deposit is not paid, the police officer is entitled to suspend the vehicle.

**Useful phrases**

- **For rescue and first aid call 158**
  - **For fire fighters call 112**
  - **For police call 158**
  - **For rescue and first aid call 155**

**Integrated Rescue System (IZS)**

If a density of traffic on motorway with two lanes in one direction causes a convoy of stationary vehicles, drivers are required to form one wide lane of at least 3.0 m for transit vehicles with priority right away. If there are three or more lanes in one direction, drivers are obliged to reduce the mutual lateral distance in the left lane or the middle lane.

**Useful phrases**

- **Turn right/left**
  - Zahnete doprava/doleva

- **Help!**
  - Pomoc!

- **Call the police!**
  - Zavolejte police

- **I don’t understand.**
  - Nerozumím.

- **No parking!**
  - Zákaz parkování

- **Outside delivery zone!**
  - Zákaz dávky

- **Outside transport service!**
  - Mimo dopravní obsluhu

- **Valid from...**
  - Platnost od... do...

- **Caution, change of priority!**
  - Pozor, změna přednosti v jízdě

- **Give way to trams**
  - Dej přednost tramvaji

- **Slippery road!**
  - Za mokra

- **Detour!**
  - Objízda

- **Road works!**
  - Práce na silnici

- **Entrance!**
  - Vjezd

- **Exit!**
  - Výjezd

- **Safe verge!**
  - Bezpečná krajnice

- **One way road!**
  - Jednosměrná ulice

- **Accident!**
  - Nehoda

- **No through road!**
  - Projezd zakázán

- **Police!**
  - Police

- **Firefighters!**
  - Hasiči

- **Ambulance!**
  - Záchranář

**Safety accessories**

If a driver in an emergency outside urban area leaves his or her vehicle, he or she must wear reflective clothing (reflective safety vest).

**Winter tires**

A vehicle has to be equipped with winter tires if there is a thick layer of snow, ice or frost on roads, or when it is expected. This rule is valid from November 1 to March 31.

**Using a phone**

Use of mobile telephone while driving is strictly prohibited. However, using hands-free sets is permitted. A driver commits an offense when he holds a telephone or other voice or recording device while driving.

**In an emergency...**

- **Call 112**
- **For police call 158**
- **For firefighters call 112**
- **For rescue and first aid call 155**

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