

# 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 area 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 urban area is 50 km/h; on motorways in this case it is 80 km/h.



## The most important differences

### Drive on the right.

**In urban area**  
In urban area, a driver of a motor vehicle may drive in any lane on the road with two or more lanes with dividing lines going in one direction.



### Outside urban area

Outside urban area, drivers of motor vehicles may drive in the right lane on a road with two or more lanes with dividing lines going in one direction. Driving in other lanes is possible only when passing, overpassing, turning or cornering is necessary.



## The most important differences

### 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 3.0m 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.



### Three lanes – moving into the middle lane

On a road with three lanes in one direction, a driver may move from the left lane into the middle lane only if he does not endanger the driver passing into the middle lane from the right lane.



## 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 with the pair of signs "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.



## Right-of-way rules

### Leaving a residential or pedestrian zone

When leaving a residential or pedestrian zone, a driver has to give way to all vehicles on the road.



## Zip merging rule

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.

## Pedestrian crossings

A driver must not endanger or limit a pedestrian who is crossing or who is about to cross a road at a pedestrian crossing; if necessary, a driver must stop the vehicle before the pedestrian crossing.



**Tram drivers are exempted from this rule.**

## Daytime running lights

A motor vehicle in motion has always to have its low beam or daytime headlights lit, if it is equipped with them.



## Alcohol in blood

In the Czech Republic, there is a zero tolerance for driving under the influence. Drivers are obliged to take the breath test; based on the test results, they are further obliged to take the blood test to find out the amount of alcohol in their blood.



## Child car seats

Transportation of individuals requires the use of safety belts or holding systems on all seats. A suitable child car seat must be used for every child up to 150cm or a weight of 36kg.



## 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 150
- For rescue and first aid call 155

