



TITLE: ADAS IN THE PRACTICAL DRIVING EXAMS IN SPAIN

Presentation on the incorporation of the ADAS in the practical exams to obtain a driving license in Spain

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ABSTRACT

During the aptitude and knowledge control tests (driving practical tests) carried out on roads open to the general traffic in Spain, applicants must show that they are able to drive in a safe and efficient manner and, among other skills, that they can handle the different controls of the vehicle with ease.

Vehicles are the factor in traffic that has changed the most in recent years, mainly due to the development of technology that has supported the creation of a whole series of ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance Systems) that have substantially contributed to improve safety, benefiting the occupants of the vehicles as well as other road users.

Although a few years ago these driving assistance systems could only be found in vehicles of certain categories, today, following the publication of Regulation (EU) 2019/2144 of the European Parliament, they have become mandatory in all vehicle categories.

The General Directorate of Traffic (DGT, the body in charge of regulations and development of assessments to obtain driving licences) believes that the training of future drivers, the human factor in this driving equation, must contemplate their adaptation to these new vehicle technologies. Therefore, in 2019 the DGT published an Instruction that allows the inclusion of some of these systems in the vehicles used in the practical exams. In 2022, a new Instruction followed, allowing the incorporation of further ADAS in examination vehicles, coinciding with the entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2019/2144 of the European Parliament that makes it mandatory for vehicles to have these systems.

Both Instructions create changes that go beyond the authorization of the use of a vehicle in a driving test. On the one hand, it implies changes in the qualification criteria of the tests; on the other, it impacts the training of the examining team in charge of interpreting the ADAS intervention in the exam.

In this presentation, we will present the history of regulations regarding the ADAS in Spain: from those that did not allow any of these in the examination vehicles, to the current regulation that allows the use in the exams of those ADAS already mandatory in European vehicles.

We will also analyze the application of these rules in the practical driving tests. First, looking at systems the use of which do not affect the test results because they do not have an impact in the control of the vehicle by the candidate.



Following this, we will focus on the introduction in the driving exam of systems that may change the assessment of the test by the examiner, and therefore, the qualification criteria. We will see that the intervention of some of the ADAS may or may not entail the commission of a 'fault' depending on the assessment of the situation carried out by the examiner, and how this intervention has an impact in the final result of the test.

Finally, we will review how private driving schools have addressed these changes and their impact in the training of candidates.

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