

General Driving Rules in Germany

- In Germany **any usage of a mobile device is strictly forbidden**, and punishable with an on-the-spot €40 fine (7 day suspension on base). Hands free Bluetooth telephones are fine.
- This sign means that you have priority for the next intersection ONLY. 
- Not having adequate following distance is another violation that can cost you a **fine ranging €75-320** as well as points on your record and a driving suspension of up to 3 months depending on the speed.
- This sign means that you are coming upon an intersection where the right of way is for the traffic to your right. This is usually placed in locations where the right of way may not be easily apparent. 
- This sign means that you have priority over oncoming traffic at an intersection. 
- The person entering the traffic circle to your left has priority** over you. It is not required to use a blinker to enter the traffic circle, but is required when exiting.
- Failure to wear a seatbelt while operating a motor vehicle is grounds for an on-the-spot **€30 fine**. (7 day suspension on base)
- When driving outside of a city, **passing on the right is STRICTLY forbidden (€130)**, even if the person in front of you is going 20km/h under the speed limit. You can also get a fine (€80) for **hindering the flow of traffic or pulling out in front of a vehicle on the Autobahn**, especially if this results in an accident.
- This sign indicates a return to the default speed (130kmh on auto-bahns, 100km/h outside cities, and 50km/h inside town), while lifting all other limits as well. 

Drunk Driving

Did you know that there were 111 SOFA status DUIs within the KMC in 2014?

Legal Charge	BAC Level	Applies to
Driving Under The Influence (DUI)	0.01 to 0.049	Under 21 years old
Driving Under The Influence (DUI)	0.050 to 0.079	Everyone
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)	0.080 and above	Everyone

*Note 1: If involved in an accident, you could be charged with DUI, even if BAC is 0.032-0.049 (21 years old and up)

*Note 2: Legal limit for operating a bicycle is below 0.155 BAC

*Note 3: You may be charged with a DUI with ANY alcohol in your system if you are driving with children in the vehicle.

German Fines/Points/Suspensions

BAC >0.05	Fine (€)	Points	License Suspension
First Offense	500	2	1 month**
Second Offense	1,000	2	3 months**
Third Offense	1,500	2	3 months**
If traffic was endangered	1500+	3	Driving privileges revoked immediately, possibility of jail time

****IAW AER 190-1—Personnel with a USAEUR license will receive a 90 day suspension for a BAC 0.05-0.079 and will receive a one year revocation for a BAC 0.08 and above.**

If you are under the age of 21 and you are found to have ANY alcohol in your system, you are Driving Under The Influence, and will be punished. *Always make a plan before going out and drink. If all else fails and your plans to get home safely fall through, please contact KMC AADD at 0631-536-AADD(2233).*

**NO ARI's NO EXCUSES
DRINK RESPONSIBLY**



“Driving 101”

Accurate as of: 11 May 2016



Traffic Accident Reporting Rules:

Minor Accidents On Base: Report to SF within 24 hrs.

-86 SFS if on Ramstein: **06371-472050**

-KMC LE Desk all others: **0631-536-6060/7070**

Minor Accidents Off Base: Report to KMC LE Desk within 72 hours of incident

If public property is damaged, call Polizei immediately (See more in Traffic Accident Pamphlet)

Winter Driving Safety

When should I put on my winter tires?

For winter driving, there is no official date that requires the usage of winter tires (or All-Seasons if you so choose). The only law states that you must have tires appropriate for conditions. However, the common guidance is to use winter tires is "von O bis O" meaning snow tires should be put on in October and remain on until Ostern (Easter). The fine for not having the appropriate tires for conditions is €40. Also an accident that cites incorrect tires is grounds for your insurance company to deny paying part or all of your claim.

All-Season or Winter Tires?

Another thing to note is if you plan to use All-Season tires to save money. A test was conducted comparing a typical All-Season tire to a dedicated winter tire of the same brand. **Stopping from 30MPH in ice/snow, the All-Season tires took 30 feet longer to stop than the dedicated Winter tire.** That is a major difference in stopping distance from such a low speed. It was also tested how these tires would perform doing a right hand turn at 25 mph. Only the winter tire equipped car was able to safely complete it. *Even though car was equipped with Stability Control, the all-season tire equipped car could not overcome the lack of traction and the car slid off the road.* Lastly, do not mix all-season with snow tires. For best traction, use the same tire at all corners, as mixing brands or all season with winter tires can cause serious loss of traction.



This Snowflake/Mountain icon will be found only on a true snow tire.

Tread Depth Requirements:

Tire	Legal Limit	Recommended
Winter Tires	1.6mm	4mm
Summer Tires	1.6mm	2mm

Speed Ratings

It is German law that you must have tires that meet or exceed the maximum speed in which your car is capable of reaching. Most cars are limited to a speed that only requires a T or H rated tire, however, it is common in Germany to find performance cars that require at least a Z/V rated tire.

	MPH	Km/H	Notes
T	118 MPH	190 km/h	Common snow tire speed rating.
H	130 MPH	210 km/h	Common snow tire speed rating.
V	149 MPH	240 km/h	
W	168 MPH	270 km/h	
Y	186 MPH	300 km/h	Rated up to 186MPH unless mark is in parenthesis (Y) which means it is rated for at least 186MPH
Z	149 MPH+	240 km/h+	Rated for at least 149MPH, but the extent is unknown.

Parking in Germany

This means absolutely no parking or standing whatsoever. It ends at the next intersection or crossing.



The following signs are used for when there are entire section of a street where no parking is allowed:



Beginning



Middle



End

This means you are not allowed to park or stand for longer than 3 minutes, only exception being quick stops or to quickly load or unload the vehicle.



This is a very important sign, never park in front of this. It is the entry for the fire department.

Traffic Fines/Violations

Violation	Fine (€)	Points	Suspension
Exceeding Speed Limit	Within/outside city limits	Within/outside city limits	Within/outside city limits
1-10 km/h	15/10	-	-
11-15 km/h	25/20	-	-
16-21 km/h	35/30	-	-
21-25 km/h	80/70	1	-
26-30 km/h	100/80	1	-
31-40 km/h	160/120	1	1 month (within city limits)
41-50 km/h	200/160	2	1 month
51-60 km/h	280/240	2	2 months/1 month
61-70 km/h	480/440	2	3 months/2 months
70 km/h+	680/600	2	3 months

Violation	Fine (€)	Points	License Suspension
Running a red light	90	1	
-With endangerment	200	2	1 month
-With damages	240	2	1 month

Violation	Fine (€)
Insufficient following distance (>80km/h)	25
-With endangerment	30
-With damages (accident)	35

Note: On base points and suspension guidelines can be found in RABI 31-218, *Installation Traffic Code*.