



WELCOME TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The following excerpts from the official Czech traffic laws also apply to visitors in the Czech Republic for proper navigation on Czech roads.

www.ibesip.cz

For current traffic information: www.dopravniinfo.cz

Driving vehicles

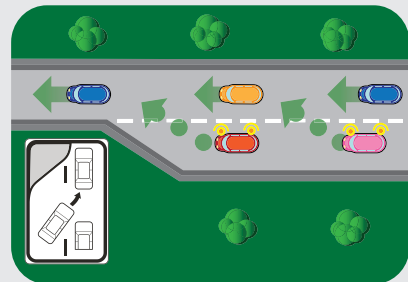
Drives on the right.

On roads of two or more lanes with divider lines in one direction it is compulsory to drive:

- **Outside an urban area** – in the right lane; driving in other lanes is permissible when passing, overtaking, or turning is necessary.
- **In an urban area** – in any lane. If vehicles in one lane go faster than vehicles in other lanes, it is not considered to be “overtaking.” If vehicles in all lanes driving at the same speed block faster vehicles, the driver in the left lane has to move into the right lane as soon as possible. This rule does not apply when this driver uses the left lane for turning or “parallel run.”

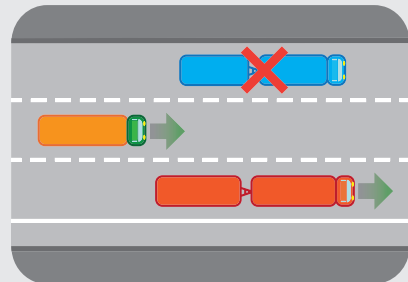
Zip rule

When driving in a lane joined by another lane on the left, drivers in this lane must allow others advancing from the other lane to join their lane in such a way that drivers in both lanes alternate one by one.



Merging into the middle lane - On a road with three lanes or more lanes in one direction a driver may move from the left lane into the middle lane only if he/she does not endanger drivers passing into the middle lane from the right lane.

On a road with three or more lanes in one direction, a driver of a lorry exceeding the weight of 3500kg, a long vehicle exceeding the length of more than 7m, or a special vehicle or motorcycle with a maximum speed of 45km/h can exclusively use the two lanes closest to the right verge of the road; he/she can drive in other lanes only when passing and turning is necessary.



Trams

When entering tram tracks, a driver has to remember not to endanger or obstruct the tram.

A tram turning or changing direction and crossing the trajectory of a vehicle moving on the right or left and giving a signal of a change has priority.

Bus, trolleybus and tram stops

If a mass transit vehicle (usually a tram) stops in an urban area at a stop without a boarding island or a platform with an elevated tram belt, a driver behind it has to stop. If there are more mass transit vehicles at a stop, a driver has to stop behind the second one. The driver can continue driving only if he/she does not endanger passengers getting on or off. This rule does not apply when a bus or a trolleybus stops at the verge of a road.



If a school bus stops at a designated stop, a driver of another vehicle has to stop behind the bus. He/she can continue driving only after the bus leaves the stop. Drivers coming from the other direction have to expect the possibility of children entering the road and have to drive accordingly.

If a bus or a trolleybus is leaving a stop without a boarding island in an urban area, drivers of other vehicles have to allow this to happen in a way that they slow down or stop their vehicles. A bus or a trolleybus driver must not endanger drivers of other vehicles.

Special vehicle indicates



School Bus Indicate

Residential and pedestrian zone

The speed limit in a residential and pedestrian zone is 20 km/h. A driver has to be extremely considerate towards pedestrians and must not endanger them; if necessary, he/she has to stop the vehicle. Parking is possible in spots marked as parking.

Only vehicles indicated on the bottom of the road sign may enter the pedestrian zone. In both zones the entire road is open to pedestrians. Children may play on a road only in a residential zone. In both zones pedestrians have to allow vehicles to drive. This applies to playing children in a residential zone as well.

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

Vertical signs



Residential zone



End of residential zone



Pedestrian zone

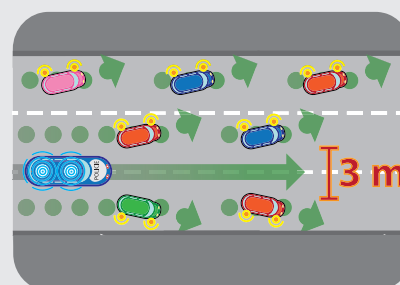
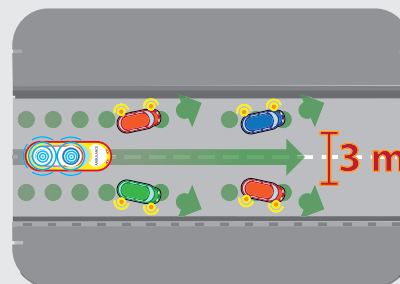


End of pedestrian zone

Vehicles with right of way

Drivers have to give way to or stop for all other vehicles with the right of way or vehicles accompanied by them. Drivers must not merge into a lane of vehicles with the right of way and vehicles accompanied by them.

If dense traffic on motorways and roads 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 to reduce the mutual lateral distance in the left lane or the middle lane. Drivers driving in the side lanes in one direction may enter the verge or the middle divider line when creating a clearance lane.



Railway crossings

In front of a railway crossing a driver has to be very careful, especially making sure he/she can safely cross the railway crossing. Vehicles line up in front of the crossing in the order in which they arrived. If no parallel driving is permitted or if there is no driving in an urban area with two or more lanes in one direction where a driver may use any lane, vehicles may only cross the railway crossing in one lane.

Speed limit at a railway crossing:

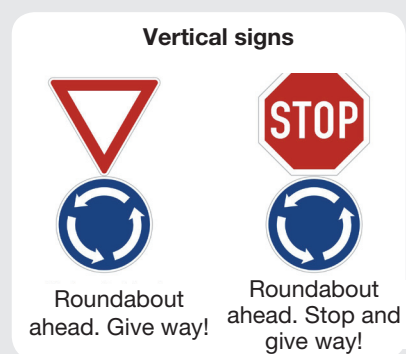
If a crossing is not equipped with white signal light or if the light does not work, a driver must not exceed 30km/h 50 meters before the crossing.

If there is an interrupted signal, a driver must not exceed 50 km/h 50 meters before the crossing.

In front of a crossing with the "Give way" road sign, a driver has to stop the vehicle in such a way that he/she has a good view of the tracks.

Roundabout

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 in the roundabout. A driver entering a roundabout or driving in a roundabout (when not changing lanes from one to another) should not use a signal.



Waiting and parking

A driver may wait and park:

- on the right as close to the road's edge as possible, and on both the right and left on a one-way road,
- in one line and parallel with the edge of the road; if there is no threat to the safety or interruption of the traffic flow, a driver of a vehicle with a maximum weight not exceeding 3,500kg may wait and park perpendicularly or diagonally to the edge of a road in an urban area, or he/she can wait in the second lane in order for transported individuals to enter or exit the vehicle, or for the load to be loaded or unloaded.

When **waiting** a driver has to stop three meters in both directions between a vehicle and the other side of the road.

When **parking** a driver has to stop his/her vehicle in such a way that there are three meters between the vehicle and the other side of a road; six meters on a two-way road and three meters on a one-way road.

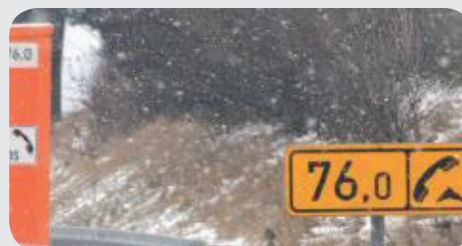
When waiting and parking next to a vehicle with a card for disabled driver, a driver has to leave at least 1.2 meters distance between two vehicles.

Between 5.00 to 19.00 it is prohibited to park where there is no free lane between a vehicle and tram tracks of at least 3.5 m.

Outside an urban area on category I roads and during low visibility on category II and III roads it is prohibited to wait and park anywhere but in designated parking areas marked by a parking sign.

Emergency parking

A driver of a motor vehicle equipped with a warning triangle has to use it for the duration of the parking if it creates a safety threat for traffic flow on the road. For example, when interrupting the driving due to a technical issue with the vehicle or cargo, or in case of a traffic accident or sudden nausea. The warning triangle has to be placed visibly for approaching drivers at least 50 meters behind the vehicle and 100 meters on a motorway. This distance may be shorter in an urban area if necessary. If a vehicle is equipped with hazard warning lights, the driver has to use these until he/she has placed the warning triangle on the road.



In case of an emergency parking a driver of a motor vehicle has to wear reflective clothing if outside the vehicle on a road outside an urban area.

In case of a traffic accident or emergency parking, if possible leave the vehicle, call the police and wait in a safe place until the police arrives. There are kilometer markers every 500 meters indicating the distance from the beginning of the road. The arrows on the kilometer markers indicate the direction to the nearest emergency phone box; each of these boxes has information regarding the kilometer of its location and each has a button to contact the police.

Managing vehicles in winter

Between 1st November and 31st March, roads are usually covered with or expected to be covered with a layer of snow, ice or frost; therefore, drivers are obliged to use winter tires on all four wheels of vehicles with a maximum weight not exceeding 3,500 kg, and on all four wheels of axles with power transmission of vehicles with a maximum weight exceeding 3,500 kg. The tread depth of the main grooves or notches of the winter tires has to be at least 4 mm and at least 6 mm for vehicles with a maximum weight exceeding 3,500 kg.

In the Czech Republic it is prohibited to use road tires with spikes with the exception of emergency vehicles. This prohibition also applies to vehicles in international traffic.

“Winter tires compulsory” and “End of compulsory winter tires zone” road signs indicate parts of a road where it is compulsory to have winter tires on vehicles of M and N categories in all weather conditions from 1st November to 31st March. This applies to all wheels on vehicles not exceeding 3,500 kg or driving wheels only on vehicles exceeding 3,500 kg. The road signs indicate specific dates for application of the rule.



Winter tires compulsory



End of compulsory
winter tires zone

Limitations of driving certain vehicles

On motorways and category I roads it is prohibited to drive lorries and special vehicles of a maximum weight exceeding 7,500 kg and lorries and special vehicles of a maximum weight exceeding 3,500 kg with an attached trailer or vehicle

- on Sundays and holidays from 13.00 to 22.00
- on Saturdays from 1st July to 31st August from 7.00 to 13.00
- on Fridays from 1st July to 31st August from 17.00 to 21.00

If asked by a police or customs officer, a driver is obliged to undergo a vehicle check for the maximum permissible axle load, the maximum permissible weight of the vehicle or combination of vehicles or the technical condition of the vehicle or combination of vehicles.



Public holidays in the Czech Republic:

Restoration Day of the Independent Czech State	Easter	Labour Day	Liberation Day	Saints Cyril and Methodius Day	Jan Hus Day
1 January	March or April	1 May	8 May	5 July	6 July
St. Wenceslas Day (Czech Statehood Day)	Independent Czechoslovak State Day	Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	St. Stephens Day
28 September	28 October	17 November	24 December	25 December	26 December

Toll motorway and motorway coupons

In the Czech Republic using a certain net of motorways, roads for motor vehicles and roads of category I is tolled. Electronic tolling applies to vehicles of a maximum weight of 3.5 tons. Vehicles subjected to tolls have a small compulsory electronic device – premid unit – which communicates with the tolling system. The toll is charged at the moment of a toll transaction – a record of a vehicle passing through a toll point (a toll station specific to a toll - relevant section).

A toll obligation arises even in situations when a toll transaction was not recorded while passing a toll point, but other toll electronic system records show that a vehicle used a toll section of a road.

Motorway coupons

A coupon which is not visibly placed on a vehicle and which does not have an indication of time or driver's plate number filled out is INVALID. A coupon used for one vehicle cannot be used for another one. When changing a driver's plate, the coupon does not have to be changed. After the expiration date, a coupon has to be removed from the vehicle.

Penalties: Using tolled roads without a valid two-part coupon may incur a fine up to 5000 CZK on the spot and up to 10,000 CZK in administrative proceedings.

Overview of a validity and identification of individual coupons

Type	Description	Validity
R	Annual	Validity of 2013 emission coupons begins on 1st December 2012 and ends on 31st January 2014.
M	Monthly	Validity of monthly coupons begins on the day indicated on the coupon and ends on the same day of the following month. If such a day is not in a following calendar month, the coupon expires on the last day of the current month.
D	10 day	Validity of 10 day coupons begins on the day indicated on the coupon and ends on the 10th day of a calendar month.

Overview of individual categories and prices of motorway coupons

Type	Validity	
Motor vehicles up to 3.5 t	1 year	1,500 CZK
Motor vehicles up to 3.5 t	1 month	440 CZK
Motor vehicles up to 3.5 t	10 days	310 CZK



Traffic accident

Reporting a traffic accident to Czech Police is mandatory:

1. If an injury (even a minor one) or a fatality occurs.
2. If as a result of an accident vehicle damage exceeding 10,000 CZK occurs, including transported goods.
3. If damage of a third party occurs (e.g. damage of a parked vehicle, adjacent property, etc.).
4. If damage of a road or its equipment occurs (e.g. road signs, traffic lights, road barriers, etc.).
5. If damage of public facilities (crossing safety equipment) or natural environment occurs (e.g. fluid leak from a vehicle).
6. If after an accident those involved are not able to restore the flow of traffic (e.g. a vehicle upside down; an accident involving a tram).

Reporting a traffic accident:

If a traffic accident does not have to be reported to the police, those involved in the accident are obliged to write a common report about the accident. The common report has to contain the description of the time and location of the accident, its cause, course and consequence, and identification of the individuals and vehicles involved. The involved individuals have to sign the document and hand it over to each other's insurance company. It is recommended that a "euro report" for a traffic accidents is used.

Obligations of the insured (the accident offender) towards the victim:

Without any delays provide the victim (on his/her request) with information necessary for exercising the right of the victim for the insurance claims, which is at least:

- First and last name, personal or business address
- Name of the company or business of the vehicle owner
- Company and location of the insured, or the business address and a location in the Czech Republic if possible
- Policy number
- Registration number of the vehicle which caused the damage

Vehicle lighting

A motor vehicle in motion always has to have its low beam or daytime headlights lit, if equipped. The vehicle's lights therefore have to always be on when on a road, including during the day. Mandatory lighting is for the rational reason – of being visible and thus enhancing the safety on roads.

In low visibility a vehicle has to have its low beam or daytime headlights lit. Front headlights for foggy conditions may be used only when it's foggy, snowy or heavily raining. Rear lights for foggy conditions have to always be used when it's foggy, snowy or heavily raining.

Using rear lights for foggy conditions when a vehicle is equipped with them is mandatory in contrary to the previous legal adjustments when driving in fog, snow and rain. The extent of the visibility decrease is not taken into account. What is also not taken into account is the fact that using rear lights for foggy conditions may not be suitable in some cases, especially when they may distract other road users. In addition to this, there is no special speed limit when using headlights for foggy conditions, as for example in German laws. It is therefore necessary to follow the general regulations with a particularly important provision in this context stating that a driver has to adapt the speed according to his/her abilities, characteristics of the vehicle and cargo traffic, expected construction and technical condition of the road, its category and class, wind and weather conditions, and other factors which can be predicted. The driver can only go so fast as to be able to stop the vehicle at a distance at which there is good visibility. The front fog lights can only be used if using rear fog lights is mandatory. Using front fog lights is possible only if they are used with the rear fog lights simultaneously. However, using front fog lights is not mandatory.

Restraint systems, child safety seats

A restraint safety system is a device approved according to a special law intended to ensure the safety of passengers; it is a safety belt or a child restraint system.

A child safety seat is a device approved according to a special law intended to ensure the safety of transported children whose body weight does not exceed 36 kg and body height does not exceed 150 cm.

A driver of a motor vehicle is required to wear seat belts while driving if the seat is equipped with one. When riding a motorcycle or a moped a driver is required to wear an approved safety helmet and to protect his/her sight with glasses or a shield if it does not decrease the safety of the ride - for example when raining or snowing.

Transported individuals are obliged

- a. to wear a seat belt while driving if the seat is equipped with one;
- b. to wear an approved safety helmet.

Transportation of children

A driver is required to transport a child with a weight not exceeding 36 kg and height not exceeding 150 cm only in a child seat in a vehicle of M1, N1, N2 and N3 categories; during such transport:

1. the child has to be seated in a child seat corresponding with his/her weight and height,
2. the child seat must be facing the rear of the vehicle if it is placed on a seat equipped with an airbag which has not been engaged.
3. the child seat has to be placed on a seat and the child has to be seated in the child seat according to the manufacturer's directions.

A child with body weight exceeding 36 kg or height exceeding 150 cm may be transported in a vehicle of category M1, N1, N2 or N3 (equipped with a restraint safety system) only if he/she puts a seat belt on.

In a vehicle of category M1 and N1 equipped with a restraint safety system, which has 2 child seats in back seats and a third child seat cannot be placed for lack of space; it is possible to transport a third child older than 3 years and under 150 cm in the back seat only if he/she has a seat belt on.

Note:

M1 – vehicles with at least eight seats for transportation of individuals (except the driver) and multipurpose vehicles

N1 – vehicles with a maximum weight not exceeding 3,500 kg

N2 – vehicles with a maximum weight exceeding 3,500 kg but not exceeding 12,000 kg

N3 – vehicles with a maximum weight exceeding 12,000 kg

Alcohol

There is zero tolerance for driving under the influence. Drivers are obliged to do a breath test; based on the test results, they are further obliged to do a blood test to find out the amount of alcohol in the blood. This rule applies for narcotics substances as well.

If the breath test device meets the metrological conditions for these devices and a driver has been measured twice, there is no obligation for biological material sampling. The driver may, however, request this sampling.

If the driver is under the influence, the Czech police are authorized to confiscate his driver's license and prevent further driving by towing the vehicle or applying a boot tool.

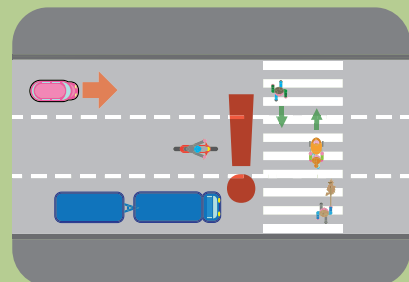
Pedestrian crossings

A driver mustn't 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.

A driver has to reduce speed or stop the vehicle in front of a pedestrian crossing if drivers of other vehicles going the same direction do the same.

A driver must not endanger a pedestrian crossing on a road onto which the driver is turning on to and furthermore must not endanger a pedestrian when turning off the road, when turning onto the road and when reversing.

Tram drivers are exempt from this rule.



Using a phone

Using cellular telephones while driving is prohibited. However, using hands-free sets is permitted. A driver commits an offense when he/she holds a telephone or other voice or recording device while driving. The risk of causing a traffic accident when using a phone is five times higher than when focused. Therefore, it is recommended to stop at a suitable spot and finish your phone call.



Using reflective vests

A driver of a vehicle has to wear clothing items with reflective material if outside the vehicle on a road outside of an urban area during emergency parking. This does not apply to motorcyclists, moped riders and non-motorized vehicle drivers.



Towing vehicles

The speed limit when towing a vehicle is 60 km/h. A vehicle may be towed on a rope only if it is not in a good mechanical condition and has effective brakes. A motor vehicle may be towed on a tow bar only if it is not in a good mechanical condition. If the towed vehicle does not have an effective brakes system, his instantaneous weight must not exceed that of the towed vehicle.

When towing a vehicle the length of the hitch has to create at least a 6 meter distance between the vehicles; when using a rope, the distance between the vehicles must not be more than 2.5 meters and less than 1 meter when using a tow bar. The hitch has to be visibly marked (a tow bar by red and white stripes of 75 mm, a rope by a red flag or a tag of at least 300 x 300 mm).

When towing a vehicle the length of the hitch depends on the distance between the vehicles. The decisive factor is therefore not the length of the rope or the tow bar but the real distance between the vehicles, which must not be more than 6 meters and less than 2.5 meters when using a rope and more than 6 meters and less than 1 meter when using a tow bar.

The hitch has to be visibly marked.

Towing more than one motor vehicle or a motor vehicle with a trailer is prohibited. Towing a caravan is permitted. Towing another vehicle behind a vehicle with a trailer is prohibited. It is prohibited to tow a motorcycle without a sidecar and a moped or use these as towing vehicles.

A bus or a motor vehicle towed with special equipment is permitted to tow only without passengers.

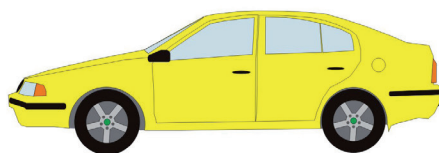
A towed vehicle must be visibly marked by a warning triangle in the back, for example on a back window or on a back of the caravan.

When visibility is low the towed vehicle must have its low beam and daylights lit. If out of order these lights must be substituted by a light on the side of the vehicle, in front with a white light and on the back with at least one red light; these lights have to be visible and must not be placed farther than 400 mm from the lateral edge of the vehicle.

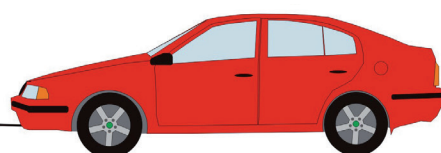
Sidelights and passing lights on

The distance between the vehicles:
maximum 6 meters
minimum 2.5 meters

Must be visibly marked by
a warning triangle in the back



Towing vehicle



Towed vehicle

 At least 300 x 300 mm

Motorway

A motorway is a road marked by a “Motorway” road sign.

A road for motor vehicles is a road marked by a “Road for motor vehicles” road sign.

Only motor vehicles and a combination of motor vehicles whose required speed limit exceeds 80km/h are permitted to drive on a motorway. On some parts of a motorway going through an urban area, motor vehicles and mass transit vehicles whose required speed limit exceeds 65 km/h are permitted on a motorway. Except for service motorway equipment other road traffic users are prohibited to enter, walk or drive on a motorway.

If there is a vehicle or technical cargo issue which does not allow a driver to reach the speed limit of 80 km/h, the driver has to leave the motorway at the nearest exit.

Towing a motor vehicle is permitted only if it is necessary to remove it from the motorway. The vehicle may be towed only to the nearest exit, where it has to leave the motorway.

A driver of a lorry of a maximum weight exceeding 3,500 kg and a driver of a combination of vehicles of a maximum length exceeding 7 meters must not overtake another vehicle if he does not have the right speed for such a move and he would thus restrict other vehicles with significantly higher speeds.

In case of a traffic accident or emergency parking, if possible leave the vehicle, call the police and wait in a safe place until the police arrive. There are kilometer markers every 500 meters indicating the distance from the beginning of the road. The arrows on the kilometer markers indicate the direction to the nearest emergency phone box; each of these boxes has information regarding the kilometer of its location, and each has a button to contact the police.

Vertical signs



Motorway



End of motorway



Road for motor vehicles



End of road for motor vehicles

Speed limit

Outside urban areas the speed limit for motor vehicles with a maximum weight not exceeding 3,500 kg and for buses is 90 km/h. Vehicles exceeding 3,500 kg may go 80 km/h. The speed limit for motor vehicles of up to 3,500 kg on motorways and roads for motor vehicles is 130 km/h. The speed limit for other vehicles is 80 km/h.

In an urban area the maximum speed is 50 km/h; on motorways or roads for motor vehicles it is 80 km/h.

The maximum speed limit when using winter tires is 50km/h (In the Czech Republic it is not permitted to use road tires with spikes with the exception of emergency vehicles. This prohibition also applies to vehicles in international traffic).



Distance between vehicles

A driver of a vehicle driving behind another vehicle has to keep a safe distance to avoid a collision in the event of a sudden deceleration or a sudden stop of a vehicle in front of him.

Checking a safe distance is easy: when a vehicle in front of you passes a certain point at a road (a tree, a road sign, etc.) you should not reach this point earlier than in two seconds. It is safer to have an even bigger distance in rainy or snowy conditions.

Outside an urban area a driver of a motor vehicle with a maximum weight exceeding 3,500 kg, of a combination of vehicles with a maximum length exceeding 10 meters, and of a special vehicle has to have such a distance from the vehicle in front of him, so that an overtaking vehicle may merge into the lane in a safe way; this rule does not apply if the driver is about to overtake or overtakes, or if he drives parallel to other drivers.

Cyclists

On roads cyclists ride on the right edge; if it does not endanger or restrict pedestrians, they can ride on the right hard shoulder of a road. In terms of road traffic a scooter is also considered a bicycle. Cyclists may ride only in a line, one by one.

If traffic is moving slowly or vehicles are lined up on the right side of a road, a cyclist may overtake or pass these vehicles from the right side of the road on a hard shoulder unless there is not enough space between him/her and the vehicles; he/she is obliged to be extra careful.

If under 18 years old, a cyclist is obliged to wear an approved helmet.

A child of 10 years and younger may ride a bike on a road, local road and a publicly accessible road only under the supervision of a person of 15 years and older; this rule does not apply when riding on a pavement, cyclist trail in a residential zone.

On a one-seat bicycle it is prohibited to ride in pairs; if, however, a bicycle is equipped with a child seat and footrests, a person of 15 years and older may transport a child under 7 years old.

A person of 18 years and older may transport a maximum of two children of 10 years and older in a bicycle trailer, or a child on a bicycle connected to him/her with a tow bar.

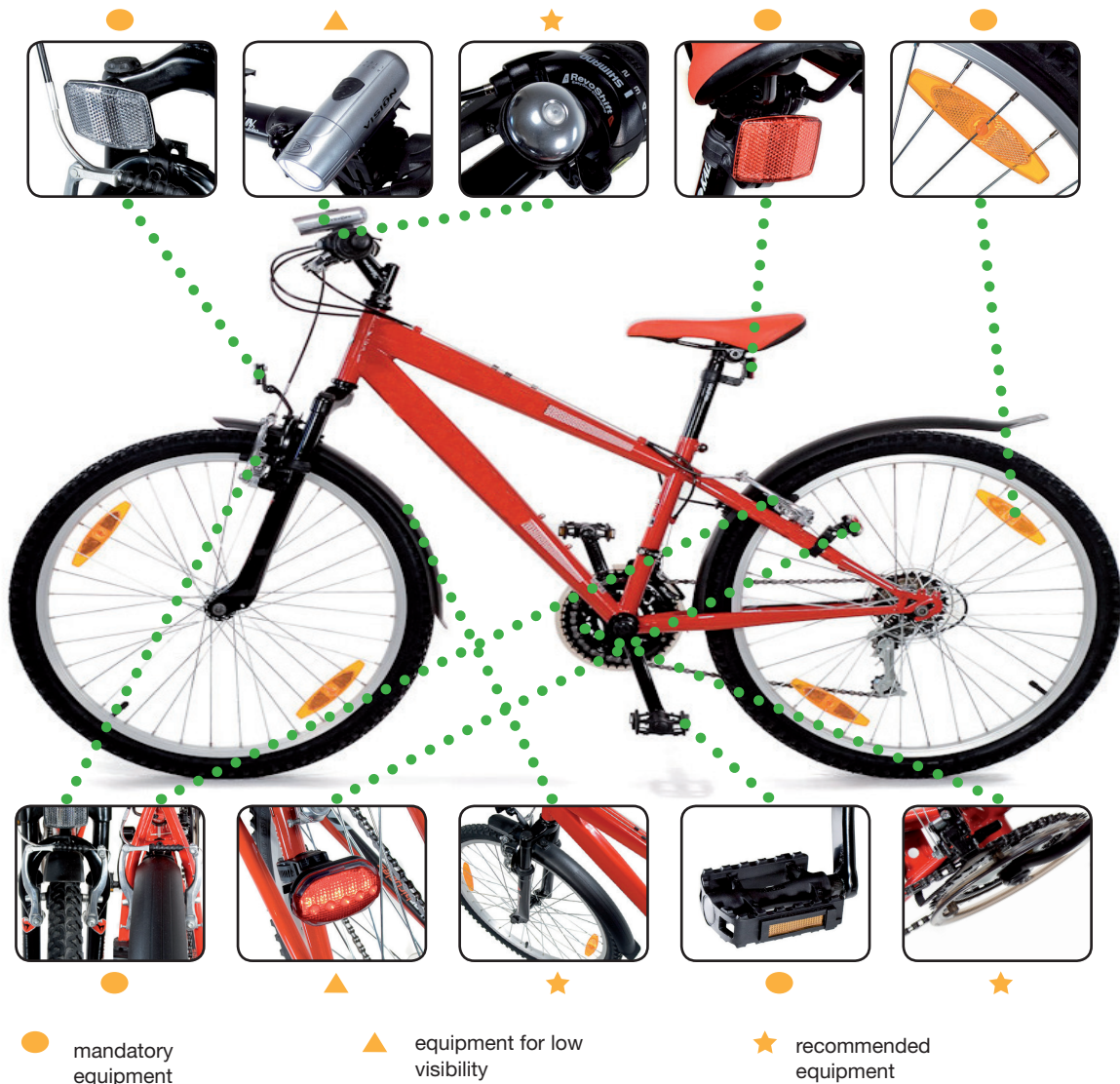
A bicycle trail with a maximum width not exceeding 900 mm and with two rear red reflectors of a non triangular shape placed as close as possible to the trailer's sides may be connected to a bicycle with a solid tow bar.

If the trailer or its cargo covers the red rear light of the bicycle in low visibility conditions, it has to have a red rear non-flashing light on the left side of the rear. If children are being transported in the trailer, it has to be equipped with a yellow or an orange flag or tag of 300x300 mm size and erected at a height of 1200 – 1600 mm above the road.



A cyclist is required to have a white headlight and a rear red light or flashing red light on in low visibility conditions. If a road is well lit, the cyclist may use a flashing white headlight.

Proper bicycle equipment



Road signs

Traffic road signs

There is a distinction between vertical and horizontal road signs.

Vertical road signs are permanent, variable and portable. The surface of a vertical sign may change. A portable vertical road sign is placed on a red-striped column (stand) or on a vehicle. Horizontal road signs can be permanent or temporary. They may be accompanied by traffic buttons.

Vertical road signs:

- a) warning signs mark spots where road users are endangered and where they have to be careful,
- b) priority road signs determine right of way,
- c) prohibitive road signs determine prohibitions and restrictions,
- d) mandatory road signs determine mandatory obligations,
- e) informational road signs provide necessary information, orientation or obligations determined by law or special legislation,
- f) additional road signs refine, supplement or limit the meaning of a road sign under which they are placed.

Horizontal road signs

Horizontal road signs are used independently or in addition to vertical road signs, or they stress or refine the meaning of traffic equipment.

Horizontal road signs are marked by colour or in other comprehensible ways.

Lights, accompanying acoustic signals and hazard warning signals

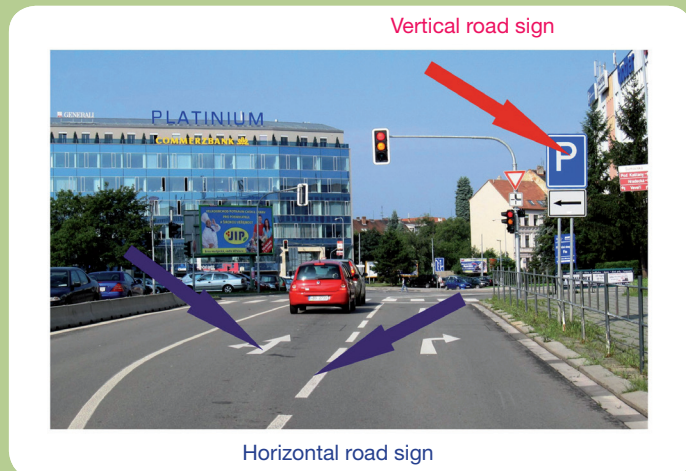
Lights or accompanying acoustic signals are used for traffic management or for suggesting the use of caution.

Traffic equipment

Traffic equipment accompanies road signs, lights and acoustic signals, directs traffic on roads and protects all road users.

Informational traffic equipment

Informational traffic equipment displays current data which are essential to road traffic safety and flow, e.g. an accident, smog, current travel time to specific destination, directions to parking, or the temperature of a road or the air.



Basic authority of the Czech police regarding road safety and traffic flow

Authority to stop vehicles

A uniformed police officer of the Czech police is authorised to stop a vehicle. He gives the instruction to stop a vehicle by an arm, with a stop sign, or a red light in low visibility moving it in an upper semi-circle. If in a police car, he gives this instruction with either moving his arm up and down, with a stop sign, or by turning a digital “STOP” sign on.

Apart from members of the Czech police, uniformed municipal police officers, uniformed members of the army police and customs officers are authorised to stop a vehicle.

The uniform of a member of the Czech police (traffic police service):

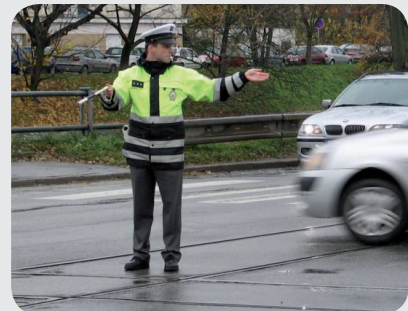


Czech police vehicles


Czech police use both surveillance and civilian vehicles for traffic management. The police are authorised to stop other vehicles in both types of vehicles. Officers, however, always have to wear a uniform.



Traffic management



A police officer is authorised to manage traffic on roads. For this purpose, the following signals are used:

	"Stop"
	"Free way"
	"Caution"
	"Stop" – for drivers approaching behind or on the right side of a police officer "Free way" 1. for drivers approaching the left side of the police officer and turning right or left 2. for drivers approaching the face of a police officer and turning right 3. for pedestrians crossing behind the back of a police officer

Obligation to show documents

A police officer is authorised to ask for documents required for the operation and management of a motor vehicle. These mainly include a driver's licence, proof of vehicle registration, and proof of insurance for damage caused by the vehicle.

Testing for drugs and alcohol

A police officer is authorised to test the driver of a vehicle to determine the presence of alcohol or drugs. In cases in which the driver refuses to undergo such a test, he is automatically considered to be under the influence.

Authorisation for imposing fine and deposit

In special instances a police officer is authorised to give a fine on the spot if he witnesses an unlawful behavior. The fine may be paid in cash on the spot, by a postal order or by a payment terminal (if the officer is equipped with it).

In cases in which the offense cannot be discussed on the spot and it is being reported to the legal authorities, the police officer may require in specific cases that a deposit be paid by the offender to guarantee he will report to the hearing. If the deposit is not paid, the police officer is entitled to seize the vehicle. If the deposit is paid, the police officer provides the offender with a receipt.

Authorisation to confiscate driver's license

A police officer is authorised to confiscate a driver's license in certain cases, such as when a driver is under the influence. A receipt for confiscating the driver's license has to be provided. After having his/her driver's license confiscated, the driver must not drive the vehicle any further.

A list of reasons for the confiscation of a driver's license:

- A driver is suspected to have caused an accident with a severe injury or a fatality,
- A driver drove away from an accident which he/she directly caused and which he/she was supposed to report to the police,
- A driver drove under the influence,
- A driver refused to undergo a breath test to determine whether he/she was under the influence,
- In the case of a positive breath test a driver refused to undergo a medical test to determine whether he/she was under the influence, even though this test was not harmful to his/her health,
- A driver refused to undergo a medical test to determine the presence of another addictive substance even though this test was not harmful to his/her health,
- A driver drove a vehicle without having a driver's license for a specific type of vehicle,
- A driver drove a vehicle even though he/she was sanctioned by a court or a legal authority with the prohibition of driving

Authority to prohibit driving

A police officer is authorised to prohibit driving by towing a vehicle or by using technical means, especially in the following cases:

- A driver is suspected to have caused an accident with a severe injury or a fatality,
- A driver drove away from an accident which he/she directly caused and which he/she was supposed to report to the police,
- A driver drove under the influence,
- A driver refused to undergo a breath test to determine whether he/she was under the influence,
- In the case of a positive breath test a driver refused to undergo a medical test to determine whether he/she was under the influence, even though this test was not harmful to his/her health,

- A driver refused to undergo a medical test to determine the presence of another addictive substance even though this test was not harmful to his/her health,
- A driver drove a vehicle without having a driver's license for a specific type of vehicle,
- A driver drove a vehicle even though he/she was sanctioned by a court or a legal authority with the prohibition of driving
- A driver is suspected to compromise the safety and the flow of the road and is suspected of not paying the deposit to guarantee he/she will attend an administrative hearing and will try to avoid it,
- It is suspected that the vehicle was stolen,
- The vehicle is technically unsuitable for traffic in such a way that it directly endangers other road users,
- A vehicle exceeds the parameters determined by special legislation with its size, the size of a company of vehicles or cargo, weight limit or weight limit of the company of vehicles or cargo detected when undergoing a weight test according to law,
- It is suspected the vehicle was part of an illegal rally

Authorisation for the technical inspection of a vehicle

A police officer and a customs officer are authorised to inspect the mechanical condition of a vehicle and weigh and measure such a vehicle. During the inspection the driver is obliged to subject his vehicle to the inspection. The journey back and forth must not be longer than 8 km. In case of weighing and measuring the vehicle it must not be longer than 16 km.



Useful phrases

Turn right/left

Help!

Call the police!

I don't understand.

No parking!

Outside delivery zone!

Delivery zone!

Outside transport service!

Valid from...to

Caution, change of priority!

Give way to trams

Slippery road!

Detour!

Road works!

Entrance!

Exit!

Soft verge!

One way road!

Accident!

No through road!

Police!

Firefighters!

Ambulance!

Zahnete doprava/doleva

Pomoc!

Zavolejte policii!

Nerozumím.

Zákaz parkování

Mimo zásobování

Zásobování

Jen mimo dopravní obsluhu

Platnost od... do...

Pozor, změna přednosti v jízdě

Dej přednost tramvaji

Za mokra

Objížďka

Práce na silnici

Vjezd

Výjezd

Nezpevněná krajnice

Jednosměrná ulice

Nehoda

Průjezd zakázán

Policie

Hasiči

Záchraná služba

Important phone number

- In an emergency call 112
- For police call 158
- For firefighters call 150
- For rescue and first aid call 155



Ministerstvo dopravy

Samostatné oddělení BESIP

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