

Are you ready to drive in Europe?

Check the compulsory equipment requirements here before you travel:

| | | Austria | Belgium | France | Germany | Italy | Netherlands | Switzerland | Spain | Portugal |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| On-the-Spot Fines | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ⁷ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ⁷ |
| Headlamp Beam Converters | | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ | ✓ ⁸ |
| NF Approved Breathalyser | | | | ✓ ¹⁰ | | | | | | |
| GB Sticker | | ✓ ¹ | ✓ ¹ | ✓ ¹ | ✓ ¹ | ✓ ¹ | ✓ ¹ | ✓ ¹ | ✓ ¹ | ✓ ¹ |
| Warning Triangle* ECE R27 | | ✓ ² | ✓ ² | ✓ ² | R ³ | ✓ ² | R ²⁺⁵ | ✓ ¹¹⁺² | ✓ ²⁺⁴ | R ⁹⁺⁵ |
| High-Visibility Jacket* EN 471 | | ✓ ⁶ | ✓ ⁶ | ✓ ²⁺⁶ | | ✓ ²⁺⁶ | | | ✓ ⁶ | R ⁶ |
| First Aid Kit | | ✓ | R ⁹ | | R ⁹ | | | | | |

✓ = Compulsory R = Recommended by AA/respective country

Numbers relate to notes overleaf

Visit the AA shop in this terminal

Free advice for all ✓
Country specific requirements ✓
AA Live Traffic France ✓

Note: This is not an exhaustive list. Full touring tips on theAA.com should be consulted prior to travel. Information correct at time of going to press. April 2013.

Car Essentials

For more advice on motoring abroad visit: theAA.com/motoring-advice





Notes:

- 1 GB Stickers are compulsory within the EU unless your UK registration plates display the GB Euro-symbol (Europlates) which became a legal option from 21 March 2001. The Euro plate must comply with the new British Standard (BS AU 145d). The Euro plate is only legally recognised in the EU; it is still a requirement to display a GB sticker when travelling outside the EU.
- 2 Not required for two-wheeled vehicles.
- 3 Although not compulsory for visiting motorists to carry a warning triangle, its use is compulsory in an accident/breakdown situation.
- 4 Spain: One warning triangle compulsory for non-Spanish registered vehicles; two for Spanish registered vehicles. Note: Drivers of non-Spanish registered vehicles should consider carrying two triangles as, regardless of regulations, local officials may impose an on-the-spot fine if only one is available.
Croatia: Two triangles compulsory for vehicles towing a trailer. Switzerland: Warning triangle must be kept within easy reach (not in the boot).
- 5 The use of hazard warning lights or a warning triangle is compulsory in an accident/breakdown situation. However, a warning triangle should always be carried as hazard-warning lights have no effect at bends or rises in the road, or may become damaged or inoperative.
- 6 Wearing, compulsory if driver and/or passenger(s) exits vehicle immobilised on carriageway, in Italy at night or in poor visibility, in Spain on all motorways and busy roads, it must be kept within the vehicle. In Croatia the wearing is compulsory whenever you have to get out of the vehicle at the roadside in an emergency. In Portugal and Norway the actual law applies to residents; however, regardless of the regulations local officials may impose an on-the-spot fine. In Belgium the wearing of the reflective jacket only applies to the driver, it must be worn should you be stranded on a Belgian motorway or on a major road or should you stop at a place where parking is not allowed. In France drivers must have one warning triangle and one reflective jacket in their vehicle and it is recommended that a reflective jacket is carried for each passenger travelling within the vehicle. In Austria the regulation applies only to the driver, it is recommended for two-wheeled vehicles.
- 7 Italy: Police will collect a quarter of the maximum fine amount from drivers of foreign registered vehicles.
Portugal: Some traffic police carry ATMs
- 8 The legal requirement is to 'not dazzle oncoming drivers' rather than specifically to adjust/convert the headlamp beam pattern. Without adjustment the dipped beam will dazzle oncoming drivers and this could result in a fine. Headlamp beam converter kits are widely available but may not be suitable for all types of headlights. The AA shop sell beam converters suitable for all vehicles and individual fitting diagrams are included for the latest 'clear glass', 'projector and xenon' headlamps inside the packaging. In some countries it is compulsory to use dipped headlights at all times when driving during the day. Note: this adjustment is not required for two wheeled vehicles as the beam pattern is more symmetrical but check that any extra loading has not affected the beam height. On some cars it is inadvisable or impossible for anyone other than a qualified technician to change a headlamp bulb unit e.g. high intensity discharge (HID) headlamps and carrying spares is not an option. However, it is recommended that spare bulbs are carried for any lights that may be easily and/or safely replaced by the owner/driver. Spare bulbs are compulsory for Croatia.
- 9 Recommended as their carriage is compulsory for vehicles registered in that country.
- 10 In principle all drivers should possess a breathalyser. However, as of January 2013 a driver can not be penalised for not carrying one. The fine has been postponed indefinitely. The breathalyser has to be a certified by the French authorities, showing an 'NF' number or must conform to the NF recognised standards. The official text states that one unused breathalyser must be produced. The AA recommends that two single-use breathalysers are carried, so if one is used or damaged you will still have a replacement to produceowner/driver. Spare bulbs are compulsory for Croatia.owner/driver.
- 11 Must be kept within easy reach. Not in the car boot.

*The AA recommends that each vehicle carries at least two high visibility jackets in the passenger compartment. Requirements vary from country to country. Warning triangle should be compliant with ECE R27. High visibility jackets should be compliant with EN 471.

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