

# **A Guide to** **Driving in Germany**



# **UNITED KINGDOM JOINT SUPPORT UNIT RAMSTEIN**

## A Guide to Driving in Germany

This Guide has been produced for your information, and has been designed to be left in your vehicle for ready access and reference. The outer covers have been left deliberately low-key, in case the Guide is inadvertently left on view inside the vehicle.

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## UKJSU RAMSTEIN GUIDE FOR DRIVING IN GERMANY

1. Driving in Germany can be challenging, especially if you have not previously driven on the Continent for any length of time. This Guide provides some tips to assist you in adopting a safe approach to driving whilst you are posted here.

### Documentation

2. The following should always be carried when driving:

- Driving Licence (both parts)
- BFG Driving Permit (BFG57)
- Vehicle Log Book (BFG73)
- Vehicle Insurance or Green Card

### Drink Driving

3. Germany has strict drink driving laws, only allowing 0.5 milligrams of alcohol per millilitre of blood - stricter than the UK where the limit is 0.8 milligrams of alcohol per millilitre of blood. However, if you are involved in an accident **any amount** of alcohol in your system can mean prosecution. The only safe way is **Do Not Drink And Drive**.

### Compulsory/Recommended Equipment

4. Detailed below are items of equipment that should be carried in your vehicle:

- a. First Aid Kit (compulsory).
- b. Warning Triangle (compulsory).
- c. High Visibility Vests (recommended).
- d. Spare Bulb Pack (recommended).

## Winter Driving

5. Driving conditions within Germany can be extremely hazardous during the winter; always drive defensively and try to anticipate the actions of other road users. When the weather is particularly bad, do not undertake a journey unless it is absolutely necessary. Listed below are items that may be useful during the winter months:

- a. Winter Tyres
- b. Snow chains
- c. Shovel
- d. Spare blankets
- e. Flask
- f. Foul weather clothing

Snow chains should be carried in winter and are mandatory in some areas (particularly mountainous regions). You will be notified of the requirement to fit them; failure to do so may result in a heavy fine and possible injury.

## Speed Limits

6. Whilst some autobahns are unrestricted in many places be aware that speed limits are notified and stringently enforced through the use of cameras and radar control. The recommended speed limit on autobahns is 130 kph. Drive safely within your limits, those of the vehicle, and the prevailing weather conditions.

Autobahn -	130 kph (or as specified)
Open Roads -	100 kph
Built up Areas-	50 kph (or as specified).

## Seatbelts

7. The wearing of seat belts is compulsory in both the front and rear. Children under 12 years of age or less than 1.5 metres tall are not allowed to travel unless in an appropriate restraint (child seat or booster cushion).

## Breakdown

8. You are recommended to take out breakdown/accident recovery (ADAC etc) as charges for recovery are extremely expensive. Should you break down on the autobahn always use the emergency telephone. The German Control Centres always have English speaking staff on duty and they will be able to pinpoint your location from the number of the telephone you are calling from. Emergency telephones are situated every 2 km so you will never be more than 1 km away from one.

## Garage

9. These are some phrases that may be useful to you in the event of a breakdown or when at the garage:

<b>English</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>German</b>
Air Pressure	Luftdruck	MOT test	TÜV
Brake	Bremsen	Oil Change	Ölwechsel
Clutch	Kupplung	Oil level	Ölstand
Drive belts	Zahnriemen	Paintwork	Der Lack
Emissions	AU	Repair	Reparatur
Engine	Motor	Service	Wartung
Gear Box	Getriebe	Snow Chains	Schneeketten
Gear Lever	Schaltung	Steering	Lenkung
Hazard lights	Warnblinker	Tyres	Reifen
Headlights	Scheinwerfer	Winter Tyres	Winterreifen

Engine oil is particularly expensive in Germany, so you may wish to buy it from the BX.

### Parking

10. Parking in most towns is covered by either “Pay and Display” schemes, parking metres, or barrier-operated car parks. However, in some areas parking is controlled by the use of parking discs or “**Parkscheibe**”. These areas are free parking but you must display your Parkscheibe in your windscreen and the disc must show your arrival time at the car park. Exceeding the time limit or failing to display the disc will result in a parking fine. Limitations for parking will be displayed on sign posts in the local area (shown in ‘A Guide to Driving in Germany, Belgium and Holland’). The signs will show a picture of the Parkscheibe and the parking time allowed. Parkscheibe discs can be purchased from any newsagent or local garage. If you take out German Insurance you may be given a free one with your policy.

### Further Information

11. This Guide has been produced by OC Logistics, UKJSU Ramstein. For more information or to update the contents, please call (0049) 6371 401450.

## NOTES

