

## CAR TYRES



Winter tyres must be used from the beginning of December to the end of February. The tyres may be studded or friction tyres. The regulation applies to private cars, vans and special vehicles with total mass not exceeding 3.5 tons. If the pulling vehicle has studded tyres, they must be used also in the trailer, if its total mass is between 0.75 - 3.5 tons.

- Friction tyres can be used a year round.
- Studded tyres can be used from the beginning of November to the end of March or the first Monday after Easter, with later date being definite.
- Studded tyres can be used during other times also if the weather so requires.

In private cars, vans and special cars weighing less than 3.5 tons, which are linked to a trailer, all the tyres must be studded tyres.

The tread depth of the main grooves of the tyres must be at least 1.6 mm for summer tyres and 3 mm for winter tyres.

Liikenneturva recommends that the tread depth for summer tyres be at least 4 mm and 6 mm for winter tyres.

## DRUNK DRIVING

The driver of an engine-powered vehicle is guilty of **drunk driving**, if his/her blood alcohol level during drive or immediately afterwards is at least 0.5 per mille or one litre of exhaled air contains at least 0.22 milligrams of alcohol.

The driver is guilty of **gross drunk driving**, if the blood alcohol level is 1.2 per mille or one litre of exhaled air contains at least 0.53 milligrams of alcohol.

Already a low blood alcohol level affects driving ability, increasing the likelihood of an accident. Also hangover has many negative effects on driving.

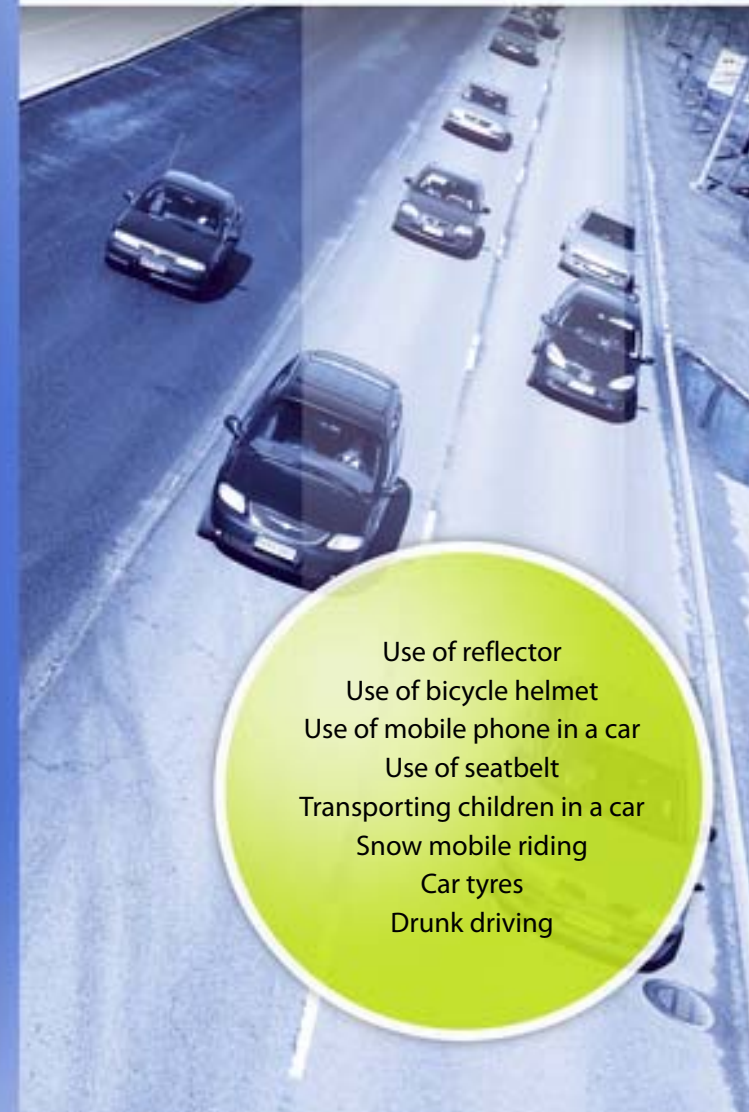
- Drunk driving is punishable by fine or imprisonment for a maximum duration of 6 months.
- For gross drunk driving, the minimum penalty is 60 day-fines and maximum penalty imprisonment for two years.
- The authorities have the right to place a driving ban on a drunk driver and take away his/her driving license either temporarily or permanently.

With regards to narcotics in traffic, zero tolerance applies.



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## Traffic regulations in Finland





## USE OF REFLECTOR

A pedestrian must use a reflector while walking down a road during dark. When acquiring a reflector, one should check that it meets the standard EN 13356 and is CE approved. In such a case, the reflector complies with the demands of safety product standards. Only a proper reflector, in addition to lights, helps the pedestrian remain visible in dim or dark conditions.

## USE OF BICYCLE HELMET

The cyclist and the bicycle passenger must use appropriate protective helmet. The helmets must be tested and approved (standard EN 1078). An approved helmet receives a CE tag. The helmet must state the user group for which it has been designed: cyclists, rollerskaters and/or skateboarders.

## USE OF MOBILE PHONE IN CAR

The driver of an engine-powered vehicle may not use a mobile phone during drive, unless he/she is using a hands-free device. Such a device can be fixed or separate. No other device for repeating sound or image, or any other communication device, can be used during drive if it causes distraction. Distraction means that the use of the steering devices in the vehicle becomes more difficult or the device in some way interferes with the driver's concentration on traffic. This rule applies also to the cyclists.

## USE OF SEATBELT

Seatbelt must be used in a private car, van, truck or bus and also in a three or four-wheeler which is equipped with a body.

A statute can decree exemptions from seatbelt use due to the special nature of transport or driving duty. An exemption may be granted due to illness or injury. The related medical documentation must be shown to the police upon request. A pregnant woman must also use a seatbelt, unless she has received written permission from a doctor. A doctor will not issue an exemption due to normal pregnancy.

If one fails to use a seatbelt or other safety device, a fine may be issued. The driver or a parent who is a passenger in the vehicle is held accountable for the seatbelt use of those passengers under 15 years old. Those 15 or older are accountable for their own actions.



## TRANSPORTING CHILDREN IN CAR

- With regards to a child less than 135 cm tall, the child must use weight-specific safety equipment in private cars, vans or lorries.
- Children under 3 may not be transported in a car at all, if there is no appropriate safety device.

Safety seats and babyseats which are installed with the back facing the driving direction are safest for small children. In this type of a seat, the child's neck receives the support it requires. The securing instructions of the device state whether the device has been approved for rear-facing installation.

It is recommended that a child should face the rear until he/she is 3 years old, at least. Boosters and safety seats for children weighing over 18 kilos help to secure the seatbelts properly. A child over 135 cm tall can use a seatbelt as the adults do.

## SNOW MOBILE RIDING

A person who is 15 or older can ride a snow mobile over terrain. When riding on official snow mobile routes or crossing a road, the driver must have at least a T driving licence. Drunk driving regulations apply also to the snow mobile rider.

While riding on snow mobile routes, right-lane traffic is observed. The highest allowed speed on terrain is 60 km/h and 80 km/h on ice-covered water areas. If there is a sleigh attached to the snow mobile with the purpose of carrying passengers the top speed is 40 km/h. The driver and the passenger must use a helmet.

Riding a snow mobile on terrain always requires permission from the land-owner. Permission is not required while riding on official snow mobile routes or ice-covered water areas. Metsähallitus issues permits for state-owned areas.

