The Spanish Penalty Point System (Pps)
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The Spanish penalty point system

Fundamental key to reduce the fatality rate
– European target to reduce by 50% the number of road fatalities by the year 2010.
Focuses on the consolidation of a traffic safety culture, beyond the legal aspects, and on reducing rates of recidivism.

The penalty point system goals

- To complement the regular sanction scheme: points + fine
- To raise awareness, to re-educate.
- To encourage drivers to take responsibility for their actions.
- To change their perception of the offences.
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**Messages from the Ministry & DGT**

Not to consider a driving licence an entitlement…
…but as a vote of confidence offered by society
…that could be lost after irresponsible driving.

* General Directorate of Road Traffic

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**Pps overview**

Starting with 12 points (8 for learners)

Losing points according to offences (2 to 6)

Gaining points for offence free periods (up to a max 15)
  - 3 years → +2
  - A further 3 years → +1

Recovering points:
  - 2/3 years (depending on the seriousness of the offences) without further offences → return to 12 points
  - 12 hour re-education course → up to +6

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**Recover suspended licence**

May be recovered only after 6/3* months
If all the points are lost again in less than 3 years:
  - 12/6* months suspension

Compulsory 24 hour course of awareness and re-education (Final Test on road safety knowledge).
Re-starting with 8 points.

* Professional drivers

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Courses: Objectives

– Raise awareness of the serious human, economic and social consequences of road accidents
– Make the drivers aware of their own responsibility in dangerous driving
– Change the behaviours and the attitudes of the drivers in order to be more considerate of other road users.

Courses: Two types

**Partial recovery**
– Optional for recovering points
– 12 hours
– Up to +6 points more
– Cost: 170€

**Total recovery**
– Compulsory to get licence reinstated
– 24 hours
– All the points (up to 8)
– Cost: 320€

Courses: Main advantages

High level of standardization, one of the peculiar aspect of the system.

Courses given by a driving instructor and a psychologist, previously trained by INTRAS (80/12 hours course respectively).

Courses content mainly concentrated on road safety (not law).

Contents specifically designed by INTRAS, including manuals and interactive multimedia DVD-ROM’s.
Courses: Two parts

General training
- DVD assisted + trainer explanations
- Complementary manual for the trainer
- Reflection and discussion (partial recovery)
- Group dynamics (total recovery)
- Led by the psychologist
- Individualized contents (previous test and personal profile)

Specific training
- Interactive DVD + complementary manual
- Self evaluation test

Manuals: with versions for the trainer and the trainee

Interactive learning & auto-evaluation with multimedia DVD’s
### Courses: Content topics

1. Traffic accidents: the magnitude of the problem
2. Dynamic of a collision and its consequences
3. The driving as a taking decisions process
4. Basic capabilities for safe driving
5. Special risk groups: children, youth, elderly, pedestrians, cyclists …
6. Risk factors: speed, alcohol, drugs, sleep, fatigue...
7. Active & passive safety
8. Preventive driving in adverse conditions
9. First aid
10. The importance of following the rules

### Losing points

**Specific serious offences:**
6, 4 or 3 points

**Maximum:** 8 point per day (except very serious offences)

- Alcohol >0.50 mg/l (>0.30 professionals & learners)
- Drugs & other substances…
- Refuse to be tested for alcohol or drugs
- Driving vehicles with radar inhibitors
- Dangerous driving, driving against the flow, racing…
- Excess of 50% driving or rest time for lorry drivers

**-6 points**
Losing points

-4 points

- Reversing in motorways
- Not obeying: stop sign, right of way, zebra crossing, traffic lights,…
- Dangerous overtaking with limited visibility or putting cyclist at risk
- Driving with inappropriate licence or while suspended
- Not obeying traffic officers signals
- Alcohol >0.25-0.50 mg/l (>0.15-0.30 profs. & learners)
- Throwing dangerous objects on the road
- Not respecting safe distance of the car in front of you

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Losing points

-3 points

- Changing direction illegally
- Driving using mobile phone (not hands-free), headphones, programming GPS, etc.
- Driving without seat belt, helmet,…

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Evolution 1979-2008

RoSPA Road Safety Congress 2010
Goal: to evaluate drivers perception about effectiveness of Pps implementation

Sample: 2,014 interviews with Spanish drivers

Drivers views on offences that lead to lost points:

Would increase points lost for:
- 71.85% Driving under the influence of alcohol
- 59.88% Not using helmet
- 43.25% Driving using the mobile phone
- 35.5% Not wearing seatbelt

Would reduce points lost for:
- 31.53% speeding in cities
- 29.05% Not respecting safe distance
- 27.7% Parking in the bus lane

Influence of Pps in drivers behaviour.
39% recognise that their behaviour has changed in some way since the Pps came into effect.
37% recognise less speeding
25% use their mobile phone less

Asked about the perception they have about the change in the behaviour of others:
In general those interviewed say they have noticed a very big change.
43% of drivers recognise being more conscience about traffic accidents.
92% of drivers believe that the Pps system has been responsible for the reduction of accident rates.
80% of drivers believe that the Pps system will be positive for society

Data

• Spain is ranked fourth of European countries in reducing the number of fatalities.
• 8 million points have been taken away.
• 2 million drivers have lost points.
• Half a million drivers only have half the maximum points.
• 24,000 drivers have lost their licence.
• 25,000 have loss of their licence pending.
• Only 6,214 have attended the course for recovering licence.
• It is calculated that we have saved 50 lives per month.
Thank you for your attention!

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