



17 March 2009

OE-04/09

European Parliament makes ESP® mandatory Comprehensive package of measures for more road safety

- ESP® to be mandatory for new passenger-car and commercial-vehicle models from November 2011, and for all new vehicles from November 2014
- In the first six months of 2008, 56 percent of all newly registered passenger cars in the UK featured ESP® an increase of over 30 percent in three years, in Europe 53 percent are fitted with the life saving technology.

The European Parliament agreed on March 10, 2009 to make ESP® mandatory for all new vehicles. According to the regulation, from November 2011 all new passenger-car and commercial-vehicle models registered in the European Union will have to be equipped with the ESP® active safety system. From November 2014 this will then apply to all new vehicles. The regulation has still to be finally adopted by the Council of Ministers. Accident research shows that skidding is the main cause of accidents with fatal results. "ESP® can prevent up to 80 percent of all skid-related accidents," says Dr. Werner Struth, president of the Chassis Systems Control division at Bosch, summarizing the results of international studies. "After the seat belt, the system is therefore the most important safety technology in the car." Bosch developed the electronic stability program, and in 1995 it was the first company in the world to put it into series production. According to a Bosch analysis, in the first six months of 2008, 53 percent of all new registrations in Europe were already equipped with ESP®

New regulations increase safety and eco-friendliness

The mandatory installation of ESP® is part of a comprehensive package of measures that the European Union intends to implement in order to increase road safety and reduce fuel consumption. In addition to ESP® predictive emergency braking and lane departure warning systems will be mandatory for commercial vehicles with a gross weight of more than 3.5 tons and for

minivans and buses with more than eight seats from November 2013 (new models) and November 2015 (new registrations). Compulsory low rolling resistance tyres and tyre pressure monitoring systems will further reduce fuel consumption starting in November 2012. Additionally, more than 50 existing EU directives and more than 100 amendment regulations will be removed and replaced by UN/ECE regulations wherever possible. The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, already enacted a regulation in 2007, according to which all passenger cars with a gross vehicle weight of 4.5 tons must be equipped with ESP® from model year 2012.

Active across Europe for more road safety

In 2001, when the number of people killed on the roads in the EU stood at 50,000, the European Commission set itself the goal of halving the number of road deaths in the EU by 2010. As a leading supplier of ESP® and other vehicle safety technologies, Bosch has been supporting the programs set up to achieve this objective for many years. Bosch was also one of the founding members of the "EU Road Safety Charter" in 2004 and is heavily committed to the "ChooseESC!" information campaign, whose purpose is to increase fitment levels by communicating the benefits of ESP®. In 2006, the number of road deaths in the EU was 39,500.

The ESP® electronic stability program supports the driver in almost every critical driving situation. It includes the functions of the ABS antilock braking system and the TCS traction control system. It also detects and actively counters vehicle skidding movements. The Euro NCAP association (European New Car Assessment Programme), which tests and assesses vehicle safety using simulated accident situations, has included the active safety system in its new assessment procedure since February 2009. In accordance with the new guidelines, from 2010 vehicle models will then only be able to obtain the association's maximum five star rating if they are equipped with ESP® as standard.

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Note to editors:

About Bosch

The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. In the areas of automotive and industrial technology, consumer goods, and building technology, some 271,000 associates generated sales of 46.3 billion euros in fiscal 2007. The Bosch Group comprises Robert Bosch GmbH and its more than 300 subsidiaries and regional companies in roughly 50 countries. This worldwide development, manufacturing, and sales network is the foundation for further growth. Each year, Bosch spends more than 3 billion euros for research and development, and applies for over 3,000 patents worldwide. The company was set up in Stuttgart in 1886 by Robert Bosch (1861-1942) as "Workshop for Precision Mechanics and Electrical Engineering."

The special ownership structure of Robert Bosch GmbH guarantees the entrepreneurial freedom of the Bosch Group, making it possible for the company to plan over the long term and to undertake significant up-front investments in the safeguarding of its future. Ninety-two percent of the share capital of Robert Bosch GmbH is held by Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, a charitable foundation. The majority of voting rights are held by Robert Bosch Industrietreuhand KG, an industrial trust. The entrepreneurial ownership functions are carried out by the trust. The remaining shares are held by the Bosch family and by Robert Bosch GmbH.

Additional information can be accessed at www.bosch.com