

The man who never lost control.

A story about driver safety by Alphabet.



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S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M
D R I V E R K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Z
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O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G
K L **C O N T E N T** M N O P Q R S T U W
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T

PUT SAFETY FIRST WHEN YOU DRIVE.

More than 200 million cars populate Europe's 4 million kilometres of road – a figure which is increasing every year. For you, as a frequent driver, that means driving will remain a challenge. Ingenious safety and assistance systems are continually reducing the risk of accident and injury, but the final key to a safe journey is the ability to master unexpected situations – whether by night, on icy roads or during rush hour. And, as an experienced driver, you understand just how important it is to refresh your knowledge from time to time – especially when your safety and the safety of other drivers is at stake.

Take advantage of the wealth of experience of a real security driver whose profession it is to bring his passengers safely to their destination ... no matter what happens. In the following story, our security driver will give you some useful advice to negotiate traffic more safely. Fasten your seat-belt (did you know that half of the accident victims in Sweden were not strapped in?) and set off on a high-speed adventure with the man who never loses control. You're sure to enjoy it!*

*Please refer to the legal notice on the back page.



V W X I N T R O D U C T I O N G H I J K
H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A
X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q
U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H H I J K L M

I. ONE MAN, ONE MISSION.

“What the . . . oh, my alarm clock.” A swift karate chop silenced it. I rolled out of bed into a frosty morning, my breath making clouds in the air, as I finished my 200 sit-ups on the bare tiles. I always shower cold (perhaps because my hot water heater is broken), but that day I needed the extra dose of wakefulness. My job? To accompany Cynthia Stewart, currently the world’s most famous film actress. I was to pick her up at the airport at 7 a.m. and protect her for a week. And why had I, of all people, been chosen to look after Cynthia? We already knew each other. She was my partner at the dance. We were 15 then; another lifetime. Now I’m a security driver, a kind of bodyguard on wheels. Had I been driving JFK’s limo in Dallas, who knows what might have happened . . . I shook off the daydreams in the best Samurai tradition – Cynthia shouldn’t be kept waiting. Shave, dress, out to [check the car](#). 6:05 a.m., enough time to take the paper up to my 96-year-old neighbour. I took the stairs; lifts are for wimps. On the ninth floor, I noticed my fitness level was as exceptional as ever with a resting pulse of 45. Back down to the car. I hadn’t touched a drop the night before, of course. The only [alcohol](#) allowed in my car is in the windshield washer fluid – shaken, not stirred. I checked my equipment once more. Toothbrush, fresh shirt, bullet-proof vest, dinner

ABCD BEFORE SETTING OFF EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CHECKING BEFORE START

- Check the tyre pressure once a month.
The tyres should be cold; and don’t forget your spare.
- Your tyre tread depth should be no less than 3 mm, even though European legislators stipulate only 1.6 mm as the minimum depth.
- Check your brakes regularly and carefully on a clear stretch of road.
- Check your oil level every other time you fill up with petrol. It’s very important to allow the engine to cool for 10 minutes beforehand.
- Take drinks with you on longer journeys – especially in summer and winter. You never know when there will be a traffic jam or other need for it.



jacket, climbing gear, Clint Eastwood's memoirs and my Platinum credit card – everything safely stashed in the boot. 6:10 a.m., no time to lose. I started the engine and set off. What I didn't know was that fate had a couple of little surprises in store for me a few miles up the road.

DRINKING & DRIVING

- Alcohol can greatly impair your driving ability even in small quantities.
- 0.2‰ – reduced ability to perceive movement.
- 0.4‰ – tunnel vision begins.
- 0.6‰ – reactions dramatically impaired.
- 0.8‰ – steering movements impaired, traffic signs ignored.
- 1.5‰ – all senses impaired.

(These figures vary according to personal body type.)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Neither coffee, heavy meals, cold showers, nor medicine can make you fit to drive again just after drinking.

LOADING THE VEHICLE

- Stow loose objects (such as laptops) safely inside your vehicle. They can easily become dangerous projectiles.
- Any load higher than the back seat must be separated off with a net or grille.
- Bulky luggage that does not fit in the boot should be carried on the roof and secured there correctly, if possible. Please observe the maximum permissible roof load. Be aware that roof loads change the car's handling. Increase tyre pressure if necessary.

WARNING: braking distances increase with heavy loads. Do not exceed your maximum permitted load (shown in your EU Registration Certificate I).

II. A CRASH AT DAWN.

The guy in front of me slammed on his brakes as if a deer had jumped out in front of him. Fortunately, it is second nature to me to keep a **safe distance** ever since I helped a rich cattle baron round up his herds in Texas; and I stopped in time. Another two miles to the airport. Time was pressing. I let my thoughts wander back to that time when Cynthia and I learned to waltz. It was the winter of '86. We **slid and skidded** to dance classes each evening. To be perfectly honest, the snowflakes falling between us danced better than we did later in that overheated hall. But let's not get sentimental. My task demanded the utmost concentration. Luminous shafts from my headlights **probed the road ahead**. Cynthia was arriving from California in her private jet. How would she feel in this uncomfortable climate? At home in LA, she probably didn't wear much more than an oversized straw hat. As if the weather had read my thoughts, it began to **rain down in buckets**. My wipers were soon playing Chinese table tennis and I began to feel like Jacques Cousteau on one of his dives. Perhaps I should have brought the oxygen tanks after all. Then, 20,000 leagues beneath the sea, something suddenly caught my attention: a limousine lying on its roof by the side of the road. I cast a quick look in my rear-view mirror and, with a practised choreography of handbrake, accelerator

ABCDSAFTY ON THE ROAD EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

DRIVING IN WINTER

- Take care: ice can form even on roads that have been cleared.
- Clear all ice and snow from your windows. Don't forget your headlights.
- Ice forms particularly quickly on bridges. Drive slowly.
- It is recommended that you take along a blanket, gloves, ice-scraper, defroster spray, torch, jump leads, good shoes and a jacket.

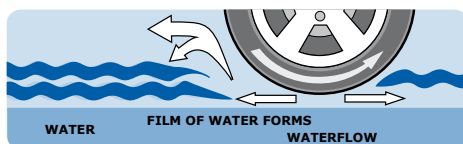
IMPORTANT NOTE: Prepare your vehicle for winter early and have winter tyres fitted before the first snow falls. Take snow chains with you if you are driving in the mountains.

DRIVING IN THE RAIN

How to respond to aquaplaning:

- Take your foot gently from the accelerator pedal.
- Depress the clutch; remain in 'drive' in an automatic.
- Hold the wheel straight.
- Do not brake.

BEWARE OF AQUAPLANING! A film of water forms between the tyres and the road, contact with the road is lost, and the vehicle becomes unable to brake or manoeuvre. Avoid ruts in the road. The faster you drive, the greater the risk of aquaplaning.



and steering wheel, swept the car in an elegant curving stop, so that its headlights illuminated the scene of the accident. The wheels of the up-turned vehicle were still spinning. Its doors were torn open, 'Upside Down' was playing on the radio. Fitting, I thought, and approached the car. It was emptier than the fridge in my bachelor-pad kitchen. What had happened? Where were the occupants? And when would this rain stop?

DRIVING AT NIGHT

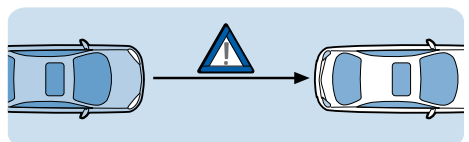
OVERTIRED IS DANGEROUS!

Lapses of concentration and delayed reactions are the first warning signs. Fresh air and loud music do not help for long. It is best to take a short break every 200 km or after driving for 2 hours.

- 90% of the information needed to drive is taken in by the eyes. Therefore, you should drive particularly carefully in the dark.
- Keep your headlights and windscreen clean. Use full beams whenever possible.
- Do not use full beams in forests (bright lights attract animals!).
- Have your vision tested regularly.

PLAYING FAIR ON THE ROAD

- Always indicate when changing lanes.
- Don't forget the blind spot behind you. Look over your shoulder!
- When approaching a traffic jam, turn on your hazard lights. Stop so that you can still see the tyres of the car in front of you.
- Keep a safe distance behind the car in front when driving.



III. A SURPRISING TURN.

In all honesty, I hadn't the faintest idea what was happening. So I secured the **scene of the accident**, then I checked the car. As with every mystery, I started at the end – by opening the boot. Out tumbled a young lady. "Hey babe, what's up?", I said. No response. Funny, that never usually happens to me with women. But this one was unconscious, so I decided to let her off. Rolling her carefully **onto her side**, I placed her on a blanket. While holding up her head, I dialled 112 – the number for **emergency** as well as my approximate IQ. I had to get her talking. I had practised mouth-to-mouth with lots of women, but none of them had been **unconscious** beforehand. That meant mouth-to-nose resuscitation. At last she opened her eyes. "Don't stop," she whispered. "What happened?" I asked. It was then that I saw the flash of fear in her eyes. "Cynthia", she sobbed, "they've kidnapped Cynthia Stewart!" Fate had just taken a wrong turn, damn it. "Who . . . How . . . Why?" I had more questions than my first Irish girlfriend had freckles. "Cynthia flew in earlier so she could surprise an old friend." Of all the bad reasons – especially since I was obviously the old friend . . . "and then there was suddenly this SUV and men with masks. . ." That left only one question unanswered: Why? Just because she was rich, famous and dazzlingly beautiful? There had

ABC DAT THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CALLING EMERGENCY

Dial 112 in the EU. There are five key points to remember:

- Where are you?
- What has happened?
- How many people have been injured?
- What kind of injuries?
- Answer all questions, and wait until the emergency call centre ends the call.



RESCUING VICTIMS

- Secure the place of the accident.
- Turn off the engine if still running.
- Speak to the occupants and pull them gently from the car.
- Make sure no parts of the body are trapped.
- Remove the person to the nearest safe place and put them in a position which is comfortable. If unconscious, place in the recovery position.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Break windows opposite the occupants so as not to endanger them. Front and rear windscreens are hard to break, therefore unsuitable. Warning: airbags that have not yet activated may do so at any time.

to be something else. Then I suddenly remembered the newspaper article I had read recently while doing my one-armed pull-ups. 'Movie mogul furious. Cynthia Stewart leaves Hollywood studio.' But was that really a reason to get annoyed? If so, then I'd soon be teaching a few people what it was like when someone really gets annoyed. And what it's like to meditate for a few years – in solitary confinement. The police and ambulance arrived. I got on the phone to my old friend at police headquarters and had him set up road-blocks at a radius of 50 kilometres. The kidnapers couldn't be far away. And if my memory served me rightly, there was only one place nearby which would serve as a hideout. I hadn't a second to spare. I drove off. My tank was full, my subconscious found the fastest way of its own accord, and my adrenaline level was peaking. I was mad; and I was ready.

SECURING THE PLACE OF AN ACCIDENT

- Switch on your own hazard lights.
- Set up a warning triangle at least 100 metres from the accident. It may need to be even further away, depending on the situation – corner, obstacle etc.
- Flag down others to help.

ADVICE: Always carry a warning vest, warning triangle and first-aid box (even if not obligatory). You should also carry inside your vehicle a knife for cutting belts and a hammer for breaking glass.



PROVIDING FIRST AID

- Identify condition: examine and talk to the victim.
- If the victim is in shock, place in the shock position (legs out straight and raised), cover with a blanket and reassure.
- Use a sterile pressure bandage to stop bleeding and wounds. Wear gloves.
- If the victim is not breathing, clear the respiratory passages. Conduct mouth-to-nose resuscitation.
- Refresh your first-aid knowledge regularly (every 2–5 years).

ADVICE: Check your first-aid kit regularly (observe expiry date). It is often cheaper to replace the whole kit than to replace individual components.

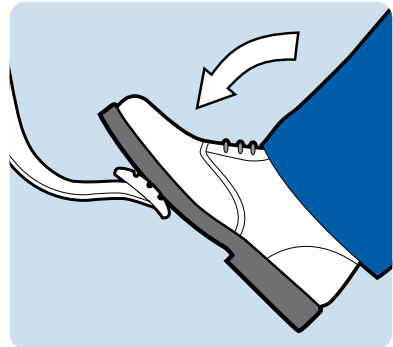
IV. A SHOWDOWN IN RUINS.

I was heading towards the deserted castle ruins to the west of the airport. It was in the middle of the forest and had seen fewer visitors in the last decade than a nudist colony in Greenland. I called the police again and said, "The old castle, you know the one". They didn't of course. But I had no time to worry about that now. In the best Samurai tradition, my plan was to make one when the time came – an approach which had always worked in the past. I stopped my car gracefully at the foot of the castle and rooted out the soundtrack from Cynthia's latest blockbuster. Doors wide open, I turned up the sound system which played "Baby, You Can Drive My Car" – my favourite song. That had to be enough to lure out those miserable creatures. And Cynthia would hopefully take the hint. Not like after the dance that time, when, as I moved my lips toward hers, she passed me her lip balm without a word. The two guys, who appeared shortly after, had clearly been watching too many bad action films and approached the car so nervously that they must have been expecting Rambo, in person. That gave me time during the second refrain to rush up to the castle. I crept to the tower while my car was being surrounded below. A silk scarf lay on the steps; Cynthia could not be far away. I crept silently upwards. The key was in the lock of the tower

ABC DRISKS WHILE DRIVING EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

BRAKING CORRECTLY

- Practice emergency stops and evasive manoeuvres regularly under instruction, ideally with an advanced driving instructor.
- Make sure rear-seat passengers wear their safety belts. Relatively minor accidents can be fatal if you are not strapped in.
- It is advisable to brake lightly at regular intervals when driving in the rain in order to remove the film of fluid on the brake discs. This will allow the brakes to respond more quickly in an emergency stop.

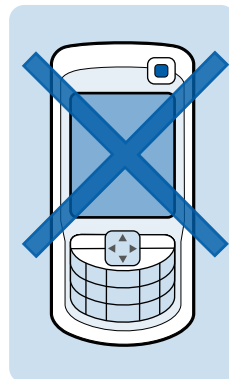


WARNING: A pulsating brake pedal or rattling brakes indicate sideways knocking on the brake discs. Change them immediately!

door – I opened it. Cynthia fell into my arms. “I knew it would be you!”, she breathed into my ear. But I didn’t catch a word, because above us a thunder began like several Japanese drum troops. A helicopter – even worse, an escape helicopter! Skilfully planned. To crown it all, the two men who had succeeded in overpowering my CD player now crashed into the room. Time for Plan B. Unfortunately, I couldn’t remember how it went. “THE WINDOW!” screamed Cynthia. She obviously knew Plan B. We jumped, and everything went black around me. I awoke in an ocean of flowers worthy of a Hollywood star – and there was one, standing next to my bed. “Hello hero,” Cynthia whispered to me. Clearly, it wasn’t just her fans who thought I had done a good job. The kidnappers had been captured shortly after Cynthia had landed softly on top of me, since the police had understood my call and promptly surrounded the only castle in the area. Of course, nothing could be pinned on their ex-boss in Hollywood. But then again, the stupendous box-office success of her new film (produced by the competition) would be punishment enough for him. And I had a distinct feeling the two of us would be celebrating many more premieres to come.

DRIVING WITH A MOBILE PHONE

- Be aware: phoning while driving affects your responses like alcohol, even if using a hands-free system.
- Forbidden: phoning while driving is banned throughout Europe (exceptions exist, such as using a hands-free system or a headset in Germany). Having an accident while on the phone can be treated as negligent bodily harm in the EU and can nullify insurance claims.
- The safe solution is to pull over before you use your phone.



ON THE ROAD SAFELY – THROUGHOUT EUROPE

Country	Country code	Alcohol limit (in ‰)	Emergency number	Breakdown service	Speed limits (in km/h)			Lights by day
					Motorways	Country roads	Urban roads	
Albania	AL	0.0	127	no local breakdown service	n.a.*	80	40	no
Austria	A	0.5	144	0043 120	130, 110 from 10 pm to 5 am	100	50	yes
Belgium	B	0.5	112	070 34 47 77	120	90	50	no
Bosnia-Herzegovina	BIH	0.3	94	00387 1282 (in Sarajevo) 00387 033 1282 (Greater Sarajevo)	120	80	60	yes
Bulgaria	BG	0.5	150	00359 2 91 146	130	90	50	no
Croatia	HR	0.0	94	01 987	130	n.a.*	50	n.a.*
Cyprus	CY	0.9	112	00357 22 31 31 31	100	80	50	½ hr. before sunset to ½ hr. after sunrise.
Czech Republic	CZ	0.0	112	00420 26 11 04 345	130	90	50	yes
Denmark	DK	0.5	112	0045 70 10 20 30	110	80	50	yes
Estonia	EST	0.2	112	02 69 79 188	110	90	50	yes
Finland	FIN	0.5	112	00358 200 8080	120	100	20–50	yes
France	F	0.5	112	0800 0892022	130	90	50	no
Germany	D	0.5	112	01802 22 22 22	no limit	100	50	no
Greece	GR	0.5	166	10400	120	90	50	no
Hungary	H	0.0	112	0061 345 1755	130	90	50	yes
Iceland	IS	0.5	112	00354 564 3800	90	80	50	yes
Ireland	IRL	0.8	999	1800 66 77 88	120	80	50	no
Italy	I	0.5	112	80 31 16	130	90	50	yes

Drinking & driving	Fines and penalties (in Euros)					Telephoning while driving	Winter tyres obligatory	Warning obligatory	Important information
	20 km/h too fast	Red light violation	No overtaking	No parking	No				
n.a.*	n.a.*	n.a.*	n.a.*	n.a.*	n.a.*	n.a.*	no	no	Main roads: bad condition Secondary roads: rarely tarmacked
from 220	20–55	70–145	70–145	from 10	25	no, but may be instructed otherwise by traffic signs	yes		
from 140	from 100	from 150	from 150	from 50	from 100	no	no		
from 150	from 15	from 150	from 150	20	7	no	no		
from 200	20	30	40	from 40	15	no	no	Trams always have right of way.	
n.a.*	n.a.*	n.a.*	n.a.*	n.a.*	70	no	yes		
up to 1740	35	85	145	from 25	n.a.*	no	no	Drive on left. Traffic coming from the right generally has right of way. Horns prohibited near hospitals and from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.	
up to 450	from 15	60	from 15	from 15	35	no, spikes prohibited	yes	Leave 1 lane free in standstill traffic on motorway. Only call police for disputed blame, injury, or damage over 593 €.	
from 540	70–240	135–200	140	70	67	no	no		
up to 1150	up to 35	from 150	from 150	30	n.a.*	yes, spikes: from 1 Dec to end of Feb	no		
from 15 DR**	from 115	from 8 DR**	from 5 DR**	n.a.*	78	yes, from 1 Dec to end of Feb	no		
from 750	from 90	from 90	from 90	from 10	from 22	no	no		
from 250	from 35	50–200	30–125	n.a.*	40 + 1 point	no	yes		
from 80	35	165	355	35-65	up to 150	no	no		
up to 380	up to 230	up to 80	up to 80	ab 10	up to 110	no, spikes prohibited	no	Obligatory in event of accident: notify police. Pay fines using cheque or payment voucher.	
up to 1300	from 130	200	125	from 20	n.a.*	no	no	Vehicles marked 'M' have right of way on single-lane roads.	
from 1270	from 80	from 80	from 80	from 80	60	no	no	Drive on the left	
from 260	from 140	from 140	from 70	from 35	71	no	yes		

*Data not available.

**DR: Daily rate (calculated on the basis of income).

Country	Country code	Alcohol limit (in ‰)	Emergency number	Breakdown service	Speed limits (in km/h)			Lights by day
					Motorways	Country roads	Urban	
Latvia	LV	0.5	112	00371 8 000 000	110	110	50	n.a. *
Lithuania	LT	0.4	112	00370 5 2104421	110/130	90	50	yes
Luxembourg	L	0.8	112	00352 26 000	130	130	50	no
Macedonia	MK	0.5	194	00389 2 3181 196	120	100	50	yes
Malta	M	0.8	196	00356 21 320 202	80	80	50	n.a. *
Netherlands	NL	0.5	112	088 26 92 888	120	80	50	no
Norway	N	0.2	110	810 00 505	100	80	50	yes
Poland	PL	0.2	999	061 83 19 902	130	100	50	yes, 1 Oct to 1 Feb
Portugal	P	0.5	112	00351 707 509 510	120	100	50	as signed
Rumania	RO	0.0	112	0040745 382 715 (in Bucharest)	120	90	50	no
Serbia-Montenegro	SCG	0.5	94	00381 11 98 00	120	80	60	no
Slovakia	SK	0.0	112	004212 18 124	130	90	60	yes, 15 Oct to 15 Mar
Slovenia	SLO	0.5	112	1987	130	90	50	yes
Spain	E	0.5	112	0034 915 94 93 47	120	90	50	no
Sweden	S	0.2	112	020 912 912	110	70	50	yes
Switzerland	CH	0.5	144	140	120	80	50	yes
Turkey	TR	0.5	112	0212 274 99 90	120	90	50	no
United Kingdom	GB	0.8	112	0800 028 09 64	112	96	48	no

Drinking & driving	Fines and penalties (in Euros)					Winter tyres obligatory	Warning obligatory	Important information
	20 km/h too fast	Red light violation	No overtaking	No parking	Telephoning while driving			
from 140	from 100	from 20	from 20	from 10	up to 150	yes, from 1 Dec to end of Feb	no	Trams, buses and trolley buses always have right of way. Obligatory in event of accident: notify police.
from 290	from 10	from 15	from 15	from 15	up to 12	yes, 1 Nov to 1 April	no	Trams, buses and trolley buses always have right of way. Obligatory in event of accident: notify police.
up to 1250	50–145	145	145	25–75	up to 74	no	no	
from 70	35	from 70	from 70	from 25	n.a. *	no, but carry snow chains from 15 Nov to 15 Mar	no	Obligatory in event of accident: notify police.
from 480	from 25	from 25	up to 60	from 25	n.a. *	no	no	Drive on left, vehicles coming from right have right of way.
from 190	from 70	from 95	95	from 45	140	no	no	
from 630	from 400	650	650	95	165	no	no	Warning! Elk and reindeer on roads. Report accidents involving game by phoning 175.
up to 1200	from 15	from 65	from 65	from 25	50	no, spikes prohibited	no	Horn prohibited in built-up areas. Obligatory in event of accident: notify police.
from 250	from 60	from 100	from 120	from 30	from 120	no, spikes prohibited	yes	Warning vests must be carried in vehicles registered in Portugal.
from 50	15	from 20	from 60	from 30	from 20	no, spikes prohibited	no	Outside Bucharest: signs indicate breakdown service.
from 60	from 25	60	from 25	25	n.a. *	no, spikes prohibited	no	Obligatory in event of accident: notify police.
up to 270	from 25	up to 180	up to 180	from 10	40	no, spikes prohibited	no	Trams have right of way when turning off. Obligatory in event of accident: notify police.
from 125	40–125	250	170	40	85	yes, 15 Nov to 15 Mar	no	Rail vehicles always have right of way. Do not overtake school buses stopping to pick up or drop off.
from 300	90–300	90–300	90–300	up to 90	up to 91	no	yes	0.3 % alcohol limit for professional drivers and new drivers (< 2 years).
n.a. *	355 up to 450	340	340	50–110	n.a. *	yes, 1 Dec to 31 Mar	no	Beware of elk & reindeer. Report accidents involving game to police. 0.3 % alcohol or more = license removed until departure.
from 775	from 120	160	from 150	from 25	64	no	no	Rail vehicles have right of way in built-up areas. In mountain areas, descending vehicles must give way if necessary.
from 150	35	35	35	20	34	no	no	Bad lighting at night, avoid driving then. Traffic entering roundabout from the right has right of way. Report all accidents to police.
up to 7200	from 72	from 130	from 130	from 30	44	no	no	Drive on the left

*Data not available.

Important note:

This booklet contains safety advice to help prevent accidents, provides guidelines on what to do in the case of an accident, and gives some general information about traffic regulations in Europe. This information is of a general nature, non-binding, non-exhaustive, and intended to increase your awareness of safety issues. This information should not be taken as direct instructions for action, rather they are to be adapted to the regulations applicable in each case. You should, therefore, inform yourself carefully about the traffic and safety regulations in the country in which you are driving, as well as regulations governing the provision of first aid. Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft and other companies within BMW Group do not accept any liability for the completeness or accuracy of the information contained, or for any consequences resulting from following this information.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U
S T U V W X Y Z A B C D E F G H I J K L M
K L M **D R I V E R** N O P Q R S T U V W X Z
N O P Q R **S A F E T Y** Z A B C D E F G H I