

Welcome to the roads of Sweden



TRAFIKVERKET
SWEDISH TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION

This leaflet provides information about some of
the fundamental Swedish traffic rules.



Seatbelts

Motorists in Sweden are required by law to wear seatbelts. Wherever you are seated in a car or truck, you have to wear your seatbelt. You may not transport more people in a car than the car has seats for. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that all passengers under 15 years of age have their seatbelts fastened. If you are travelling in a bus fitted with seatbelts, you must use yours.

Children in the car

Children who are less than 135 cm (4 ft 6 in) tall must use special safety devices when travelling in a car. These may be a baby seat, child seat, seatbelt seat or seatbelt cushion, and must be adapted to the child's height. The safety device should be used instead of or together with the seatbelt, and must be fitted in accordance with its instructions. A child must never be seated where the car is fitted with an active airbag.

Cycling helmet

In Sweden children under 15 years of age are required by law to wear a cycling helmet when cycling. The law applies regardless of whether children are riding their own bicycle, on the back of someone else's, or in a bicycle trailer. If a child rides on the back of your bicycle, you are responsible for ensuring that the child wears a helmet.

Speed limits

Swedish speed limits vary between 30 km/h and 120 km/h. There are also pedestrian streets and zones where pedestrians have the right of way and you may not drive faster than a person can walk. Many drivers break the speed limits, which is why many roads have traffic safety cameras. They are there to remind drivers what speed limit applies. If you drive too fast past a camera and are photographed, you will be fined. Cameras are operated by the police. If you drive too fast and are stopped by the police, you also have to pay a fine. You may also lose your driving licence if you are caught speeding.

Drinking, drugs and driving

Laws on drinking and taking drugs in connection with driving are very strict in Sweden. The limits for how much alcohol or drugs a driver may have in the blood are considerably lower than in most other countries. You are punishable for drink-driving if you have more than 0.02 percent of alcohol in your blood or more than 0.1 mg of alcohol per litre of exhaled air. The same applies if you have any traces at all of drugs in the

blood. The penalty may be fines or a prison sentence. You may additionally lose your driving licence for up to three years.

These limits apply to all types of motorised vehicles, and not only on the road. The police, Customs and Coast Guard are entitled to test you for alcohol consumption even if there is no reason to suspect that you are under the influence. They are also entitled to test for drugs if they suspect that a driver is under the influence of some form of drug.

Owning a vehicle

You must have vehicle insurance if you have a moped, car, motorcycle, truck or bus which is intended for use on the roads. You must also pay vehicle tax.

If you own a vehicle, you are obliged to have it inspected periodically by an approved vehicle inspection service (Bilprovningen). When you buy or sell a vehicle, you must notify the Swedish Transport Agency (Transportstyrelsen). If you want to buy a car and have no Swedish personal identity number, you can apply to the Swedish Transport Agency for a “coordination number”.

Tyres

Between 1 December to 31 March you must use winter tyres if the roads are slippery or snow-covered. Winter tyres may be studded or not studded.

If you have studded tyres, you may use them from 1 October to 15 April, or as long as the roads are slippery.

Dipped beam

When driving in Sweden, your headlights must always be switched on and set to dipped beam, even in daytime.

Driving licence

To have a driving licence in Sweden, you must have passed a driving test. This applies even if you already have a driving licence from a country outside of the European Economic Area*. The driving test is in two parts – a theoretical test and a practical test. If you have a driving licence issued in a country within the European Economic Area, it can be exchanged for a Swedish licence. If you break Swedish traffic rules you can lose your driving licence even if it is a foreign one.

** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and United Kingdom.*



Traffic rules

If you break Swedish traffic rules, you may be fined. The Swedish Transport Agency's website, www.transportstyrelsen.se, has information about the traffic rules that apply in Sweden.

Any questions?

If you have any questions, you can phone customer services at the Swedish Transport Administration or the Swedish Transport Agency. They will be able to answer your questions in Swedish and English.

If you have other questions, you can phone the Swedish Transport Administration on +46 771 921 921 or the Swedish Transport Agency on +46 771 503 503.

The Swedish Transport Administration's customer service number for **Road inquiries** is +46 771 24 24 24.

For **driving tests** it is +46 771 17 18 19.

The Swedish Transport Agency's customer service number for **vehicle inquiries** is +46 771 14 15 16.

For **driving licence inquiries** it is +46 771 81 81 81.



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www.trafikverket.se