

Beat: Automobiles

2019 Ratings Continue to Smash Records

Euro NCAP

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USPA NEWS - Euro NCAP releases the safety ratings of four new vehicles. Two compact SUVs, the Mercedes-Benz's GLB and the Mazda's CX-30, and the larger Ford Explorer HYBRID have joined the ranks of five stars vehicles published this year.

Opel/Vauxhall's supermini, the Corsa, earned four stars.

The best performer of this round is without doubt the Mazda CX-30, a subcompact crossover in between the CX-3 and CX-5, which has achieved a near-perfect 99 percent score for Adult Occupant Protection. The car, which shares much of its DNA with the all-new Mazda 3 tested earlier this year, now tops the list for this part of the assessment against Euro NCAP's 2018/2019 protocols.

Mercedes-Benz once again delivers a solid five-star performance with the new GLB compact SUV. In a busy year for the company, the GLB becomes the sixth Mercedes-Benz to be rated this year, and the sixth to achieve the maximum safety rating. Ford's seven-seat Explorer also gets a top rating. The latest version of this large off-roader, which has been on sale in the US in various forms for nearly three decades, comes to Europe in plug-in hybrid form and performs well in Euro NCAP's tests.

The supermini segment has increasingly come under pressure in recent years from increasing environmental and safety requirements and a change in consumer appetite. Opel/Vauxhall's new Corsa, however, achieves four stars, just like the previous generation car did against the requirements in 2014. The Corsa shares much of its underpinnings with the latest Peugeot 208, which was also rated as four stars earlier this year. Performing above the five-star requirements in three of Euro NCAP's four areas of assessment, the Corsa only missed the top rating by a single percentage point in Safety Assist.

Michiel van Ratingen, Secretary General of Euro NCAP, "Congratulations to Mazda for another almost-perfect score in adult occupant safety. There are still several cars to be rated in 2019 but it is unlikely we will see better for this part of the assessment. And congratulations to Ford and Mercedes-Benz for their five-star ratings, too. Euro NCAP is now gearing up for new tests in 2020 but we're confident that manufacturers will continue to deliver the highest levels of safety to their customers."^[7]

About Euro NCAP

Euro NCAP organizes crash tests on new vehicles and provides motoring consumers with a realistic and independent assessment of the safety performance of some of the most popular cars sold in Europe. Established in 1997 and backed by several European Governments, motoring, consumer and insurance organizations, Euro NCAP has rapidly become a catalyst for encouraging significant safety improvements to new car design. Visit our website: www.euroncap.com.

Euro NCAP ratings strictly apply to vehicles of the specifications offered in Europe. The ratings do not necessarily apply to models offered in other regions, even when sold under an identical name, as production specification and equipment may vary.

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