

05.12.2013

Presseinformation

johannes.naeumann@vdtuev.de
www.vdtuev.de

TÜV®

TÜV Report 2014: German cars take top places/Periodic vehicle testing leads to safety on the roads

The winner of the TÜV Report 2014 is the Opel Meriva. This means that a German manufacturer takes first place amongst the two- and three-year-old cars for the second time in a row. In total, eight million periodic vehicle inspections, covering 217 vehicle models, were statistically analysed in the most comprehensive German used car guide. The average rate of major defects is around 24.9 per cent, whilst around sixty per cent of all vehicles were free of defects.

“In the TÜV-Report 2014, the recent changes in legislation regarding the periodic vehicle inspection are reflected for the first time”, explains Dr. Klaus Brüggemann, Executive Member of the Management Board of VdTÜV. In order to further increase road safety, more defects have now been categorised as serious. At the same time, the proportion of defect-free vehicles has risen, as the inspectors are now able to list recommendations in the test report instead of recording minor defects. The changes in the law regarding periodic vehicle inspection were made in the StVZO (German Road Vehicle Registration Ordinance) in Summer 2012 by means of the 47th amending regulation. “In addition to the introduction of a standardised ‘fault tree’ for all inspection organisations, the periodic inspection has been updated to accord with the state of technology and documentation of the test results has been made much more comprehensive“, says Dr. Brüggemann.

Good results for German vehicles

German makes take the top places in the TÜV Report: in the youngest age group, consisting of vehicles up to three years old, the Porsche 911, BMW Z4, Audi Q5 and A3 and also the Mercedes Benz GLK feature in the top ten, along with the Opel Meriva. “Quality is the top priority for German manufacturers. This is reflected in the good results achieved at the TÜV”, explains Hartmut Müller-Gerbes, Editor in Chief of the Autobild TÜV Reports. The top ten rankings for all age groups are taken by 26 German makes as well as 25 models from Japan, with the hybrid Toyota Prius occupying first place after both five and seven years.

Defects increase with age

The older a vehicle, the more often the TÜV experts identify safety-relevant defects. Around every tenth (9.1 per cent) of the two- to three-year-old vehicles fails the inspection due to major defects, rising to every third (33.3 per cent) of the ten- to eleven-year-olds. The proportion of vehicles without defects falls from 84.2 per cent in the case of two- to three-year-olds to 48.9 per cent for ten- to eleven-year-olds. If the inspector identifies a serious defect during a periodic inspection, the TÜV sticker is only awarded after the

defect has been rectified. The proportion of vehicles that are immobilised immediately as a result of being “unsafe” is 0.1 per cent. If this percentage is applied to all the passenger cars in Germany, there are around 43,000 vehicles with such serious safety defects that they should no longer be allowed on the roads.

Only safety- and environmentally-relevant defects are included in the TÜV Report

Safety- and environmentally-relevant defects are at the forefront of the TÜV Report, and are collected into groups relating to suspension, lights, brakes and the environment. Defects in the vehicle lighting system are found remarkably often: as many as 7.0 per cent of the three-year-old vehicles exhibit defects in this area, and in the case of eleven-year-olds every fourth vehicle (24.9 per cent) is affected. “When it comes to vehicle lighting, the main responsibility lies with drivers themselves and the maintenance and repair workshops”, observes Dr. Brüggemann. “This is where defects can easily be found and corrected.” Nevertheless, developments are positive: despite stricter test conditions, the number of defects found in vehicle lighting systems has fallen slightly.

The better the maintenance, the fewer defects at the periodic inspection

From the TÜV Report it is clear: the safety level of passenger cars in Germany is high. The system of independent and neutral periodic inspection is one way of ensuring this. “Without the high performance quality of our technical inspection system, the defects documented in the TÜV Report would have remained unrecognised and would have represented a considerable safety risk”, points out Dr. Brüggemann. Every vehicle owner can make a contribution to road safety by having his or her vehicle regularly serviced at a qualified workshop.

Most comprehensive used vehicle guide

“The AutoBild TÜV Report remains the undisputed Number One amongst the used vehicle guides produced in Germany. In addition to a detailed description of altogether 217 types of vehicle, we provide informative background articles on workshops, counterfeit replacement parts and changes in regulations affecting the periodic inspection”, explains Hartmut Müller-Gerbes.

The AUTO BILD TÜV Report is available from newsagents and TÜV stations as from 6.12.2013 and costs 4.50 EURO. The report is published by Verband der TÜV e.V. together with TÜV Hessen, TÜV NORD, TÜV Rheinland, TÜV SÜD and TÜV Thüringen.