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## Press Release

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## TÜV Report 2011: Triumph for future technology

*Hybrid vehicle wins gold badge / For 40 years the most important used car report*

The Toyota Prius is the first vehicle with alternative drive technology to win first place in the TÜV Report: the hybrid pioneer from Japan is top of the rankings for three-year-old vehicles with the lowest rate of major defects, namely 2.2 per cent. Second place is shared between the Toyota Auris, Mazda 2 and Porsche 911, each with 2.3 per cent. The average rate of major defects of all the vehicles inspected has increased by 1.9 points compared with the previous year - to 19.5 per cent. As from Friday, 17.12.2010, the AUTO BILD TÜV Report is available from all TÜV stations and from newsagents.

The experts from the TÜV analysed 7,253,709 mandatory vehicle inspections within the period July 2009 to June 2010 for the TÜV Report 2010. Major defects were identified in as many as 5.5 per cent of all vehicles aged up to three years which were presented for general inspection for the first time (2010: 5.1 per cent). Of five year old vehicles, 10.4 per cent (2010: 9.9 per cent) were found to have major defects, in the case of vehicles that were seven years old the figure was 16.7 per cent (2010: 14.7 per cent), while 21.4 per cent of nine-year-old vehicles were affected. At 26.0 per cent, around one quarter of all eleven-year-old vehicles were only issued with their badge after a visit to the repair shop (2010: 24.1 per cent). Overall, every second vehicle was free of defects (52.2 per cent), while 28.2 per cent of all vehicles exhibited minor defects.

"We think that the increase in the percentage of defects is due to the effects of the economic and financial crisis", explains Dr. Klaus Brüggemann, Chairman of the Executive Committee of VdTÜV. "But even when cash is in short supply, drivers should never try to cut corners when it comes to maintenance and repair of their vehicles." Regular servicing at qualified workshops makes an important contribution to the safety of all road users.

The TÜV inspectors found a particularly large number of defects in the lighting equipment, front and rear axles and also in brake lines and hoses on the vehicles they inspected. "The level of vehicle lighting defects, which has remained consistently high over many years, is astonishing", explains Dr. Brüggemann. "Every driver can easily see if the headlights are not working properly." These problems with lighting make it clear how important it is for vehicle owners to demonstrate a sense of responsibility. "The warning light in the cockpit seems not to be enough in many cases", says Dr. Brüggemann. But it is not only drivers and workshops who have to take action: some frequent defects, such as those found in front and rear axles, can also be related to the original design.

### *Toyota Prius wins golden badge*

The winner of the TÜV Report 2011 is the Toyota Prius. Of 100 vehicles tested, around 2.2 per cent failed the first of the periodic inspections required by law during a vehicle's lifetime. "This good result for the Prius sends an important signal for wider acceptance of alternative drive technologies" says Dr. Brüggemann. VdTÜV will award the golden badge to the Toyota Prius on 25.01.2011. And the other models from the Japanese manufacturer also did very well: Toyota can be found amongst the top ten vehicles of all age categories 17 times in all. As also in previous years, vehicles from the Far East and Germany share the top rankings in the TÜV Report. The strength of the German manufacturers is already evident in the first general inspection; Porsche 911 (2.3 per cent with major defects), Smart Fortwo (2.5 per cent), VW Golf Plus (2.6 per cent) and Ford Fusion (2.7 per cent) are in the top group. Porsche, the previous year's winner, invariably takes first place as from the second general inspection.

### *TÜV Report: For 40 years the most important used car report*

The first TÜV Report appeared in 1971 in Cologne under the heading "How safe is your car? – TÜV Rheinland reports" Two years later, in 1973, the first "TÜV Auto-Report" was published under the umbrella of VdTÜV, and this was followed by the successful partnership with AUTO-BILD magazine that was started in 1998. Today, the AUTO BILD TÜV Report is the undisputed number one on the German market when it comes to used car guides. The Report is issued jointly by the Association of TÜVs, Verband der TÜV e.V., together with TÜV NORD, TÜV Rheinland, TÜV SÜD, TÜV Hessen and TÜV Thüringen. "German-owned cars have improved over the years. And the watchful eye of the TÜV inspectors and the TÜV Report have most certainly played their part," explains TÜV Report Editor-in-Chief Hartmut Müller-Gerbes.

### *General inspection data as basis*

In the TÜV Report, experts evaluate the results of the general vehicle inspections that are required by law. The basis of the evaluation consists exclusively of the criteria defined in the test catalogue of the German Road Traffic Licensing Regulations (StVZO). The vehicles are grouped in accordance with the specified inspection intervals. "All vehicles are measured against the same criteria", explains Dr. Brüggemann, "which means that the TÜV Report is the only neutral and objective used car guide available in the marketplace." The majority of the 25 million mandatory inspections performed each year in Germany are carried out by the various TÜV organizations. 7,253,709 were evaluated for the TÜV Report.

Age category	No defects	Minor de- fects	Major defects	Not roadwor- thy
	Defects expressed in percentages			
1 to 3 years old	80.5	14.0	5.5	0.0
4 to 5 years old	68.8	20.8	10.4	0.0
6 to 7 years old	55.9	27.4	16.8	0.0
8 to 9 years old	47.5	31.1	21.4	0.0
10 to 11 years old	39.5	34.4	26.0	0.1
Average percentage	52.2	28.2	19.5	0.1

*(Table 1: Percentages of vehicles according to age and type of defect)*

Age of vehicle: 2-3 years		
1	Vehicle lighting	8.3%
2	Front and rear axles	1.1%
3	Steering play	0.5%
4	Foot brake effectiveness	0.4%
5	Exhaust system	0.2%
6	Brake lines and hoses	0.1%

Age of vehicle: 4-5 years		
1	Vehicle lighting	14.2%
2	Front and rear axles	3.2%
3	Steering play	1.7%
4	Exhaust system	1.2%
5	Foot brake effectiveness	0.9%
6	Brake lines and hoses	0.3%

Age of vehicle: 6-7 years		
1	Vehicle lighting	21.2%
2	Front and rear axles	7.1%
3	Exhaust system	4.2%
4	Steering play	2.5%
5	Brake lines and hoses	1.9%
6	Foot brake effectiveness	1.6%
7	Frame, loadbearing parts: corrosion	0.2%

Age of vehicle: 8-9 years		
1	Vehicle lighting	24.9%
2	Front and rear axles	10.7%
3	Exhaust system	6.1%
4	Brake lines and hoses	4.1%
5	Steering play	3.0%
6	Foot brake effectiveness	2.4%
7	Frame, loadbearing parts: corrosion	1.0%

Age of vehicle: 10-11 years		
1	Vehicle lighting	30.3%
2	Front and rear axles	13.3%
3	Exhaust system	8.2%
4	Brake lines and hoses	7.4%
5	Foot brake effectiveness	4.0%
6	Frame, loadbearing parts: corrosion	3.7%
7	Steering play	3.5%

(Table 2: Most frequently found defects in each age group)

Percentage of major defects of the ten best and worst vehicle types (per cent)									
2 to 3 years		4 to 5 years		6 to 7 years		8 to 9 years		10 to 11 years	
Type (%)	Percentage	Type (%)	Percentage	Type (%)	Percentage	Type (%)	Percentage	Type (%)	Percentage
1. Toyota Prius	2.2	1. Porsche Boxster/Cayman	4.2	1. Porsche 911	5.5	1. Porsche 911	8.3	1. Porsche 911	8.7
2. Mazda 2	2.3	1. Toyota Corolla Verso	4.2	2. Porsche Boxster	7.1	2. Porsche Boxster	9.8	2. Toyota RAV4	10.5
2. Porsche 911	2.3	3. Porsche 911	4.6	3. Honda Jazz	7.3	3. Toyota RAV4	10.2	3. Porsche Boxster	11.2
2. Toyota Auris	2.3	4. Porsche Cayenne	5.0	3. Subaru Forester	7.3	4. Toyota Yaris	12.7	4. Toyota Yaris	13.9
5. Smart Fortwo	2.5	4. Toyota Avensis	5.0	5. Toyota Avensis	7.6	5. Mercedes SLK	13.4	5. Toyota Corolla	14.9
6. VW Golf Plus	2.6	6. Mazda 2	5.1	6. Toyota RAV 4	7.8	6. Mazda MX-5	13.8	6. Mercedes SLK	15.9
7. Ford Fusion	2.7	7. VW Golf Plus	5.2	7. Mazda MX-5	8.9	7. Toyota Corolla	14.4	7. Toyota Avensis	16.6
7. Suzuki SX4	2.7	8. Ford Fusion	5.3	8. Toyota Corolla	9.0	8. Toyota Avensis	14.5	8. Mazda MX-5	16.8
9. Toyota RAV 4	2.8	9. Subaru Forester	5.4	9. Mazda 2	9.1	9. Honda CR-V	14.7	9. Mazda Premacy	18.5
9. Toyota Corolla Verso	2.8	10. Audi A8	5.5	10. Hyundai Getz	9.9	10. Mazda Premacy	14.8	10. VW Polo	19.1
<b>Average</b>	<b>5.5</b>		<b>10.4</b>		<b>16.7</b>		<b>21.4</b>		<b>26.0</b>
119. Peugeot 307	9.9	108. Seat Arosa	16.3	87. Renault Clio	23.7	68. Mercedes M-Class	28.0	61. VW Sharan	30.7
120. Citroen C5	10.0	109. Peugeot 307	17.4	88. Renault Espace	24.5	69. Ford KA	29.3	62. Renault Twingo	31.0
120. Renault Espace	10.0	110. Mercedes M-Class	17.8	89. Renault Kangoo	24.8	69. Alfa Romeo 156	29.3	63. Fiat Bravo	31.5
122. Citroen C2	10.1	111. Renault Kangoo	18.9	90. Renault Laguna	26.2	71. Ford Galaxy	30.2	64. Citroen Berlingo	32.1
123. Dacia Logan	11.0	112. Nissan Primera	19.3	91. Alfa Romeo 147	26.6	71. Alfa Romeo 147	30.2	65. Ford Galaxy	32.9
123. Peugeot 407	11.0	113. Fiat Doblo	20.1	93. Ford Galaxy	27.0	73. Renault Laguna	30.5	66. Alfa Romeo 156	34.1
125. Volvo XC90-	11.2	114. Fiat Stilo	20.7	94. Fiat Stilo	28.3	74. VW Sharan	31.1	67. Seat Alhambra	35.0
126. Fiat Doblo	11.8	115. Renault Laguna	20.8	95. VW Sharan	29.0	75. Seat Alhambra	31.7	68. Skoda Felicia	35.7
127. Hyundai Atos	12.2	116. Renault Espace	23.1	96. Seat Alhambra	30.0	76. Renault Kangoo	33.1	69. Ford Mondeo	36.3
128. Kia Carnival	23.8	117. Kia Carnival	30.2	97. Kia Carnival	35.5	77. Fiat Stilo	35.9	69. Ford KA	38.9

(Table 3: Percentage of major defects of the ten best and worst vehicle types (per cent))