Traffic signs and signals in Germany

- Warning and information signs
- Signs giving orders
- Special and supplement signs

Information from road experts
Important information & phone numbers

ADAC breakdown assistance (landline)
0 180 2 22 22 22
(6 cent/call German landline; max. 42 cent/min from mobile networks.)

ADAC breakdown assistance (mobile phone)
22 22 22
(all mobile networks)

Traffic signs and signals in Germany
(German Highway Code – StVO)

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### Article 40 Warning signs

101  Danger ahead
102  Unmarked intersection ahead with priority from right
103  Bend to right
105  Double bend (first to right)
108  Steep hill downwards
110  Steep hill upwards
112  Uneven road
113*  Risk of snow or ice
114  Road slippery when wet or dirty
115*  Falling or fallen rocks
116*  Loose chippings
117  Side winds
120  Road narrows on both sides
121  Road narrows (right)
123  Road works
124  Traffic queues likely ahead
125  Two-way traffic
128*  Opening or swing bridge ahead
129*  Quayside or river bank
131  Traffic signals
133  Pedestrians in road ahead
134*  Zebra crossing
136  Children crossing ahead
138  Cycle route ahead
140*  Cattle
142  Wild animals
144*  Low-flying aircraft or sudden aircraft noise
150**  Level crossing with gate/barrier or half-barrier ahead
151  Level crossing without barrier or gate ahead
153**  Countdown marker (left) to level crossing with gate or barrier
156  Countdown marker (right) indicating that level crossing is 240m ahead
159  Countdown marker (right) indicating that level crossing is 160m ahead
162  Countdown marker (right) indicating that level crossing is 80m ahead

* Warning sign no longer included in the German Highway Code (1 September 2009); its erection may only be authorised in special risk situations.

** For level crossings, one standard sign (151) will now be used.
Article 41 Signs giving orders

201  St. Andrew's cross; railway traffic has priority
205  Give way
206  Stop and give way
208  Give priority to vehicles from opposite direction
209-20  Turn right ahead
209-30  Ahead only
211-20  Turn right
214-20  Ahead or right only
215  Roundabout
220  One-way-street
222-20  Pass by on right, i.e. keep right
223.1  Shoulder lane open to traffic
223.2  End of shoulder lane
223.3  Shoulder lane ends
224  Bus/tramway stop (also school buses)
229  Taxi rank
237  Route for pedal cycles only
238  Horses only
239  Pedestrians only
240  Unsegregated route for use by pedal cycles and pedestrians only
241  Segregated pedal cycle and pedestrian route
242.1  Pedestrian zone
242.2  End of a pedestrian zone
244.1  Route for pedal cycles
244.2  End of route for pedal cycles
245  Buses only
250  No vehicles
251  Motor vehicles except solo motor cycles prohibited
253  Prohibited for vehicles with a permitted gross weight over 3.5t including their trailers, and for tractors except passenger cars and buses
254  Bicycles prohibited
255  Solo motor cycles prohibited
256  Mopeds prohibited
258  Ridden or accompanied horses prohibited
259  Pedestrians prohibited
260  Motor vehicles prohibited
261  Hazardous cargo prohibited  
(no vehicles transporting marked hazardous materials)

262  Weight limit (no vehicles over maximum gross weight shown)

263  Axle weight limit (no vehicles over weight on axle shown)

264  Horizontal clearance (no vehicles over width shown)

265  Vertical clearance (no vehicles over height shown)

266  Length restriction (no vehicle or combination of vehicles over length shown)

267  No entry for vehicular traffic

268  Snow chains required

269  Water polluting cargo prohibited

270.1  Traffic restriction zone for reduction of air pollution

270.2  End of traffic restriction zone for reduction of air pollution

272  No U-turns

273  Minimum following distance (vehicles shown are required to maintain the indicated minimum following distance)

274  Maximum speed

274.1  Entry to 30kph zone

274.2  End of 30kph zone

275  Minimum speed

276  No overtaking

277  No overtaking for vehicles with a permitted gross weight over 3.5t including their trailers, and for tractors except passenger cars and buses

278  End of speed limit

279  End of minimum speed

280  End of no-overtaking zone

281  End of no-overtaking zone for vehicles with a permitted gross weight over 3.5t including their trailers, and for tractors except passenger cars and buses

282  End of all speed and overtaking restrictions

283  No stopping

283-10  No stopping (start)

283-20  No stopping (end)

283-30  No stopping (in either direction)

286  No waiting

290.1  No-waiting zone

290.2  End of no-waiting zone

293  Pedestrian crossing

294  Stop line
Traffic signs and signals in Germany

No passing (solid centre line)
No passing in one direction
Intersection arrows
Merge arrow indicating lane restriction or end of lane ahead
Restricted zone (white diagonal lines)
No stopping/parking zone (zigzag lines next to the curb)

Article 42 Information signs

Priority at next intersection
Priority road
End of priority road
Traffic has priority over oncoming vehicles
Town/city limit sign (front)
Town/city limit sign (back)
Parking area
Parking management zone (entry)
End of parking management zone
Parking on sidewalk allowed
Park & ride
Hiker’s parking
Parking disc
Traffic calming zone
End of traffic calming zone
Tunnel ahead
Emergency lay-by
Motorway entrance
End of motorway
Expressway entrance

* Traffic sign no longer included in the German Highway Code.
Traffic signs and signals in Germany

End of expressway
Motorway exit ahead
Expressway exit ahead
Expressway exit for local destinations ahead
Exit from motorway (arrow sign)
Exit from expressways (arrow sign)
Lane separator/centre line
Wait line
Pedestrian crossing
One-way street
Water street
Water protection area
Pedestrian subway or bridge
Crossing guards
Dead-end street
First aid station
Repair service
Telephone
Filling station
Police station
Camping and caravan site
Tourist information
Hotel
Restaurant
Snack bar
Toilets
Advisory speed limit
End of advisory speed limit
Place name sign
Tourist attraction
Tourist route
Geographical area containing several tourist attractions

* Traffic sign deleted from the German Highway Code; its erection may no longer be authorised.
** Traffic sign no longer included in the German Highway Code; it may still be erected.
Traffic signs and signals in Germany

388* Shoulder unsafe for multi-track motor vehicles
389* Shoulder unsafe for vehicles with a permitted gross weight over 3.5t and for tractors
390 Toll motorway
391 Toll road
392 Customs post
393 Information sign posted at international borders
394 Red band on lamp posts indicate that streetlight does not stay on all night
395 Federal Highway route number
396 Motorway route number
397 Motorway interchange number (exits, three and four-way interchanges)
398 European route number
399 Federal Highway direction sign
400 Primary road direction sign
401 Secondary road direction sign
402 Advance direction sign for designated type of vehicle
403 Routing for designated type of vehicle
404 Direction to motorway
405 Direction sign to important local destinations
406 Consolidated direction sign
407 Street name signs
408 Advance direction sign
409 Advance direction sign including lane configuration
410 Motorway entrance direction sign
411 Routing for designated type of vehicle

* Traffic sign deleted from the German Highway Code; its erection may no longer be authorised.
448 Motorway exit, four or three-way interchange ahead
448.1 Sign indicating off-motorway truck stop
449 Motorway interchange advance directional sign
450 Motorway interchange countdown markers (three bars, two bars, one bar)
453 Motorway distance board
454 Diversion sign
455.1 Numbered diversion route
457.1 Diversion ahead
457.2 End of diversion
458 Diversion routing
460 Provisional diversion route ahead
466 Provisional diversion route schematic
467.1 Recommended alternate route
467.2 End of recommended alternate route
501 Lane crossover at contra-flow road works
505 Lane crossover at contra-flow road works with width restriction
531 The number of lanes reduces from three lanes to two (closure of one lane)
545 Extension from two to three lanes with minimum speed by lane
551 Lanes added to another roadway
590 Complicated traffic route
Article 43 Traffic control devices

600 Barricade
605 Obstruction marker
610 Traffic cone
615 Mobile lane closure board
616 Mobile lane closure board with flashing arrow
620 Reflector guide posts (left, right)
625 Bend ahead
630 Parking hazard

Special Signs

I Rabies (sign to warn of a rabies outbreak area)
II Church services (Catholic Mass)
III Church services (Protestant service)
IV NATO military bridge classification signs indicating carrying capacity
V Green-arrow sign
Right turn on red permitted after coming to a stop and yielding to all other traffic and pedestrians
### Supplemental signs (selection)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000-10</td>
<td>Direction, left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-21</td>
<td>Location of hazard, right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-22</td>
<td>Use opposite sidewalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-31</td>
<td>Two-way traffic e.g. bicycle lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-32</td>
<td>Bicycles intersecting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000-33</td>
<td>Bicycles travelling in either direction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001-30</td>
<td>Distance (metres) to which prohibition applies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1002-10</td>
<td>Priority road turns left in the intersection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1004-31</td>
<td>Stop ahead (100m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1004-32</td>
<td>... 200m ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1005-30</td>
<td>Zipper merge 200m ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1006-30</td>
<td>Trail of oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1006-31</td>
<td>Smoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1006-32</td>
<td>Loose chippings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1006-36</td>
<td>Accident hazard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1006-37</td>
<td>Toads crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1006-38</td>
<td>Congestion hazard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1006-39</td>
<td>Tree overhang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1007-30</td>
<td>Snow/ice hazard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1008-30</td>
<td>Priority changed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1008-31</td>
<td>Routing changed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1010-10</td>
<td>Children allowed to play on the road and shoulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1010-11</td>
<td>Winter sports along the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1010-13</td>
<td>Caravans allowed to park for over 2 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1012-30</td>
<td>Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1012-31</td>
<td>End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1012-32</td>
<td>Cyclists must walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1012-34</td>
<td>All green signals (&quot;green wave&quot;) at ...kph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**»Allowed«-Signs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1020-11</td>
<td>Disabled persons with parking permit no. ... allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1020-12</td>
<td>Cyclists and residents allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1020-13</td>
<td>Inline skaters allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1020-30</td>
<td>Residents and local traffic allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1022-10</td>
<td>Cyclists allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1022-11</td>
<td>Mopeds allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1022-12</td>
<td>Motorcycles with and without sidecar and mopeds allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1024-10</td>
<td>Passenger cars allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1024-13</td>
<td>HGV with trailer allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1024-14</td>
<td>Buses allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1024-17</td>
<td>Motor vehicles and tractor vehicles with 25kph maximum (permissible) speed allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1026-10</td>
<td>Taxis allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1026-32</td>
<td>Public transport vehicles allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1026-35</td>
<td>Delivery vehicles allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1026-38</td>
<td>Agricultural and forestry vehicles allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1028-30</td>
<td>Construction vehicles allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1031</td>
<td>Exemption from traffic ban according to §40(1) of the Federal Immission Control Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1040-10</td>
<td>Winter sports along the road between 10-16hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1040-30</td>
<td>Restricted times (16-18hrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1040-32</td>
<td>Parking disc 2hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1040-33</td>
<td>Parking with parking disc in designated area, 2hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1042-30</td>
<td>Restricted times (weekdays only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1042-35</td>
<td>Restricted times (6-22hrs, Sundays and public holidays only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1042-36</td>
<td>School bus (restricted to daytimes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1044-10</td>
<td>Disabled and blind people only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1044-30</td>
<td>Residents with parking permit no. ... only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1048-10</td>
<td>Passenger cars only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1048-11</td>
<td>Passenger cars with trailer only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1048-12</td>
<td>Only vehicles over 3.5t and their trailers, excluding passenger cars and buses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1048-15</td>
<td>Only vehicles over 3.5t, also with trailers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1048-17</td>
<td>Motorhomes only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1049-11</td>
<td>Overtaking of slow-moving vehicles that cannot exceed 25kph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1049-13</td>
<td>Only vehicles over 3.5t, buses and passenger cars with trailers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1052-30</td>
<td>Speed and overtaking restrictions for the transport of hazardous goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1052-31</td>
<td>Speed and overtaking restrictions for vehicles carrying water pollutants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1052-35</td>
<td>Indication of weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1052-36</td>
<td>“Wet surface” sign supplementing sign 274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1052-37</td>
<td>No stopping/waiting on shoulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1052-38</td>
<td>Soft verges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1052-39</td>
<td>On shoulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1060-10</td>
<td>Sliding danger for vehicles pulling trailers on downhill section with strong side wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1060-11</td>
<td>Also bicycles and mopeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1060-30</td>
<td>Grit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Important traffic rules in Germany

■ Alcohol – blood alcohol limit is 50mg per 100ml.

■ Direction sign colours:
  On motorways       blue
  Outside built-up areas yellow
  In built-up areas  white

■ Emergency numbers: 110 for the police, 112 for an ambulance.

■ Motorcyclists must ride with their headlights on at all times.

■ Motorcyclists and their passengers must ride with helmets on at all times.

■ Motorists approaching a motorway traffic jam are recommended to switch on their hazard warning lights.

■ Special road signs announce the approach of filling stations, motels and service areas. These are usually open 24 hours/7 days.

■ While overnight stays on parking areas are allowed, camping activities such as putting up chairs and tables are not.

■ Speed limits for passenger cars and vehicles up to 3.5t:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>without trailer</th>
<th>with trailer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In built-up areas:</td>
<td>50kph</td>
<td>50kph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside built-up areas:</td>
<td>100kph</td>
<td>80kph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On motorways:</td>
<td></td>
<td>80kph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended maximum speed:</td>
<td></td>
<td>130kph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

■ Fog regulation: a speed limit of 50kph applies on all roads if visibility in fog, snow or rain is less than 50m. If visibility is further reduced, the speed has to be adapted accordingly.

■ Fog lights may be used in fog or snow or when visibility is generally reduced. Rear fog lights may only be used when visibility is less than 50m.

■ Vehicles breaking down on motorways may only be towed to the nearest suitable garage. The hazard warning lights of both vehicles must be switched on. Immobilised vehicles are required to leave the motorway at the next exit.

■ Seatbelts must be worn by drivers and all passengers. Children under 12 years old or shorter than 1.5m must use an approved child seat. If the child restraint system is not suitable for the child’s size and weight, the fine is 30 Euros; if no restraint system is used, it is 40 Euros. Unless you use a hands-free car kit, the use of mobile phones is prohibited while your vehicle is in operation. The fine for non-compliance is 40 Euros.

■ Tyre tread depth must be at least 1.6mm. This also applies to foreign-registered vehicles. Vehicle equipment must be appropriate to weather conditions. Make sure you use suitable tyres and have antifreeze in your washer system.