

Basic road traffic rules in Belgium

v. 2025-05-08

Introduction

Belgium uses the metric system and has right-hand traffic. Most traffic rules are self-explanatory, but some require further clarification. This document provides an overview of the most important rules that should be known by road users from abroad.

In case of emergency



In case of an incident, call 112. Wear a high-visibility vest when leaving the vehicle on a motorway or highway.



Fitness to drive

Drivers must be physically fit and skilled to remain in full control of their vehicle or animals at all times.

Driving under the influence of drugs, alcohol (over 0.22 mg/L breath or 0.5 g/L blood), or in a similar impaired state is prohibited.



Drivers may not hold an electronic device with a screen and may not operate one unless it is properly mounted in the vehicle.

Protection

Seatbelt use is obligatory when seatbelts are present. Seats with seat belts must be used first.

Speed pedelec, moped, and motorcycle riders must wear a helmet. Speed pedelec riders can choose between a moped and bicycle helmet as long as it protects the temples and back of the head. Additionally, motorcyclists must also wear, gloves, a jacket with long sleeves, long pants and boots or shoes that protect the ankles.

Transporting passengers and children

In motor vehicles, a suitable child seat must be used for children up to 135 cm (except in taxis and buses). In seats that are not equipped with a seat belt, it is forbidden to transport children under 3 years of age. In front seats that are not equipped with a seat belt, it is forbidden to transport children under 135 cm tall.

Children under 3 may not be transported on a speed pedelec, moped or motorbike. Children under 8 may not be transported on motorcycles over 125 cm³.

Passengers cannot be transported in a trailer, unless attached to a bicycle.

Access restrictions



[Brussels](#), [Antwerp](#) and [Ghent](#) restrict motor vehicle access based on emissions. Foreign vehicles may need registration to enter the Low Emission Zone (LEZ). Check each city's website for details.

Some streets can be restricted to local traffic, marked with a sign "no entry for all drivers" and an additional sign stating "except local traffic". Cyclists are always allowed.



Place on the road

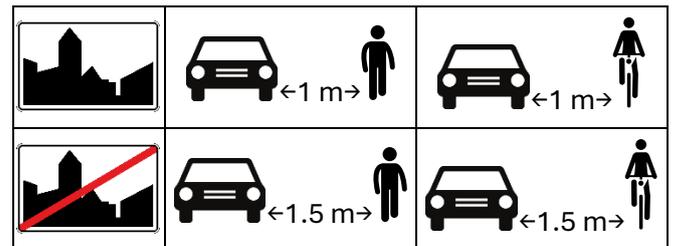
Keep right, unless following a designated lane.

Motorcyclists may use the whole width of the carriageway in one way traffic or the whole right half of the carriageway in two way traffic.

Users of non-motorized personal mobility devices (e.g. skateboard, kick-scooter) are considered pedestrians at walking speed and cyclists when going faster. Users of motorized personal mobility devices (e.g. e-scooter, hoverboard) are always considered cyclists.

Cycle lanes/paths are for bicycles, personal mobility devices and two-wheeled mopeds only.

Lateral distance



Priority

Always yield to trams, they have absolute priority.

Police instructions always override traffic lights and road signs. Without traffic lights or priority signs, yield to the right, except on roundabouts.

Zipper merge only when traffic is slow and no priority is indicated.



Horn and hazard lights

Using the horn and hazard lights is only allowed in case of imminent danger of an accident.

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Speed limits

Speed limits vary by region (BCR = Brussels-Capital Region; FR = Flemish region; WR = Walloon region), road type, vehicle type, and mass. The mass refers to the vehicle's maximum authorised mass (MAM) including the trailer.

	Region				
	all	20	20	20	20
	all	30	30	30	30
	all	30	30	30	30
	BCR	30	30	30	30
	FR & WR	50	50	50	50
	BCR & FR	70	70	70	60
	WR	90	90	90	90
	all	120	90	90	90
	all	120	90	90/100*	90
	WR only	70	70	70	60
Other roads	BCR & FR	70	70	70	60
	WR	90	90	75	60

*only with seat belts on all seats and a 100 km/h speed limiter

Slow traffic?

Lane filtering is allowed for motorcyclists, but no faster than 50 km/h or 20 km/h speed difference with surrounding traffic. On motorways, lane filtering is only allowed between the two leftmost lanes.

A rescue lane must be formed between the two leftmost lanes on all roads. Motorcyclists may use it but must yield to emergency vehicles.



Overtaking

Overtaking must always be done on the left, except when overtaking drivers turning left or trams.

On roads with 4+ lanes, lorries (MAM >7,5 t) may not overtake in case of precipitation.

Overtaking is prohibited when visibility is insufficient (e.g. corner, top of hill) and in cycle zones.



Stopping and parking

Stopping = the duration to get in/out the vehicle or to load/unload. Parking = all other purposes.

Stopping and parking is not allowed:

- On sidewalks, cycle lanes, cycle paths, railroad crossings, pedestrian and cyclist crossings, and raised shoulders within built-up areas;
- On the carriageway in tunnels and under bridges, or near the top of a hill or curve with insufficient visibility.
- 5 m in front of intersections and crossings;
- 20 m in front of traffic lights and signs, unless they are placed over 2 m high and your vehicle is under 1.65 m high.

Parking is not allowed:

- When the free passage on the carriageway becomes less than 3 m wide;
- On bus stops (15 m ← pole → 15 m);
- Before entrances or garages;
- Next to yellow stripes.



Additional signs:

	Paid parking
	Use parking disc everyday (except Sundays and public holidays), from 9:00 to 18:00, for up to 2 hours, unless stated otherwise by road signs.
	Reserved for persons with a disability. Parking card for persons with a disability required.
	Reserved for electric and hybrid vehicles, connected to the charger.