

TEST RESULTS

Saab 9-3 Convertible



RATING

SCORE



ADULT OCCUPANT
★★★★★

33

Front: 13
Side: 16

Seatbelt reminder: 2
Pole: 2



CHILD OCCUPANT
★★★★☆

31



PEDESTRIAN
★☆☆☆☆

7

Adult occupant protection



Frontal impact driver



Frontal impact passenger



Side impact driver

GOOD
ADEQUATE
MARGINAL
WEAK
POOR

Child restraints

18 month old Child Klippan, rearward facing

3 year old Child Klippan, rearward facing

Pedestrian protection

No image car front available

Safety equipment

Front seatbelt pretensioners

Front seatbelt load limiters

Driver frontal airbag

Front passenger frontal airbag

Side body airbags

Side head airbags

Driver knee airbag

Car details

Hand of drive LHD

Tested model Saab 9-3 2.0t Convertible

Body type Convertible

Year of publication 2004

Kerb weight 1435

VIN from which rating applies 46020010

Comments

This car has clearly been designed to keep its occupants as safe as possible. It achieved a five-star rating after Euro NCAP allowed a frontal retest, following changes to the pedal box. The cabin around the occupants survived the impact well, although the driver and passengers' chests were subjected to fairly high loads. The frontal airbags are dual-stage and include seat-position sensors for the front occupants. There were no safety issues with the side impact performance including the pole test. The 9-3 convertible and 9-3 saloon are identically packaged under the bonnet, so results for the pedestrian impacts were carried over from previous tests of the saloon.

Front impact

The knee impact area was particularly well designed, including a knee bolster that is designed to collapse when loaded. However, the steering column was judged to be capable of transmitting loads to the driver's knees. The footwell was undamaged, posing few hazards for the driver's feet and ankles. The front belts were fitted with load limiters and pre-tensioners. Even so, those in the front suffered reasonably high chest loads.

Side impact

A comprehensive protection system includes seat-mounted thorax and head airbags. The performance was very impressive, with no points lost in the side impact or pole tests.

Child occupant

Both restraints were Saab branded Klippan and rear facing. Each used the adult belt to secure their fronts. An instruction label showed that they also required a support leg to the floor and belts to secure them to the front seat mounting rails. These restraints protected well, although there was some load exerted on the younger child's neck, while the chest loads for both children were a little high. A four-language text warning and a pictogram were fixed to both sides of the passenger's sun visor. These warned of the potentially fatal risks if a child is put in a rear-facing seat opposite an air bag.

Pedestrian

This did not match the protection given to the car's occupants. The 9-3's bumper and bonnet sides were particularly unfriendly.