



Reward 2014

Opel Side Blind Spot Alert (SBSA)



Opel Side Blind Spot Alert (SBSA) system is a technology designed to assist a driver to avoid dangerous situations or collisions with other road users during a lane change. Ultrasonic sensors scan the area to the side and diagonally to the rear of the vehicle.

At speeds up to 140km/h, the system will indicate to the driver if there is a vehicle driving in the so-called 'blind-spot'. An indicator light in the door mirror will warn the driver if a vehicle might be invisible in the blind spot on that side. If the driver uses a direction indicator when another vehicle is within the danger zone, the warning indicator starts to flash.

The system will monitor both sides of the vehicle, so that it will support the driver when he intends to overtake as well as when he is being overtaken, to ensure that the car can be safely returned to its lane. The system works in almost all weather conditions and detects all types of vehicles, including motorcycles.

What is the safety benefit?

Opel SBSA is a technology developed to help the driver avoid accidents due to a lane change. To quantify the safety benefit, Opel identified that nearly 10% of all accidents are between vehicles driving in the same direction. Taking into account the system specifications of the Opel SBSA, the system has the potential to help avoid around 10% of these accidents. Owing to the nature of this type of accident, this technology provides a greater safety benefit at high speeds typical of rural roads and highways, and helps particularly to reduce severe and fatal accidents.

How has the system been assessed?

Opel has tested the system extensively during its development. A wide variety of tests were done on test tracks in addition to numerical simulations to establish the correct response of the system in different traffic situations.

A survey has shown a high level of satisfaction by users, a critical parameter in ensuring continued use.

What are the limitations?

Opel SBSA is ON by default when the vehicle leaves the factory. The driver can manually turn the system on and off using a switch on the dashboard. The last known status of the system is memorised.

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