



**EUROPEAN NEW CAR ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME
(Euro NCAP)**



ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL – ADULT OCCUPANT PROTECTION

Implementation 2023

Version 9.2
20th December 2021

Copyright 2021 © Euro NCAP - This work is the intellectual property of Euro NCAP. Permission is granted for this material to be shared for non-commercial, educational purposes, provided that this copyright statement appears on the reproduced materials and notice is given that the copying is by permission of Euro NCAP. To disseminate otherwise or to republish requires written permission from Euro NCAP.

EUROPEAN NEW CAR ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (Euro NCAP)

ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL – ADULT OCCUPANT PROTECTION

Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	METHOD OF ASSESSMENT	2
2.1	Points Calculation	3
2.1.1	Capping.....	3
3	MOBILE PROGRESSIVE DEFORMABLE BARRIER FRONTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	4
3.1	Criteria and Limit Values	4
3.1.1	Driver’s Head and Neck	4
3.1.2	Driver’s Neck.....	5
3.1.3	Driver’s Chest and Abdomen.....	5
3.1.4	Driver’s Knee, Femur and Pelvis.....	5
3.1.5	Driver’s Lower Leg, Foot and Ankle.....	6
3.1.6	Passenger’s Head and Neck.....	7
3.1.7	Passenger’s Chest	7
3.1.8	Passenger’s Knee, Femur and Pelvis	8
3.1.9	Passenger’s Lower Leg.....	8
3.2	Modifiers	9
3.2.1	Driver.....	9
3.2.2	Passenger	13
3.2.3	Door Opening during the Impact	13
3.2.4	Door Opening Forces after the Impact.....	13
3.3	Compatibility Assessment	13
3.3.1	Barrier Deformation.....	13
3.3.2	Occupant Load Criterion	14
3.3.3	Barrier Face Bottoming Out.....	14
3.4	Scoring & Visualisation	14
4	FRONTAL FULL WIDTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT	15
4.1	Criteria and Limit Values	15
4.1.1	Head.....	15
4.1.2	Neck.....	16
4.1.3	Chest	16
4.1.4	Knee, Femur and Pelvis	17
4.1.5	Lower Leg.....	17
4.2	Modifiers	17
4.2.1	Head.....	17
4.2.2	Chest	19
4.2.3	Knee, Femur & Pelvis.....	19
4.2.4	Door Opening during the Impact	19
4.3	Scoring & Visualisation	20
5	SIDE BARRIER AND POLE IMPACT ASSESSMENT	21
5.1	Criteria and Limit Values	21
5.1.1	Head.....	21
5.1.2	Chest	22

5.1.3	Abdomen	22
5.1.4	Pelvis	22
5.2	Modifiers	23
5.2.1	Shoulder.....	23
5.2.2	Chest & Abdomen	23
5.2.3	Side Head Protection Device (Pole Impact Only).....	23
5.3	Scoring & Visualisation.....	25
6	<i>WHIPLASH SEAT ASSESSMENT</i>.....	26
6.1	Front Seat Whiplash Assessment	26
6.1.1	Criteria and Limit Values	26
6.1.2	Front Whiplash Modifiers.....	29
6.2	Rear Seat Whiplash Assessment	29
6.2.1	Prerequisite	29
6.2.2	Criteria and Limit Values	30
6.3	Scoring.....	32
6.3.1	Front Whiplash Score	32
6.3.2	Rear Whiplash Score	33
6.4	Visualisation.....	34
6.4.1	Front Whiplash Visualisation	34
6.4.2	Rear Whiplash Visualisation.....	34
7	<i>RESCUE, EXTRICATION AND SAFETY</i>.....	35
8	<i>CONCEPTS BEHIND THE ASSESSMENTS</i>.....	36
8.1	Frontal Impact.....	36
8.1.1	Head.....	36
8.1.2	Neck.....	36
8.1.3	Chest	36
8.1.4	Abdomen	37
8.1.5	Knee, Femur & Pelvis.....	37
8.1.6	Lower Leg.....	38
8.1.7	Foot and Ankle	38
8.2	Side and Pole Impact.....	38
8.3	Door Opening (Front, Side, Pole Impact).....	38
8.4	Whiplash.....	39
8.4.1	Geometry Assessment.....	39
8.4.2	Worst Case Geometry	39
8.4.3	Seatback Dynamic Deflection.....	39
8.4.4	Dummy Artefact Loading.....	39
9	<i>REFERENCES</i>	40
	<i>APPENDIX I</i>.....	41

1 INTRODUCTION

Euro NCAP's original assessment protocol was developed jointly by TRL and Vehicle Safety Consultants Ltd under contract to the UK Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions and International Testing, respectively. Subsequent versions of the protocol have been developed and released by the Euro NCAP Secretariat. Beginning with Version 5 important changes have been included that have been brought about by the introduction of the overall rating scheme. Individual documents are released for the four main areas of assessment:

- Assessment Protocol – Adult Occupant Protection
- Assessment Protocol – Child Occupant Protection
- Assessment Protocol – Vulnerable Road User Protection
- Assessment Protocol – Safety Assist

In addition to these four assessment protocols, a separate document is provided describing the method and criteria by which the overall safety rating is calculated on the basis of the car performance in each of the above areas of assessment.

The following protocol deals with the assessments made in the area of Adult Occupant Protection, in particular in the frontal mobile progressive deformable barrier (MPDB) and full width impact tests, the side impact barrier test, the pole test, far side, whiplash tests and rescue.

DISCLAIMER: Euro NCAP has taken all reasonable care to ensure that the information published in this protocol is accurate and reflects the technical decisions taken by the organisation. In the unlikely event that this protocol contains a typographical error or any other inaccuracy, Euro NCAP reserves the right to make corrections and determine the assessment and subsequent result of the affected requirement(s).

2 METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

The starting point for the assessment of adult occupant protection is the dummy response data recorded in the different test configurations. All criteria used are calculated according to Technical Bulletin 21. Initially, each relevant body area is given a score based on the measured dummy parameters. These scores can be adjusted after the test based on supplementary requirements. E.g. for frontal impact, consideration is given to whether the original score should be adjusted to reflect occupant kinematics or sensitivity to small changes in contact location, which might influence the protection of different sized occupants in different seating positions. The assessment also considers the structural performance of the car by taking account of such aspects as steering wheel displacement, pedal movement, foot well distortion and displacement of the A pillar. The adjustments (or modifiers) based on both inspection and geometrical considerations are applied to the body area assessments to which they are most relevant.

For frontal MPDB impact, the score for each body area is based on the driver data, unless part of the passenger fared less well. It is stated that the judgement relates primarily to the driver. For frontal full width, the score is based on driver and rear passenger. Side impact and pole impact results relate to the struck-side occupant only, while Whiplash results cover front and rear occupants. No attempt is made to rate the risk of life-threatening injury any differently from the risk of disabling injury. Similarly, no attempt is made to rate the risk of the more serious but less frequent injury any differently from the risk of less serious but more frequent injury. Care has been taken to try to avoid encouraging manufacturers from concentrating their attention on areas which would provide little benefit in accidents.

From the information collected in the five test scenarios, individual test scores are computed for the frontal tests, side and pole impact and whiplash protection. The adjusted score for the different body regions is presented, in a visual format of coloured segments within a human body outline. This is presented for the driver and front/rear seat passenger in frontal impact, for the driver in side and pole impact and for all occupants in rear impact. Finally, for the complete area of adult occupant protection assessment, the scores for frontal, side, pole and whiplash are summed. The resulting Adult Occupant Protection Score is expressed as a percentage of the maximum achievable number of points.

In addition to the basic Euro NCAP assessment, additional information is recorded and may be reported. In future, some of these additional aspects may be added to the Euro NCAP assessment.

2.1 Points Calculation

A sliding scale system of points scoring will be used to calculate points for each measured criterion. This involves two limits for each parameter, a more demanding limit (higher performance), below which a maximum score is obtained and a less demanding limit (lower performance), beyond which no points are scored. In frontal, side, and pole impacts, the maximum score for each body region is four points; for rear impact protection, it is three points*. Where a value falls between the two limits, the score is calculated by linear interpolation.

2.1.1 Capping

Capping limits are maintained for criteria related to critical body regions. Exceeding a capping limit generally indicates unacceptable high risk at injury or, in the case of the whiplash tests, an unacceptably high seat design parameter. In all cases, this leads to loss of all points related to the tests. Capping limits can be equal to or higher than the lower performance limit, depending on the test.

* Neck only – based on a combination of scores obtained in three individual test conditions.

3 MOBILE PROGRESSIVE DEFORMABLE BARRIER FRONTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

3.1 Criteria and Limit Values

The basic assessment criteria used for frontal impact, with the higher and lower performance limits for each parameter, are summarised below. Where multiple criteria exist for an individual body region, the lowest scoring parameter is used to determine the performance of that region. The lowest scoring body region of driver or passenger is used to determine the score. For the MPDB impact, capping is applied on the critical body regions: head, neck and chest (see 2.1.1).

3.1.1 Driver's Head and Neck

3.1.1.1 Vehicles with Steering Wheel Airbags

If a steering wheel airbag is fitted the following criteria are used to assess the protection of the head for the driver. These criteria are always used for the passenger.

Note: HIC15 levels above 1000 have been recorded with airbags, where there is no hard contact and no established risk of internal head injury. A hard contact is assumed if the peak resultant head acceleration exceeds 80g or if there is other evidence of hard contact.

If there is no hard contact a score of 4 points is awarded. If there is hard contact, the following limits are used:

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
HIC15	-	500.00	700.00	700.00
Resultant Acc 3msec exceedance	g	72.00	80.00	80.00

Monitoring of CAE simulation based brain injury criteria is currently underway with application to be implemented in 2025.

3.1.1.2 Vehicles with No Steering Wheel Airbag

If no steering wheel airbag is fitted, the driver will be awarded 0 points for the head and neck.

3.1.2 Driver's Neck

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Shear	kN	1.90	3.10	3.10
Tension	kN	2.70	3.30	3.30
Extension	Nm	42.00	57.00	57.00

3.1.3 Driver's Chest and Abdomen

3.1.3.1 Driver's Chest

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Max Compression of all 4 ribs	mm	35.00	60.00	60.00

3.1.3.2 Driver's Abdomen

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Max Compression (left or right)	mm	NA	88.00	NA

3.1.4 Driver's Knee, Femur and Pelvis

3.1.4.1 Driver's Pelvis

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Acetabulum compression	kN	3.28	4.10	NA

3.1.4.2 Driver's Upper leg

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Femur compression	kN	3.80	9.07 @ 0 ms 7.56 @ ≥10ms	NA
Knee slider compression	mm	6.00	15.00	NA

Note: Femur compression is assessed from a cumulative exceedence plot, with the limits being functions of time. By interpolation, a plot of points against time is computed. The minimum point on this plot gives the score. Plots of the limits and colour rating boundaries are given in Appendix I.

The Lumbar forces and moments are measured for monitoring purpose only.

3.1.5 Driver's Lower Leg, Foot and Ankle

3.1.5.1 Driver's Lower Leg

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Tibia Index	-	0.40	1.30	NA
Tibia compression	kN	2.00	8.00	NA

3.1.5.2 Driver's Foot/Ankle

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Pedal rearward displacement	mm	100.00	200.00	NA

Notes:

- 1. Pedal displacement is measured for all pedals with no load applied to them.*
- 2. If any of the pedals are designed to completely release from their mountings during the impact, no account is taken of the pedal displacement provided that release occurred in the test and that the pedal retains no significant resistance to movement.*
- 3. If a mechanism is present to move the pedal forwards in an impact, the resulting position of the pedal is used in the assessment.*

3.1.6 Passenger's Head and Neck

3.1.6.1 Passenger's Head

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
HIC15	-	500.00	700.00	700.00
Resultant Acc 3msec exceedance	g	72.00	80.00	80.00

3.1.6.2 Passenger's Neck

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Shear	kN	1.90 @ 0ms 1.20 @ 25-35ms 1.10 @ 45ms	3.10 @ 0ms 1.50 @ 25-35ms 1.10 @ 60ms	3.10 @ 0ms 1.50 @ 25-35ms 1.10 @ 60ms
Tension	kN	2.70 @ 0ms 2.30 @ 35ms 1.10 @ 60ms	3.30 @ 0ms 2.90 @ 35ms 1.10 @ 60ms	3.30 @ 0ms 2.90 @ 35ms 1.10 @ 60ms
Extension	Nm	42.00	57.00	57.00

Note: Neck Shear and Tension are assessed from cumulative exceedance plots, with the limits being functions of time. By interpolation, a plot of points against time is computed. The minimum point on this plot gives the score. Plots of the limits and colour rating boundaries are given in Appendix I.

3.1.7 Passenger's Chest

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Compression	mm	22.00	42.00	42.00
Viscous Criterion	m/s	0.50	1.00	1.00

3.1.8 Passenger's Knee, Femur and Pelvis

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Femur compression	kN	3.80	9.07 @ 0 ms 7.56 @ ≥10ms	NA
Knee slider compression	mm	6.00	15.00	NA

Note: Femur compression is assessed from a cumulative exceedence plot, with the limits being functions of time. By interpolation, a plot of points against time is computed. The minimum point on this plot gives the score. Plots of the limits and colour rating boundaries are given in Appendix I.

The Lumbar forces and moments are measured for monitoring purpose only.

3.1.9 Passenger's Lower Leg

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Tibia Index	-	0.40	1.30	NA
Tibia compression	kN	2.00	8.00	NA

3.2 Modifiers

3.2.1 Driver

The score generated from driver dummy data may be modified where the protection for different sized occupants or occupants in different seating positions, or accidents of slightly different severity, can be expected to be worse than that indicated by the dummy readings or deformation data alone. There is no limit to the number of modifiers that can be applied. The concepts behind the modifiers are explained in Section 7.

3.2.1.1 Head

Brain Injury - DAMAGE

Where the DAMAGE criterion exceeds the values detailed below, a modifier will be applied to the driver's head assessment. The criterion will be calculated as defined in Technical Bulletin TB 035.

DAMAGE \geq 0.42 and <0.47 -1 point

DAMAGE \geq 0.47 -2 points

Unstable Contact on the Airbag

If during the forward movement of the head its centre of gravity moves further than the outside edge of the airbag, head contact is deemed to be unstable. The score is reduced by one point. If for any other reason head protection by the airbag is compromised, such as by detachment of the steering wheel from the column, or bottoming-out of the airbag by the dummy head, the modifier is also applied.

Note: Head bottoming-out is defined as follows: There is a definite rapid increase in the slope of one or more of the head acceleration traces, at a time when the dummy head is deep within the airbag. The acceleration spike associated with the bottoming out should last for more than 3ms. The acceleration spike associated with the bottoming out should generate a peak value more than 5 g above the likely level to have been reached if the spike had not occurred. This level will be established by smooth extrapolation of the curve between the start and end of the bottoming out spike.

Hazardous Airbag Deployment

If, within the head zone, the airbag unfolds in a manner in which a flap develops, which sweeps across the face of an occupant vertically or horizontally the -1 point modifier for unstable airbag contact will be applied to the head score. If the airbag material deploys rearward, within the "head zone" at more than 90 m/s, the -1 point modifier will be applied to the head score. Further details are contained in Euro NCAP Technical Bulletin TB 001.

Incorrect Airbag Deployment

Any airbag(s) which does not deploy fully in the designed manner will attract a -1 point modifier applicable to each of the most relevant body part(s) for the affected occupant. For example, where a steering wheel mounted airbag is deemed to have deployed incorrectly, the penalty will be applied to the frontal impact driver's head (-1). Where, a passenger knee airbag fails to deploy correctly, the penalty will be applied to the frontal impact passenger left and right knee, femur and pelvis (-1).

Where the incorrect deployment affects multiple body parts, the modifier will be applied to each individual body part. For example, where a seat or door mounted side airbag, that is intended to provide protection to the head as well as the thorax, abdomen or pelvis deploys incorrectly, the penalty will be applied to two body regions, -1 to the head and -1 to the chest.

The modifier(s) will be applied to the scores of the impacts for which the airbag was intended to offer protection, regardless of the impact in which it deployed incorrectly. For example, the penalty will be applied to the side and pole impact scores if a side protection airbag deploys incorrectly during the frontal crash. Or, if a knee airbag deploys incorrectly in the full width impact, the modifier will be applied to the pelvic region of both the MPDB and full width tests. Where any frontal protection airbag deploys incorrectly, Euro NCAP will not accept knee mapping data for that occupant.

Displacement of the Steering Column

The score is reduced for excessive rearward, lateral or upward static displacement of the top end of the steering column. Up to 90 percent of the EEVC limits, there is no penalty. Beyond 110 percent of the EEVC limits, there is a penalty of one point. Between these limits, the penalty is generated by linear interpolation. The EEVC recommended limits are: 100mm rearwards, 80mm upwards and 100mm lateral movement. The modifier used in the assessment is based on the worst of the rearward, lateral and upward penalties.

3.2.1.2 Chest

Displacement of the A Pillar

The score is reduced for excessive rearward displacement of the driver's front door pillar, at a height of 100mm below the lowest level of the side window aperture. [Up to 100mm displacement there is no penalty. Above 200mm there is a penalty of two points. Between these limits, the penalty is generated by linear interpolation.]

Integrity of the Passenger Compartment

Where the structural integrity of the passenger compartment is deemed to have been compromised, a penalty of one point is applied. The loss of structural integrity may be indicated by characteristics such as:

- Door latch or hinge failure, unless the door is adequately retained by the door frame.
- Buckling or other failure of the door resulting in severe loss of fore/aft compressive strength.
- Separation or near separation of the cross facia rail to A pillar joint.
- Severe loss of strength of the door aperture.

When this modifier is applied, Euro NCAP will not accept knee mapping data.

Steering Wheel Contact

Where there is obvious direct loading of the chest from the steering wheel, a one point penalty is applied.

Shoulder belt load (Driver and Front Passenger)

Where the shoulder belt load filtered at CFC60 exceeds 6.00kN a two point penalty is applied.

3.2.1.3 Abdomen & Pelvis

Submarining (Driver)

The score for the Knee, Femur & Pelvis is reduced by 4 points when submarining occurs. The modifier is applied when a sudden drop in any of the two iliac forces measured is seen within 1ms and when the submarining is confirmed on the high speed film.

3.2.1.4 Knee & Femur

Variable Contact

The position of the dummy's knees is specified by the test protocol. Consequently, their point of contact on the facia is pre-determined. This is not the case with human drivers, who may have their knees in a variety of positions prior to impact. Different sized occupants and those seated in different positions may also have different knee contact locations on the facia and their knees may penetrate into the facia to a greater extent. In order to take some account of this, a larger area of potential knee contact is considered. If contact at other points, within this greater area, would be more aggressive penalties are applied.

The area considered extends vertically 50mm above and below the maximum height of the actual knee impact location [8]. Vertically upwards, consideration is given to the region up to 50mm above the maximum height of knee contact in the test. If the steering column has risen during the test it may be repositioned to its lowest setting if possible. Horizontally, for the outboard leg, it extends from the centre of the steering column to the end of the facia. For the inboard leg, it extends from the centre of the steering column the same distance inboard, unless knee contact would be prevented by some structure such as a centre console. Over the whole area, an additional penetration depth of 20mm is considered, beyond that identified as the maximum knee penetration in the test. The region

considered for each knee is generated independently. Where, over these areas and this depth, femur loads greater than 3.8kN and/or knee slider displacements greater than 6mm would be expected, a one point penalty is applied to the relevant leg.

Concentrated Loading

The biomechanical tests which provided the injury tolerance data were carried out using a padded impactor which spread the load over the knee. Where there are structures in the knee impact area which could concentrate forces on part of the knee a one point penalty is applied to the relevant leg.

Where a manufacturer is able to show, by means of acceptable test data, that the Variable Contact and/or Concentrated Loading modifiers should not be applied, the penalties may be removed.

If the Concentrated load modifier is not applied to either of the driver's knees, the left and right knee zones (defined above) will both be split into two further areas, a 'column' area and the rest of the fascia. The column area for each knee will extend 60mm from the centreline of the steering column and the remainder of the fascia will form the other area for each knee. As a result, the one point penalty for Variable Contact will be divided into two with one half of a point being applied to the column area and one half of a point to the remainder of the fascia for each knee.

3.2.1.5 Lower Leg

Upward Displacement of the Worst Performing Pedal

The score is reduced for excessive upward static displacement of the pedals. Up to 90 percent of the limit considered by EEVC, there is no penalty. Beyond 110 percent of the limit, there is a penalty of one point. Between these limits, the penalty is generated by linear interpolation. The limit agreed by EEVC was 80mm.

3.2.1.6 Foot & Ankle

Footwell Rupture

The score is reduced if there is significant rupture of the footwell area. This is usually due to separation of spot welded seams. A one point penalty is applied for footwell rupture. The footwell rupture may either pose a direct threat to the driver's feet or be sufficiently extensive to threaten the stability of footwell response. When this modifier is applied, Euro NCAP will not accept knee mapping data.

Pedal Blocking

Where the rearward displacement of a 'blocked' pedal exceeds 175mm relative to the pre-test measurement, a one point penalty is applied to the driver's foot and ankle assessment. A pedal is blocked when the forward movement of the intruded pedal under a load of 200N is <25mm. Between 50mm and 175mm of rearward displacement the penalty is calculated using a sliding scale between 0 to 1 points.

3.2.2 Passenger

The score generated from passenger dummy data may be modified where the protection for different sized occupants or occupants in different seating positions, or accidents of slightly different severity, can be expected to be worse than that indicated by the dummy readings alone. There is no limit to the number of modifiers that can be applied. The concepts behind the modifiers are explained in section 7. The modifiers applicable to the passenger are:

- *Unstable Contact on the airbag*
- *Hazardous airbag deployment*
- *Shoulder belt load*
- *Incorrect airbag deployment*
- *Knee, Femur & Pelvis, Variable Contact*
- *Knee, Femur & Pelvis, Concentrated loading*

The assessments airbag stability, head bottoming-out (where present) and the knee impact areas are the same as for driver. For the outboard knee, the lateral range of the knee impact area extends from the centre line of the passenger seat to the outboard end of the fascia. For the inboard knee, the area extends the same distance inboard of the seat centre line, unless knee contact is prevented by the presence of some structure such as the centre console. The passenger knee zones and penalties will not be divided into two areas even if the concentrated load modifier is not applied.

3.2.3 Door Opening during the Impact

When a door opens in the test, a minus one-point modifier will be applied to the score for that test. The modifier will be applied to the frontal impact assessment for every door (including tailgates and moveable roofs) that opens. The number of door opening modifiers that can be applied to the vehicle score is not limited.

3.2.4 Door Opening Forces after the Impact

Refer to the Rescue and Extrication protocol for further details of post-test assessment.

3.3 Compatibility Assessment

The Compatibility assessment is a 0 to -8 point penalty applied to the overall MPDB test score. The compatibility assessment is based upon three parameters, the post-test barrier deformation, the occupant load criterion (OLC) and bottoming out of the deformable barrier face. For further details of the compatibility assessment calculation see Technical bulletin TB027. The maximum compatibility assessment penalty will not exceed -8 points.

3.3.1 Barrier Deformation

The standard deviation assessment of the post-test barrier deformation measurements ranges from 50mm – 150mm.

3.3.2 Occupant Load Criterion

The OLC is based upon the trolley deceleration and ranges from 25g - 40g.

3.3.3 Barrier Face Bottoming Out

The bottoming out criterion is based upon a barrier face penetration depth of 630mm that has been caused by a load bearing structure in an area that is larger than 40mm x 40mm. Where bottoming out occurs, a -2 point penalty will be added to the barrier deformation and OLC penalty.

3.4 Scoring & Visualisation

The protection provided for adults for each body region are presented visually, using coloured segments within body outlines. The colour used is based on the points awarded for that body region (rounded to three decimal places), as follows:

Green	‘Good’	4.000	points
Yellow	‘Adequate’	2.670 - 3.999	points
Orange	‘Marginal’	1.330 - 2.669	points
Brown	‘Weak’	0.001 - 1.329	points
Red	‘Poor’	0.000	points

For frontal impact, the body regions are grouped together, with the score for the grouped body region being that of the worst performing region or limb. The grouped regions are: Head and Neck (4 points), Chest and Abdomen (4 points), Pelvis and Upper Leg (i.e. left and right femur and knee slider) (4 points) and Lower Leg and Foot (i.e. left and right lower leg and foot and ankle) (4 points). Results are shown separately for driver and passenger.

The contribution of the frontal impact test to the Adult Occupant Protection Score is calculated by summing the body scores for the relevant body regions, taking the lower of the driver and passenger scores for each region (16 points total). This score is halved with a total achievable score of 8 points.

4 FRONTAL FULL WIDTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 Criteria and Limit Values

The basic assessment criteria used for the full width frontal impact test, with the higher and lower performance limits for each parameter, are summarised below. Where multiple criteria exist for an individual body region, the lowest scoring parameter is used to determine the performance of that region. This does however not apply to the neck assessment for the rear passenger dummy. The scoring for the rear passenger neck is detailed in section 4.1.2.

The full width test is performed with a driver and rear passenger dummy as standard. The OEM is requested to provide data for the front passenger(s) from the same test set-up to demonstrate similar protection levels for all occupants seated in the front row. In cases where the OEM is not willing or able to provide this data, Euro NCAP may perform the full width test with an additional HIII-05F dummy in the front passenger seat.

Note: The front passenger data needs to be provided to the Euro NCAP Secretariat at least one week before the full width test is performed.

4.1.1 Head

4.1.1.1 Drivers with Steering Wheel Airbags and Passengers

If a steering wheel airbag is fitted the following criteria are used to assess the protection of the head for the driver. These criteria are always used for the passenger.

Note: HIC15 levels above 700 have been recorded with airbags, where there is no hard contact and no established risk of internal head injury. A hard contact is assumed, if the peak resultant head acceleration exceeds 80g, or if there is other evidence of hard contact.

If there is no hard contact a score of 4 points is awarded. If there is hard contact, the following limits are used:

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
HIC15	-	500.00	700.00	700.00
Resultant Acc 3msec exceedance	g	72.00	80.00	80.00

4.1.1.2 Drivers with No Steering Wheel Airbag

If no steering wheel airbag is fitted, the driver will be awarded 0 points for the head and neck.

4.1.1.3 Rear Passenger

If there is no hard contact seen on the high speed film, the score is based on the 3ms resultant acceleration. If there is hard contact confirmed on the high speed film, the following limits are used:

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
HIC15	-	500.00	700.00	700.00
Resultant Acc 3msec exceedance	g	72.00	80.00	80.00

4.1.2 Neck

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Shear	kN	1.20	1.95	2.70 (driver)
Tension	kN	1.70	2.62	2.90 (driver)
Extension	Nm	36.00	49.00	57.00 (driver)

For the rear passenger dummy, the neck score is the sum of all three criteria, with the following maximum score per criterion:

Shear	1 point
Tension	1 point
Extension	2 points

4.1.3 Chest

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Compression	mm	18.00	42.00*	42.00*
Viscous Criterion	m/s	0.50	1.00	1.00

*From 2023 onwards, lower performance and capping limits will be 34.0mm.

4.1.4 Knee, Femur and Pelvis

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Femur compression	kN	2.60	6.20	NA

The knee slider displacement and the Lumbar forces and moments are measured for monitoring purpose only.

4.1.5 Lower Leg

The Lower Legs are measured for monitoring purpose only.

4.2 Modifiers

The score generated from dummy data may be modified where the protection for different sized occupants or occupants in different seating positions, or accidents of slightly different severity, can be expected to be worse than that indicated by the dummy readings or deformation data alone. There is no limit to the number of modifiers that can be applied.

4.2.1 Head

Unstable Contact on the Airbag (Driver and Rear Passenger)

If during the forward movement of the head its centre of gravity moves further than the outside edge of the airbag, head contact is deemed to be unstable. The score is reduced by one point. If for any other reason head protection by the airbag is compromised, such as by detachment of the steering wheel from the column, or bottoming-out of the airbag by the dummy head, the modifier is also applied.

Note: Head bottoming-out is defined as follows: There is a definite rapid increase in the slope of one or more of the head acceleration traces, at a time when the dummy head is deep within the airbag. The acceleration spike associated with the bottoming out should last for more than 3ms. The acceleration spike associated with the bottoming out should generate a peak value more than 5 g above the likely level to have been reached if the spike had not occurred. This level will be established by smooth extrapolation of the curve between the start and end of the bottoming out spike.

Hazardous Airbag Deployment (Driver and Rear Passenger)

If, within the head zone, the airbag was seen to unfold in a manner in which a flap develops, which sweeps across the face of an occupant vertically or horizontally the -1 point modifier for unstable airbag contact will be applied to the head score. Also, when the airbag material deployed rearward, within the “head zone” at more than 90 m/s, the -1 point modifier will be applied to the head score. The head zone and other details regarding this assessment are contained in Euro NCAP Technical Bulletin TB 001.

Incorrect Airbag Deployment (Driver and Rear Passenger)

Any airbag(s) which does not deploy fully in the designed manner will attract a -1 point modifier applicable to each of the most relevant body part(s) for the affected occupant. For example, where a steering wheel mounted airbag is deemed to have deployed incorrectly, the penalty will be applied to the frontal impact driver’s head (-1). Where, a passenger knee airbag fails to deploy correctly, the penalty will be applied to the frontal impact passenger left and right knee, femur and pelvis (-1).

Where the incorrect deployment affects multiple body parts, the modifier will be applied to each individual body part. For example, where a seat or door mounted side airbag, that is intended to provide protection to the head as well as the thorax, abdomen or pelvis deploys incorrectly, the penalty will be applied to two body regions, -1 to the head and -1 to the chest.

The modifier(s) will be applied to the scores of the impacts for which the airbag was intended to offer protection, regardless of the impact in which it deployed incorrectly. For example, the penalty will be applied to the side and pole impact scores if a side protection airbag deploys incorrectly during the frontal crash. Or, if a knee airbag deploys incorrectly in the full width impact, the modifier will be applied to the pelvic region of both the MPDB and full width tests. Where any frontal protection airbag deploys incorrectly, Euro NCAP will not accept knee mapping data for that occupant.

Displacement of the Steering Column (Driver)

The score is reduced for excessive rearward, lateral or upward static displacement of the top end of the steering column. Up to 90 percent of the EEVC limits, there is no penalty. Beyond 110 percent of the EEVC limits, there is a penalty of one point. Between these limits, the penalty is generated by linear interpolation. The EEVC recommended limits are: 100mm rearwards, 80mm upwards and 100mm lateral movement. The modifier used in the assessment is based on the worst of the rearward, lateral and upward penalties.

Exceeding forward excursion line (Rear Passenger)

The score is reduced for excessive forward excursion. Where the head of the Rear Passenger exceeds the 450mm or 550mm forward excursion line as defined in the full width test protocol, a 2 or 4 point modifier respectively is applied. The modifier can be removed when it is shown by means of numerical simulation or a sled test that the HIII-50M does not contact the front passenger seat

when in the 50M seating position, or when the HIC₁₅ value is below 700 in case of contact with the front passenger seat. The rear seat shall be set to the HIII-50M design position.

4.2.2 Chest

Steering Wheel Contact (Driver)

Where there is obvious direct loading of the chest from the steering wheel, a one point penalty is applied.

Shoulder belt load (Driver and Rear Passenger)

Where the shoulder belt load filtered at CFC60 exceeds 6.00kN a two point penalty is applied.

4.2.3 Knee, Femur & Pelvis

Submarining (Driver and Rear Passenger)

The score for the Knee, Femur & Pelvis is reduced by 4 points when submarining occurs. The modifier is applied when a drop in any of the two iliac forces measured is seen within 1 ms and when the submarining is confirmed on the high speed film.

4.2.4 Door Opening during the Impact

When a door opens in the test, a minus one-point modifier will be applied to the score for that test. The modifier will be applied to the frontal impact assessment for every door (including tailgates and moveable roofs) that opens. The number of door opening modifiers that can be applied to the vehicle score is not limited.

4.2.5 Door Opening Forces after the Impact

Refer to the Rescue and Extrication protocol for further details of post-test assessment.

4.3 Scoring & Visualisation

The scores for the driver and rear passenger dummy are averaged. For the Full Width frontal impact, capping is applied on the critical body regions: head, neck (driver only) and chest.

To ensure similar levels of protection for all occupants, the total dummy score (excluding modifiers) of the front passenger (based on manufacturer provided data) may not be less than 90% of that of total score of the driver. The front passenger data needs to be provided to the Euro NCAP Secretariat before the full width test is performed. When this requirement is not met, the front row will be assessed using the worst performing body region of the driver and front passenger.

The protection provided for adults for each body region are presented visually, using coloured segments within body outlines. The colour used is based on the points awarded for that body region (rounded to three decimal places), as follows:

Green	‘Good’	4.000	points
Yellow	‘Adequate’	2.670 - 3.999	points
Orange	‘Marginal’	1.330 - 2.669	points
Brown	‘Weak’	0.001 - 1.329	points
Red	‘Poor’	0.000	points

For frontal impact, the body regions are grouped together, with the score for the grouped body region being that of the worst performing region or limb. The grouped regions are: Head (4 points), Neck (4 points), Chest (4 points) and Knee, Femur & Pelvis (i.e. left and right femur) (4 points). Results are shown separately for driver and rear passenger.

The contribution of the frontal impact test to the Adult Occupant Protection Score is calculated by summing the body scores for the relevant body regions and calculating the average of the driver and rear passenger scores (total of 16 points each) and dividing it by two. The total achievable score for the Full Width test is 8 points.

5 SIDE BARRIER AND POLE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

For the far side occupant protection assessment, refer to the Far Side Test and Assessment Protocol.

5.1 Criteria and Limit Values

The basic assessment criteria used for both side barrier and pole impacts, with the higher and lower performance limits for each parameter, are summarised below. The assessments are divided into four individual body regions, the head, chest, abdomen and pelvis. The criteria and limits are equal for side barrier and pole test except for the head and chest. A maximum of four points are available for each body region. Where multiple criteria exist for an individual body region, the lowest scoring parameter is used to determine the performance of that region. There is no limit to the number of modifiers that can be applied. The concepts behind the modifiers are explained in section 7.

For both side and pole impacts, capping is applied on the head, chest, abdomen and pelvis. Where no head protection systems are present, the pole test will not be allowed and the points for that test are set to zero.

Note: The requirement is for the fitment of a head protection system, meaning that the manufacturer is free to use a solution other than an airbag. However, for technologies other than conventional curtain or head airbags, the manufacturer is requested to provide evidence that the system is effective, at least in principle, before a test can be allowed.

5.1.1 Head

5.1.1.1 Side barrier impact

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
HIC15	-	500.00	700.00	700.00
Resultant Acc 3msec exceedance	g	72.00	80.00	80.00

5.1.1.2 Side pole impact

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
HIC15	-			700.00
Peak resultant Acceleration	g			80.00
Direct head contact with the pole				Capping applied

5.1.2 Chest

The assessment is based on the worst performing individual rib lateral compression.

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Lateral Compression	mm	28.00	50.00	50.00 (MDB) 55.00 (pole)

5.1.3 Abdomen

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Lateral Compression	mm	47.00	65.00	65.00

5.1.4 Pelvis

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
Pubic Symphysis Force	kN	1.70	2.80	2.80

5.2 Modifiers

5.2.1 Shoulder

Where the shoulder lateral force (Y direction) component is 3.0kN or above, no points will be awarded for the chest assessment.

5.2.2 Chest & Abdomen

Where the viscous criterion ($V \cdot C$) is 1.0m/s or above for the chest, abdomen or both, no points will be awarded for the relevant body region assessment.

5.2.3 Side Head Protection Device (Near-side Occupant in Pole Impact Only)

Vehicles equipped with head protection side airbags, curtain, seat mounted or any other, will have the inflated energy absorbing areas evaluated by means of a geometric assessment. The airbags must provide protection for a range of occupant sizes in both the front and the rear on both sides of the vehicle. Where a vehicle does not offer sufficient protection, a penalty of -4 points, -2 for front and -2 for rear seats, shall be applied to the overall pole impact score. Any vehicle that does not provide a head protection device covering the front and rear seat positions on both sides of the vehicle will also attract this modifier.

5.2.3.1 Coverage areas

To ensure adequate head protection is offered, the head protection device coverage is assessed in the geometric area, or the Head Protection Device (HPD) assessment zone, where the occupant head would most likely impact side structures. If the vehicle is equipped with movable rear seats the seat shall be set to the most rearward position. If there is a third row of fixed seats, these will be included in the assessment unless they are per manufacturers' recommendation not suitable for adult occupation (handbook).

5.2.3.2 Application

Where the airbags differ between the left and right hand sides of the vehicle, the airbags on both sides of the vehicle will be evaluated and the assessment will be based upon worst performing side. All areas of the airbag, both front and rear, will be evaluated and the assessment will be based upon the worst performing part of any of the airbags.

5.2.3.3 Exclusions

The head protecting airbags should cover all glazed areas within the defined zone up to the edge of door daylight opening (FMVSS201) where it meets the roofline, B-pillar, C-pillar and door waistline. Seams in the airbag will not be penalised provided that the un-inflated area is no wider than 15mm. Any other areas where the airbag layers are connected will not be penalised provided that the surrounding areas are inflated and any un-inflated areas are no larger than 50mm in diameter or equivalent area or the sum of the major and minor axes of individual areas does not exceed 100mm. In the case that the un-inflated area would be larger than described above, the OEM shall provide data to demonstrate sufficient energy absorption is guaranteed.

Where a vehicle is fitted with a third row of foldable or removable seats, the third row (only) will be excluded from the assessment.

5.2.4 Incorrect Airbag Deployment

Any airbag(s) which does not deploy fully in the designed manner will attract a -1 point modifier applicable to each of the most relevant body part(s) for the affected occupant. For example, where a head curtain airbag is deemed to have deployed incorrectly, the penalty will be applied to the side impact driver's head (-1). Where the incorrect deployment affects multiple body parts, the modifier will be applied to each individual body part. For example, where a seat or door mounted side airbag fails to deploy correctly that is intended to provide protection to the head as well as the thorax, abdomen and pelvis, the penalty will be applied to all body regions, the head (-1), chest (-1), abdomen (-1) and pelvis (-1). The penalties are applicable to both the side and pole impacts, which are scaled down in the final vehicle rating.

The modifier will be applied even if the airbag was not intended to offer protection in that particular impact. For example, the penalty will be applied if a driver's knee airbag deploys incorrectly in a side or pole impact. In this case the modifier will be applied to both frontal impact driver knee, femur and pelvis body parts. Where a frontal protection airbag deploys incorrectly, knee-mapping is not permitted for the occupant whom the airbag was designed to protect.

5.2.5 Door Opening during the Impact

When a door opens in the test, a minus one-point modifier will be applied to the score for that test. The modifier will be applied to the side impact assessment score for every door (including tailgates and moveable roofs) that opens. The number of door opening modifiers that can be applied to the vehicle score is not limited.

5.2.6 Door Opening Forces after the Impact

A check is made to ensure that the doors on the non-struck side can be opened. The doors on the struck side are not opened.

5.3 Scoring & Visualisation

The protection provided for adults for each body region are presented visually, using coloured segments within body outlines. The colour used is based on the points awarded for that body region (rounded to three decimal places), as follows:

Green	‘Good’	4.000	points
Yellow	‘Adequate’	2.670 - 3.999	points
Orange	‘Marginal’	1.330 - 2.669	points
Brown	‘Weak’	0.001 - 1.329	points
Red	‘Poor’	0.000	points

For the side barrier and pole impacts, all the individual regions are used. Results are shown separately for side barrier and pole impact.

The contribution of the side and pole impact tests along with the far side occupant assessment to the Adult Occupant Protection Score is calculated by summing the body scores for the relevant body regions in each of the tests. The total score in the side barrier and pole tests together is limited to 12 points and the total score for far side occupant protection is limited to 4 points. The individual scores (after modifiers have been applied) for the side impact test (max. 16 points) and the pole test (max. 16 points) are summed and scaled down to 12 points and combined with the far side score to produce the total score.

6 WHIPLASH SEAT ASSESSMENT

Whiplash is assessed for both the front seats and the rear outboard seats. Front seats are tested statically and dynamically according to Euro NCAP Whiplash Testing Protocol. Rear seats are assessed according to the Euro NCAP Rear Whiplash Protocol. The details of the front seat(s) that will be tested by Euro NCAP are contained in Section 3.2.5 of the Euro NCAP Vehicle Specification, Sponsorship, Testing and Re-testing Protocol.

6.1 Front Seat Whiplash Assessment

6.1.1 Criteria and Limit Values

The basic assessment criteria used for front whiplash protection assessment, with the higher and lower performance limits for each parameter, are summarised below.

6.1.1.1 Static Assessments

6.1.1.1.1 Head Restraint Geometry Assessment

The assessment is based on the worst performing parameter from either the height or backset:

Test position	Lower limit	Higher limit
Effective Height	755mm	825mm
Backset	45mm	NA

The geometry assessment has two points allocated to it ranging from plus one to minus one. Effective height is calculated using a sliding scale between the two specified limits. Backset is evaluated on a pass/fail basis. A Backset of 45mm or more will score -1 points, Backset values below the limit will score 1 point.

6.1.1.1.2 Worst Case Geometry

1/n points (where n = the number of front seats) will be available for each front seat scoring more than 0 points in the worst case geometry assessment. For seats where the occupant must adjust the head restraint, the worst case geometry shall be measured in the lowest and rearmost position regardless of whether or not the seat is equipped with an active head restraint. Alternatively, a means of ensuring that the head restraint is correctly positioned for different sized occupants without specific occupant action shall be offered. For these automatically adjusting head restraints, the worst case geometry assessment shall be measured in the position as obtained in Section 4.6.1 of the Euro NCAP Whiplash Testing Protocol. This credit will only be available to seats performing well dynamically, with a raw score greater than 3.00 points after capping and all modifiers have been applied.

Lowest and rearmost position	Limit
Effective Height	790mm
Backset	70mm

For the dynamic test of self adjusting head restraints, the seat should be set in the position as obtained in Section 4.6.1. of the Euro NCAP Whiplash Testing Protocol and the corresponding head restraint height should be used irrespective of whether this is the mid height position of the head restraint itself.

The individual front seats are scored separately for this feature as cars have been encountered in which different provisions are made for the driver and front passenger seats and the system also allows for cars with three front seats. Where the manufacturer can provide evidence that the front seats are equivalent in terms of the worst case geometry assessment, the seats will be scored equally. Where this is not the case, the manufacturer will be asked to provide an additional seat for assessment.

6.1.1.2 Dynamic Assessments

A sliding scale system of points scoring shall be applied with two limits for each seat design parameter, a more demanding higher performance limit, below which a maximum score is obtained and a less demanding lower performance limit, beyond which no points are scored. Where a value falls between the two limits, the score is calculated by linear interpolation.

The maximum score for each parameter is 1.0 point, with a maximum of 3.0 points available per test. For both tests, the score for each of the three assessment parameters is calculated with the overall score for a single dynamic test being the sum of the scores for NIC, upper neck shear and upper neck tension.

Capping limits are used for all parameters. For T1 acceleration and THRC, capping will only be applied where both parameters exceed the respective capping limits. The high severity pulse will

be subject to an additional seatback deflection assessment where a three point penalty will be applied to seats with a rotation of 32.0° or greater.

6.1.1.2.1 Medium Severity Pulse

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
NIC	m ² /s ²	11.00	24.00	27.00
Nkm	-	-	-	0.69
Rebound velocity	m/s	-	-	5.20
Upper Neck Shear Fx (+ve)	N	30.00	190.00	290.00
Upper Neck Shear Fx (-ve)	N	-	-	360.00
Upper Neck Tension Fz	N	360.00	750.00	900.00
Upper Neck Extension My	Nm	-	-	30.00
Upper Neck Flexion My	Nm	-	-	30.00
Lower Neck Shear Fx (ABS)	N	-	-	360.00
Lower Neck Extension My	Nm	-	-	30.00
Lower Neck Flexion My	Nm	-	-	30.00
T1 acceleration	g	-	-	15.55
T-HRC start	ms	-	-	92.00

* All parameters calculated until THRC-end, except rebound velocity.
ABS indicates that the absolute value of the parameter is evaluated.

6.1.1.2.2 High Severity Pulse

		Higher limit	Lower limit	Capping limit
NIC	m ² /s ²	13.00	23.00	25.50
Nkm	-	-	-	0.78
Rebound velocity	m/s	-	-	6.00
Upper Neck Shear Fx (+ve)	N	30.00	210.00	364.00
Upper Neck Shear Fx (-ve)	N	-	-	360.00
Upper Neck Tension Fz	N	470.00	770.00	1024.00
Upper Neck Extension My	Nm	-	-	30.00
Upper Neck Flexion My	Nm	-	-	30.00
Lower Neck Shear Fx (ABS)	N	-	-	360.00

Lower Neck Extension My	Nm	-	-	30.00
Lower Neck Flexion My	Nm	-	-	30.00
T1 acceleration	g	-	-	17.80
T-HRC start	ms	-	-	92.00
Seatback Deflection	deg	-	-	32.00

* All parameters calculated until THRC-end, except rebound velocity.
ABS indicates that the absolute value of the parameter is evaluated.

6.1.2 Front Whiplash Modifiers

6.1.2.1 Seatback Dynamic Deflection

The high severity pulse will be subject to an additional seatback deflection assessment where a three point penalty will be applied to the overall score where seats have a rotation of 32.0° or greater.

6.1.2.2 Dummy Artefact Loading

A two point negative modifier would be applied as a means of penalising any seat that, by design, places unfavourable loading on other body areas (e.g. preventing realistic ramping up) or exploits a dummy artefact.

6.2 Rear Seat Whiplash Assessment

The assessment criteria used for rear seat whiplash protection assessment, with the points scored for each parameter, are summarised below. Only outboard seating positions are assessed. Manufacturers will be asked to provide theoretical design data for R point position and torso angle of the two outboard seating positions. If these are the same to within the following tolerances,

R point position (vertical and horizontal): $\pm 2.5\text{mm}$
Torso angle: $\pm 0.5^\circ$,

the two outboard seating positions will be considered symmetrical and only one position needs to be measured. Otherwise, the two outboard seating positions will be separately assessed. However, even in the case that manufacturer data indicates symmetry, the laboratory may assess the seating positions separately if they have reason to believe that the seats are not symmetrical.

6.2.1 Prerequisite

For a seating row to score points in the rear whiplash assessment, any centre seating position in that row needs to comply with the requirements of UN-ECE Regulation 17-08. This may be achieved

by use of a separate head restraint or otherwise but, in any case, all vehicles in the model range must be equipped as standard with what is needed to ensure compliance. Manufacturers will be asked for evidence (approval, technical service report) that the rear centre seat complies with the requirements of UN-ECE Regulation 17-08. For example, a vehicle with 3 seating rows having a restraint as standard in row 2 but not standard in row 3 can score points for row 2 only.

Cars which have no rear centre seating position (4 seaters for example) will automatically fulfil this prerequisite.

6.2.2 Criteria and Limit Values

A maximum of four points is awarded for each seating position based on the Effective Height measurements, backset ($\Delta CP X$) and non-use position. One and a half points are awarded if the height requirements are met. If the height requirements are met, an additional one point is awarded if the backset requirement is met in the mid head restraint position; a further half point is awarded if the backset is met in the worst-case position; and an additional point can be scored if the requirements for non-use position are met.

6.2.2.1 Effective Height requirements

The seating position shall be deemed to have met the height requirements of this protocol if either paragraph 6.2.2.1.1 or 6.2.2.1.2 is met.

6.2.2.1.1 The requirements of this paragraph are met if the effective height of the head restraint meets the requirements of both the following:

- The effective height of the restraint is, in its lowest position, no less than 720mm
- The effective height of the restraint is, in its highest position, no less than 770mm[†].

6.2.2.1.2 If the interior surface of the vehicle roofline, including the headliner or backlight, physically prevents a head restraint located in the rear outboard designated seating position from attaining the height required by paragraph 6.2.2.1.1 of this protocol, the gap between the head restraint and interior surface of the roofline, including the headliner or the backlight when measured as described below, shall not exceed 50mm when the head restraint is adjusted to its highest position intended for occupant use:

- If adjustable, adjust the head restraint to its maximum height and measure the clearance between the top of the head restraint or the seat back at all seat back angles for intended use and the interior surface of the roofline or the rear backlight, by attempting to pass a 50 ± 0.5 mm sphere between them.

[†] Euro NCAP will monitor legislative requirements and may revise this figure in future years.

6.2.2.2 Backset Requirements

Using the torso angle, the calculated limit value of backset $(\Delta CP X)_{LIMIT}$ is determined using the following formula:

$$(\Delta CP X)_{LIMIT} = 7.128 \cdot \text{Torso angle} + 153$$

This limit value is applied in both mid and worst case position.

6.2.2.3 Non-Use Position Assessment

6.2.2.3.1 Automatic Return Head Restraints

The head restraint needs to automatically go to the use-position from the non-use position at ignition on or when the engine is started.

6.2.2.3.2 60° Rotation Evaluation

The difference in head restraint angle needs to be larger than 60° between the in-use and non-use position. Rearward rotation or retraction of the head restraint to set the non-use position is not compliant with the requirements of this section.

6.2.2.3.3 10° Torso Line Change

The difference in torso angle between the in-use and non-use position needs to be larger than 10°.

6.2.2.3.4 Discomfort Metric

The lower edge of the head restraint (H_{LE}) shall be not more than 460 mm, but not less than 250 mm from the R-Point and the thickness (S) shall not be less than 40 mm.

6.3 Scoring

6.3.1 Front Whiplash Score

6.3.1.1 Raw Score

The protocol allows for a maximum score of 8 points as a result of carrying out the two severities of whiplash test, assuming no negative modifiers have been applied. This score is known as the raw score and its components are explained below.

Each severity of whiplash test pulse results in a maximum of 3 points being awarded based on the measured criteria. One point is awarded for each of NIC, upper neck Fx and Fz. If any of NIC, Nkm, Head rebound velocity, neck shear, tension or moment reach the capping limit, no score is given for that pulse. Additionally, if both T1 and head restraint contact time reach the capping limit, no score is given for the pulse. The sum of the scores from the dynamic tests is then subject to the application of the modifiers.

	<i>Points available</i>
<i>Static assessments</i>	
<i>HR geometry</i>	<i>-1 to +1 points</i>
<i>Worst case geometry</i>	<i>1 point</i>
<i>Dynamic assessments</i>	
<i>Medium severity pulse</i>	<i>3 points</i>
<i>High severity pulse</i>	<i>3 points</i>
<i>Modifiers</i>	
<i>Seatback deflection</i>	<i>-3 points</i>
<i>Dummy artefact loading</i>	<i>-2 points</i>
<i>Maximum points</i>	<i>8 points</i>

6.3.1.2 Scaled Front Whiplash Score

The raw score is scaled from a maximum of 8 points to a maximum of 3.0 points. Scaled scores less than zero are set to zero points.

6.3.2 Rear Whiplash Score

6.3.2.1 Raw Score

Seat rows having a rear centre seating position meeting the prerequisites of 6.2.1 can score points for geometry and non-use position according to the following paragraphs.

The rear whiplash score for each seat is the sum of its geometry assessment score and its non-use position assessment score. The rear whiplash score is the sum of the scores for the two rear outboard seats (double the score for one seat in the case of symmetric seating positions).

For a vehicle with a third row the scores of the second and third row are added and scaled to a maximum of 1 point. Vehicles with no subsequent seating positions after the front row are excluded from the assessment.

6.3.2.1.1 Geometry Assessment Score

Parameter		Score (per seating position)
Effective Height		1.5
$(\Delta CP X)^*_{mid}$	$\leq (\Delta CP X)_{LIMIT}$	1
	$> (\Delta CP X)_{LIMIT}$	0
$(\Delta CP X)^*_{wc}$	$\leq (\Delta CP X)_{LIMIT}$	0.5
	$> (\Delta CP X)_{LIMIT}$	0

** Points can be scored for backset only if the Effective Height requirements are met.*

6.3.2.1.2 Non-Use Position Score

As a prerequisite for scoring for the Non-Use Position, the height and backset assessment needs to score more than 0 points.

If the head restraint is always in a use position, and scores more than 0 points for geometry, the seating position scores 1 point. Seating positions with a non-use position compliant with one of the procedures described in 6.2.2.3 and which score more than 0 points for geometry also score 1 point. If no points are scored for geometry, no points can be scored for use/non-use positions.

6.3.2.2 Scaled Rear Whiplash Score

The raw score is scaled down to a total maximum of one point for rear whiplash.

6.4 Visualisation

The front and rear whiplash scores are presented separately using a coloured head and neck graphic. The colours used are based on the front seat and rear seat scores respectively, rounded to three decimal places.

6.4.1 Front Whiplash Visualisation

For whiplash, the protection provided for the neck of a front seat adult occupant is presented visually using a coloured head and neck graphic. The colour used is based on the scaled points (rounded to three decimal places), as follows:

Green	‘Good’	2.250 – 3.000 points
Orange	‘Marginal’	1.125 – 2.249 points
Red	‘Poor’	0.000 – 1.124 points

6.4.2 Rear Whiplash Visualisation

The protection provided for the neck of the rear seat occupant is presented visually using a coloured head and neck graphic. The colour used is based on the scaled points (rounded to three decimal places), as follows:

Green	‘Good’	0.667 – 1.000 points
Orange	‘Marginal’	0.333 – 0.666 points
Red	‘Poor’	0.000 – 0.332 points

7 RESCUE, EXTRICATION AND SAFETY

For details of the assessment refer to the Rescue, Extrication and Safety Test and Assessment Protocol.

8 CONCEPTS BEHIND THE ASSESSMENTS

8.1 Frontal Impact

8.1.1 Head

CONCEPT: *The driver's head should be predictably restrained by the airbag, and should remain protected by the airbag during the dummy's forward movement. There should be no bottoming out of the airbag.*

CONCEPT: *Hazardous airbag deployment*
The deployment mode of the airbag should not pose a risk of facial injury to occupants of any size.

CONCEPT: *Incorrect airbag deployment*
All airbags that deploy during an impact should do so fully and in the designed manner so as to provide the maximum amount of protection to occupants available. It is expected that, where required, all airbags should deploy in a robust manner regardless of the impact scenario.

CONCEPT: *Geometric control of steering wheel movement is needed to ensure that the airbag launch platform remains as close as possible to the design position, to protect a full range of occupant sizes.*

8.1.2 Neck

CONCEPT: *Neck injuries are frequent, but relatively little is known about appropriate injury criteria. The neck criteria recommended by EEVC are used to identify poorly designed restraint systems. It is not expected that many cars will fail these requirements.*

In addition to the EEVC recommended limits, additional ones have been added, at the request of the car manufacturers. It is assumed that good restraint systems will have no problems meeting these criteria.

8.1.3 Chest

CONCEPT: *Rib compression is used as the main guide to injury risk.*

The injury risk data is relevant for seat belt only loading rather than combined seat belt and airbag loading. No change is made in the event of combined seat belt and airbag restraint. This avoids value judgements about the extent of airbag restraint on the chest and is in line with the EEVC recommendation.

CONCEPT: *There is an interrelationship between chest loading, as measured by the above dummy criteria, and intrusion. To ensure that a good balance is struck, a geometric criterion on waist level intrusion, as measured by door pillar movement at waist level, is used.*

CONCEPT: *When the passenger compartment becomes unstable, any additional load can result in unpredictable excessive further collapse of the passenger compartment. When the passenger compartment becomes unstable the repeatability of the car's response in the test becomes poor and confidence in the car's performance is reduced.*

CONCEPT: *The chest performance criteria are developed for loads applied by a seat belt. The more concentrated loading from a "stiff" steering wheel exposes the chest to direct loading injury.*

8.1.4 Abdomen

CONCEPT: *Rib compression is used as the main guide to injury risk.*

8.1.5 Knee, Femur & Pelvis

CONCEPT: *Transmitting loads through the knee joint from the upper part of the tibia to the femur can lead to cruciate ligament failure.*

Zero knee slider displacement is both desirable and possible. The higher performance limit allows for some possible movement due to forces transmitted axially up the tibia.

CONCEPT: *The knee impact area should have uniformly good properties over a wide area of potential impact sites. This is to account for people sitting with their knees in different positions and slight variations in impact angle. The characteristics of the area should not change markedly if knee penetration is slightly greater than that observed with the 50th percentile dummy in this test. This takes into account the protection of different sized occupants or occupants in different seating positions.*

CONCEPT: *Loading on the knee should be well distributed and avoid concentration that could result in localised damage to the knee.*

The injury tolerance work that supports the legislative femur criterion was conducted with padded impactors that spread the load over the knee.

8.1.6 Lower Leg

CONCEPT: *Loads resulting in fracture of the tibia produce bending moments and forces measurable at the upper and lower ends of the tibia. These measurements on the tibia relate to risk of tibia fracture.*

At the request of the car manufacturers, further limits were added to those proposed for lower leg protection. These limits can be expected to help protect the ankle joint.

CONCEPT: *Pedal blocking*

There should be no blocking of any foot operated pedals which have displaced rearward after the impact; blocked pedals represent a greater hazard to the lower limbs of the driver than non-blocked pedals.

8.1.7 Foot and Ankle

CONCEPT: *Expert opinion suggests that a Tibia Index of less than 0.2 would be necessary to prevent ankle joint failure. Until a biofidelic ankle and foot become available, the assessment will be based on intrusion. Intrusion is highly correlated with the risk of injury.*

CONCEPT: *Rupture of the footwell exposes the occupant to additional dangers. Objects outside the passenger compartment may enter, parts of the occupant may contact items outside the passenger compartment, there is a risk from exposed edges and the structure may become unstable.*

8.2 Side and Pole Impact

CONCEPT: *Incorrect airbag deployment*

All airbags that deploy during an impact should do so fully and in the designed manner so as to provide the maximum amount of protection to occupants available. It is expected that, where required, all airbags should deploy in a robust manner regardless of the impact scenario.

CONCEPT: *Seat position in side impact*

Effective side impact protection needs to consider all sizes of occupants. This concept is included in the EU Directive. Currently, side impact tests are conducted with the seat in the design position. In future, consideration may be given to the level of protection in other seating positions.

8.3 Door Opening (Front, Side, Pole Impact)

CONCEPT: *The intention is to ensure that the structural integrity is maintained. The underlying principle is to minimise the risks of occupant ejection occurring.*

8.4 Whiplash

8.4.1 Geometry Assessment

CONCEPT: This is used to encourage front seats to have optimum geometry in terms of both height and backset.

8.4.2 Worst Case Geometry

CONCEPT: The head restraint should be ideally placed for optimal dynamic performance without occupants of different size taking any action other than simply adjusting the seat to suit their leg length. This implies that the head restraint should either be fixed, automatically adjust to the optimal position or should be an adjustable restraint that provides optimum position even in its fully down (worst case) position.

8.4.3 Seatback Dynamic Deflection

CONCEPT: The seat distortion should be controlled so that a front occupant is not liable to ejection from behind the seat belt in a rear impact and the risk of interaction between the front and rear occupants is minimised.

8.4.4 Dummy Artefact Loading

CONCEPT: A two point negative modifier will be applied to any seat that, by design, places unfavourable loading on other parts of the body as a result of the head restraint mechanism. This modifier shall also penalise any design feature aimed at exploiting any dummy artefact. This is seen as a clear incentive to avoid such design, and an essential feature to safeguard Euro NCAP's position for future designs.

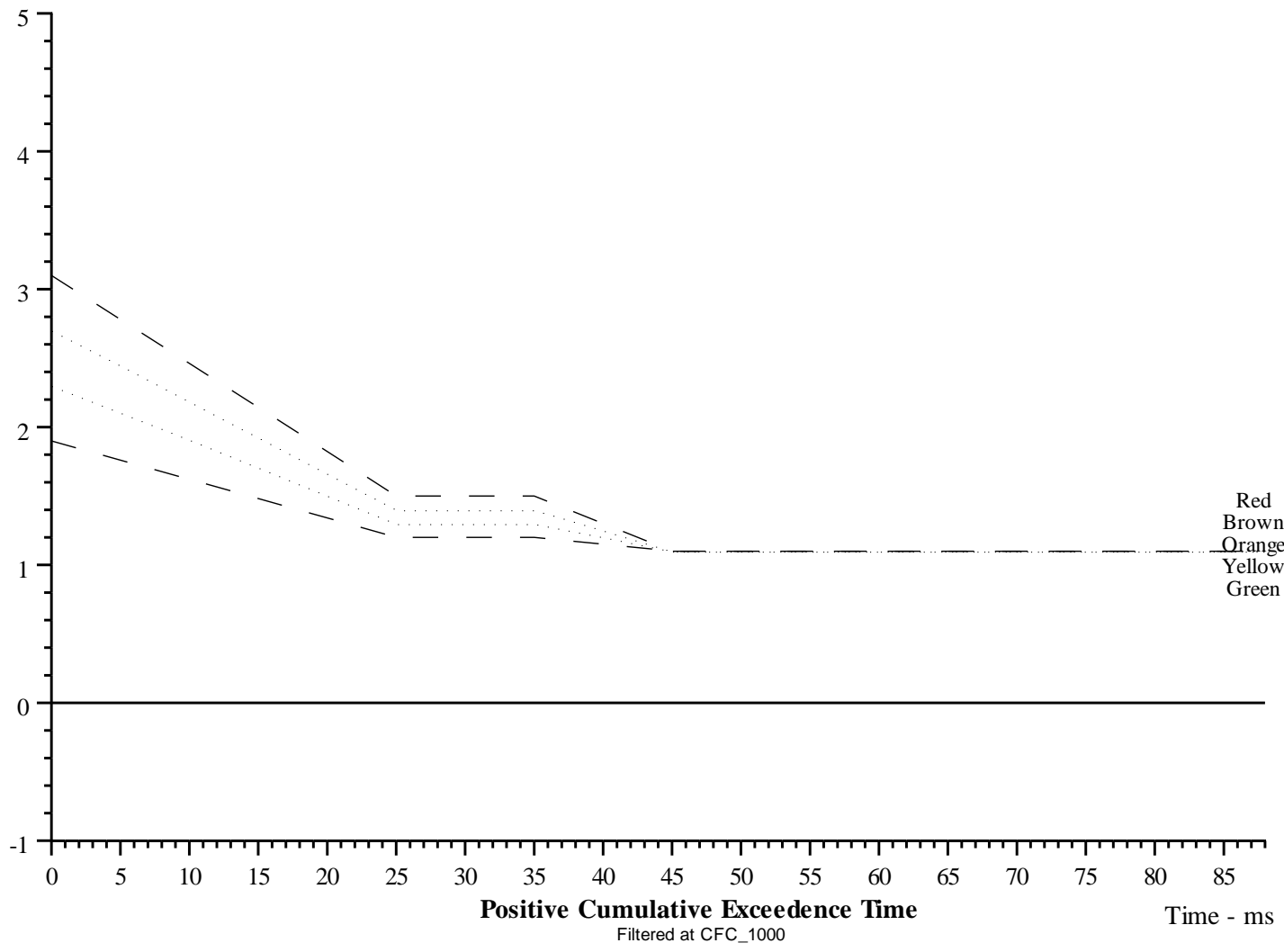
9 REFERENCES

- 1 Prasad, P. and H. Mertz. *The position of the US delegation to the ISO Working Group 6 on the use of HIC in the automotive environment*. SAE Paper 851246. 1985
- 2 Mertz, H., P. Prasad and G. Nusholtz. *Head Injury Risk Assessment for forehead impacts*. SAE paper 960099 (also ISO WG6 document N447)
- 3 ECE Regulation 12 Revision 3 - Uniform Provisions Concerning the Approval of Vehicles With Regard To the Protection of the Driver against the Steering Mechanism in the Event of Impact. 1994.
- 4 Mertz, H. *Anthropomorphic test devices*. Accidental Injury - Biomechanics and Prevention, Chapter 4. Ed. Alan Nahum and John Melvin. Pub. Springer-Verlag 1993.
- 5 Mertz, H., J. Horsch, G. Horn and R Lowne. *Hybrid III sternal deflection associated with thoracic injury severities on occupants restrained with force-limiting shoulder belts*. SAE paper 910812. 1991.
- 6 Wall, J., R. Lowne and J. Harris. *The determination of tolerable loadings for car occupants in impacts*. Proc 6th ESV Conference. 1976
- 7 Viano, D., C. Culver, R. Haut, J. Melvin, M. Bender, R. Culver and R. Levine. *Bolster impacts to the knee and tibia of human cadavers and an anthropomorphic dummy*. SAE Paper 780896, Proc 22nd Stapp conference.
- 8 EEVC WG. *The Validation of the EEVC Frontal Impact Test Procedure*. Proc 15th ESV Conference, Melbourne, 1996.
- 9 Schneider, L.W., Vogel, M. and Bosio, C.A. Locations of driver knees relative to knee bolster design. The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, Ann Arbor, Michigan. UMTRI-88-40. September 1988.
- 10 Lowne, R. and E. Janssen. *Thorax injury probability estimation using production prototype EUROSID*. ISO/TC22/SC12/WG6 document N302.

APPENDIX I

GRAPHICAL LIMITS FOR CUMULATIVE EXCEEDENCE PARAMETERS

- 1 Upper Neck Shear FX - Positive
- 2 Upper Neck Shear FX - Negative
- 3 Upper Neck Tension FZ
- 4 Femur Compression



Cumulative Exceedence Limits

