

TEST RESULTS

Audi A3



RATING

SCORE



ADULT OCCUPANT

29

Front: 12
Side: 16

Pole: 2



CHILD OCCUPANT

35



PEDESTRIAN

8

Adult occupant protection



Frontal impact driver



Frontal impact passenger



Side impact driver



Child restraints

18 month old Child Fair BimboFix Type II, rearward facing

3 year old Child Fair BimboFix Type II, forward 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 RHD

Tested model Audi A3 1.6

Body type small family car

Year of publication 2003

Kerb weight 1340

VIN from which rating applies 8P_4A062055

Comments

Front impact

The restraint system used single stage tethered airbags teamed with belts fitted with pre-tensioners and load limiters. These worked well although loads on the occupants' chests were a little high. Unfortunately the driver risked knee injuries from hard points behind the fascia. The body proved very strong after the impact showing minimal distortion around the sill and screen pillar areas, while the footwell suffered only minor deformation. All rear seats have three-point belts. The centre belt had a safety device so that it would not unreel unless the foldable seat back was correctly latched.

Side impact

The seat-mounted thorax airbag and head curtain airbag worked well; the latter protecting the rear occupants as well as those in the front.

Child occupant

Both children used Fair Bimbo Fix Type II vehicle-specific ISOFIX restraints. The 18-month-old's was rear-facing and the three-year-old's was forward-facing. These protected their heads from hitting inside the car, but the 18-month child suffered higher chest loading. The labelling on the restraints was clear and permanent. There was inadequate warning against placing a rear-facing restraint on the front passenger seat opposite an airbag. Although there is a switch fitted to turn the airbag on and off, the danger of misuse and serious harm remains.

Pedestrian

The A3 offered cushioning where an adult and child's head would most likely strike but the car's wings and front were 'unfriendly'. The bumper and the leading edge of the bonnet offered no protection. A poor result for a new car.

The A3 has a very strong and stable passenger safety cage. As a measure of this, after the test the driver's door could still be opened normally. The restraint systems and air bags protected the occupants and kept the driver's chest and head away from the steering wheel. Side impact protection was also impressive. The child seats used two-point ISOFIX mountings and did well although loads fed through to the 18-month-old child's chest proved to be a little high. Pedestrian protection was poor.