



Mazda 6

RATING	SCORE	Front: 11	Pole: 2
 ADULT OCCUPANT ★★☆☆☆	26	Side: 13	
 CHILD OCCUPANT ★★☆☆☆	34		
 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	Britax Roemer Duo Plus, forward facing
3 year old Child	Britax Roemer Duo Plus, forward facing

Pedestrian protection

No image car front available

Safety equipment

Front seatbelt pretensioners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Front seatbelt load limiters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Driver frontal airbag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Front passenger frontal airbag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Side body airbags	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Side head airbags	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Driver knee airbag	<input type="checkbox"/>

Car details

Hand of drive	LHD
Tested model	Mazda 6 2.3 Sport
Body type	family saloon
Year of publication	2003
Kerb weight	1510
VIN from which rating applies	JMZGG12F241179856, JMZGG14T241179696, JMZGY19T241132420

Comments

The Mazda 6's body suffered only a small amount of deformation at its driver's screen pillar. But it lost points in the tests because the driver's footwell ruptured. What's more, the driver experienced high levels of impact force on his chest in the front and side impacts, increasing his chances of injury. But in other respects the car provided balanced protection for its occupants during the front and side impacts. Protection for children was mixed but that for pedestrians was only average for this size and type of car.

Front impact

The restraint system features dual-stage airbags, belt pretensioners and load limiters. These kept the driver's head and chest away from the steering wheel, but he experienced relatively high chest loads. Hard points under the steering column posed a risk to his knees and upper legs. The centre rear seat came equipped with a three-point belt. This provides superior protection compared with a lap-only belt.

Side impact

An impressive side impact protection system includes seat-mounted thorax airbags and a curtain airbag. As a result, the car performed well in the side impact and pole tests. But the Mazda 6 failed to score full marks because forces were transferred in an unrealistic manner between the driver dummy's back and his seat, reducing the impact forces reaching the dummy's chest instruments.

Child occupant

The restraints recommended for both children were forward-facing Britax Romer Duo Plus. These provided protection, although the older child risked head injury in the side impact. Text labels warning against the fitting of a rear-facing restraint on a seat with an airbag were well designed, and fixed to both sides of the passenger's sun visor.

Pedestrian

A small area of the bonnet offered cushioning where a child's head might most likely strike but the adult head impact area and the Mazda's wings were 'unfriendly'. Tests on the bumper and the leading edge of its bonnet showed some compliance, too. This is a poor result for a new design.