

Better safe than sorry

Trust in your 
broker for this policy.

Your broker always keeps you informed... If you are unsure, come and find us.

Monthly bulletin
Nº 23 / January 2015

Be careful! If you hit an animal, it is your fault. End of story.



Thursday, 7 o'clock in the evening and dark, because it's already winter. You are driving calmly down the road when five wild boars start crossing: a father, mother and three of their young. You have read somewhere that it is better not to swerve and continue heading straight. You slam on the breaks and...BAM! Goodbye family of boars, and goodbye car. You are fine.

The airbag inflated and, although your body is still in shock, it is lucky you were travelling alone because the front passenger seat is a wreck.

According to the Traffic and Road Safety Law, introduced under Law 6/2014, in traffic accidents caused by hitting game species on public roads, the driver of the vehicle will be responsible for damage to people or property, and the value of the animals that wander onto the roads may not be claimed. However, the person benefiting from the hunting activity or, failing that, the owner of the land, will be responsible for damage to persons or property when the traffic accident is the direct result of a group activity to hunt big game species that takes place on the same day, or which ended 12 hours before the accident. The owner of the public road on which the accident occurs may also be

responsible as a result of not having repaired the enclosure fence, where applicable, in a timely manner or not having specific signage about free-roaming animals on stretches of road with a high rate of accidents caused by vehicles colliding with them."

Just look at the data! 94% of drivers have seen animals on the road. Half of us have found ourselves in a dangerous situation as the result of an animal and approximately 6% of drivers have had an accident, meaning that there are over **17,000 accidents a year that cause death and serious injury, as well as material damage.**

In practice, drivers who have an accident for this reason will not receive any compensation if they are injured, even if they are not breaking any traffic regulations, and in the event of their death, nor will their families. Moreover, they will also be responsible for any occupants of their car who are injured or killed. However, there are solutions we can offer you to cover damage to your car, as well as the driver. Don't think twice about contacting us to enquire.

"Forcing is forbidden". The Bank of Spain warns about "unemployment" insurance in banking.

The Bank of Spain has warned about banks selling Payment Protection Insurance, which guarantees the payment of loan instalments in the event of unemployment, incapacity for work, illness or death.

The "Complaints Service Annual Report 2013" states that **"the main reason for complaints is usually the marketing of Payment Protection Insurance that was not suited to the circumstances of the person making the complaint at the time of taking it out"**. That means that they took out insurance that they could NOT claim because they did NOT meet the requirements when it was underwritten.

The Bank of Spain therefore believes that "the entity must look out for the interests of their clients and identify cases in which they do not meet the agreed conditions", considering the actions of some banks to "not be in line with best practice and financial uses".

Only fire insurance is "obligatory"

When you sign a mortgage agreement, the bank normally makes you take out other products. **You should know that only fire insurance (for the 'container') is obligatory under the Spanish Mortgage Law** because the property constitutes guarantee of payment. However, **your bank CANNOT force you to take it out with their insuring entity, nor can it make you contract "associated" insurance. So YOU DECIDE.** The European Union approved a Directive on this, to which Spain must adapt by April 2016.

Learn to say NO. We analyse your needs, compare all the options and let you choose the one that is best suited to your circumstances. **We can help you objectively.**

New Traffic Regulations 2015

For a safer Europe



New year, new traffic regulations. A new reform will come into effect in the coming months, laid down by Brussels in an attempt to unify countries in the European Union. The intention is to increase safety and improve the coexistence of motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians in municipal areas.

Bicycles

In urban areas, the maximum speed limit is 30km/h and it will be obligatory for people under 16 years old to wear a helmet. On intercity roads, we are ALL (over and under 16) obliged to wear a helmet. You obviously CANNOT drink, must NOT wear headphones and CANNOT talk on your mobile phone.

Motorcycles and mopeds

Not using a helmet by "medical exemption" is no longer included and the use of non-approved "certified" helmets is prohibited. As an exception, children over 7 years old may travel as passengers when the vehicle is driven by their parents, a legal guardian or an authorised adult.

Cars

Seatbelt exemptions that are not justified for road safety reasons (e.g., reverse manoeuvres or parking) are no longer included. Taxis may transport people who are no taller than 135cm without using an approved retention device when they are in service and driving

within urban areas in big cities, as long as that person is in a back seat.

Speed

Dual carriageways and motorways: the general limit of 120km/h remains although there will be stretches of 130 km/h indicated by illuminated signs. These will not be fixed and will change according to road conditions.

Conventional roads: speed is reduced from 100 to 90km/h when the road is less than 6.5m wide (the hard shoulder rule applied before). If the road is less than 6.5m wide, the speed goes down from 90 to 70 km/h. Last, are narrow roads without lane markings, where the speed will be 50km/h (it used to be 90km/h).

Unpaved secondary roads: maximum speed 30km/h.

Urban roads: the speed will go down to 30km/h if there is only one lane going in one direction and to 20km/h where there is only one pavement on that road.

Other changes

- **Drug testing.** The general procedure will be through preventative controls using saliva testing.
- **Directorate-General for Traffic's Power of Attorney Registrar.** Individuals and legal entities may register the powers they grant third parties to act (managing fines, changes of ownership, etc.)

Anecdote



"Walking could save your life" An insurance company pays you to walk 10,000 steps a day

Besides protecting your risks, insurance companies want you to live a long life. After your relatives and friends, they are the people most interested in looking after your health.

The New York start-up Oscar Insurance in the United States gives their clients a bracelet to count the distances they cover on foot, setting them daily targets. **Every day that they manage to complete a stage, they earn one dollar**, up to a maximum of 20 dollars a month in Amazon gift vouchers. The planned goal is to walk 10,000 steps a day (approximately 8km).

They have even developed a smartphone application with a step-counter. According to the US public health service, **"if you take 10,000 steps a day, you will make a difference in most of the leading causes of death such as obesity, diabetes or blood pressure"**.

Insurers pay 1.715 billion a day in life insurance

According to the "European Insurance in Figures" study published by **Insurance Europe, el sector abonó 952. Insurance Europe, the sector paid out 952 billion to people and companies in Europe** in 2013.

Out of the total amount, the largest part went towards **life insurance (626 billion)**. Non-life insurance totalled 326 billion in compensation (**103 billion for car, 97 billion for health and 57 billion in damages**).

This high level of payments shows the important contribution that the insurance sector makes to society, and demonstrates the health and solvency of the industry.

Research