





General exposure data for 2005

Area of State (in sqkm)	30'528	
Home population (in 1000)	10'511	
Total network length of all public roads (in km)	151'000	
Number of motor vehicles (in 1000)	6'158	rate 58,6% of population
Number of motorcycles + moped (in 1000)	346	rate 3,3% of population
Number of passenger cars and station wagons (in 1000)	NA	

Serious injured persons and fatalities on the roads (2005)

All Fatalities	1'089	(2000 → 2005)  31%
Pedestrian fatalities in general	108	(2000 → 2005)  24%
• Pedestrian fatalities on pedestrian crossings	NA	
• Pedestrian fatalities outside pedestrian crossings	NA	
Pedestrian fatalities / all Fatalities	9,9%	
All serious injured persons	7'253	(2000 → 2005)  26%
Seriously injured pedestrian in general	720	(2000 → 2005)  16%
• Seriously injured pedestrian on p.crossings	NA	
• Seriously injured pedestrian outside p.crossings	NA	
Seriously injured pedestrian / All serious injured persons	9,9%	

Road traffic rules on pedestrian crossings

The national laws describe the driver obligations and pedestrian obligations. This synthesis treats only the case of zebra crossings and not signalled controlled crossings !

The driver is required to approach a pedestrian crossing with slackened speed. He has to give right of way to the pedestrians who are on the pedestrian crossing or who are about to enter in it (mandatory). The guiding principles, which define the right way to apply the laws, describe visibly the need to slow down when approaching a pedestrian crossing and in which **mandatory** conditions the pedestrian has the priority. The guiding principles also give details regarding the pedestrian categories such as rollers, in-line skaters, skate-boards, wheelchairs, even if these vehicles are equipped with a small engine (<18 km/h).

Since March 2006, the fine in case of disrespect of these rules is on-the-spot-fine 150 EUR or transactional fine 160 EUR or 165 to 2750 EUR when the court is involved (withdrawal of driving license is also possible for 8 days to 5 years).

The required pedestrian behaviour on pedestrian crossings **are not** separately specified in the national laws; thus requirements are the same as when crossing the street on a place with or without any pedestrian crossing! In the national laws, no mention is given to the pedestrians relating to their right of way on a pedestrian crossing. The guiding principles give more details on the **general pedestrian behaviour**. Pedestrians intending to cross the road have to be careful and to pay attention to the approaching vehicles.

Special cases and limitations:

The Belgian highway code requires in a general way – not only on pedestrians crossings - that drivers pay special attention and behave especially vigilant towards the most vulnerable road users, such as cyclists, pedestrians and more especially towards children, elderly people, people with a white or yellow can, disabled people, ...

Except when traffic lights authorise them to do so, pedestrians may not enter a pedestrian crossing when a tramway is approaching on rails that cross the pedestrian crossing. Other vehicles, equipped with a blue flashlight (police vehicles, fire vehicles, ambulances, ...) have priority when their approach is announced by a special acoustic warning signal.