

## Reflective Vests – Legal Requirement Information for Europe - 2009

**Law change: It is now a legal requirement to carry a reflective vest in your vehicle when in France (from July 2008)**

With regard to reflective vests, the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) in Brussels has been advising on road safety measures and suggested that the use of reflective vests in the event of vehicle immobilisation is a very effective safety measure as part of the ongoing campaign to minimise deaths and injuries on Europe's roads. (The ETSC's target is to reduce road casualties by 50% by 2010)



This has led to a number of countries adopting reflective vests as a legal requirement, to be carried in all vehicles at all times. In July 2004 Italy and Spain pioneered this policy and also stated that the vests must be carried in the 'passenger cell' of the vehicle in order that they could be put on before even opening the door of the vehicle!

Since 2005, Portugal, Austria, Belgium and France have all joined this initiative as part of the 'harmonisation' of European Motoring Laws. The French Société Prévention Routière (Road Safety Department) strongly advise carrying reflective vests for all vehicle occupants - as is law in Spain.

French Motorway Signs: *Reflective vests - your life jacket for the motorway*



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