HINTS ON DRIVING WITH ABS

WARNINGS

Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) cannot overcome the physical limitations of braking distance. Nor can it overcome the lack of grip on a road surface, aquaplaning on water for example.

Braking distance is increased on slippery surfaces. This applies to all vehicles, even those with ABS.

The driver should not be tempted to take risks when driving, in the hope that ABS will correct errors of judgement. In all cases, it remains the driver's responsibility to drive with due care and attention, paying particular attention to the effects of speed, weather, road conditions etc.

ABS allows maximum brake pressure, and thus maximum braking efficiency, to be applied. This prevents the road wheels locking and enables the driver to retain steering control during heavy braking under most road conditions.

During emergency braking conditions, ABS constantly monitors the speed of each wheel and varies the brake pressure to each, according to the grip available. The constant alteration of brake pressure can be felt as a pulsing sensation through the brake pedal. This is not a cause for concern.

- Do not pump the brake pedal at any time; this will interrupt operation of the system and may increase the stopping distance.
- Never place additional floor matting or any other obstruction under the brake pedal. This restricts pedal travel and may impair brake efficiency.

ABS warning indicator



If the ABS warning indicator remains on or illuminates whilst driving, a fault with the ABS system is indicated. Drive with care, avoiding heavy brake application, and seek qualified assistance urgently.

ABS and off-road driving

Anti-lock braking will operate in off-road driving conditions, but on certain surfaces reliance on the system is unwise. ABS cannot compensate for driver error or inexperience on difficult off-road surfaces.

Soft surfaces

On soft, deep surfaces such as powdery snow, sand or gravel the braking distance will be increased. This is because the natural action of a locked wheel (which cannot happen with ABS operating) is to build a wedge of surface material in front of the wheels which reduces the stopping distance.

Steep slopes

If the vehicle is stopped on a steep, slippery slope, it may begin to slide even with the brakes applied. This is because without wheel rotation signal for the ABS. Briefly release the brakes to permit some wheel movement, then re-apply the brakes to allow ABS to gain control.