



Automobile Club d'Italia



DRIVING IN ITALY: INFORMATION FOR VISITING MOTORISTS

USE OF EYEGLASSES, MOBILE PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Driving licence holders must wear eyeglasses or any other corrective devices which have been prescribed to them.

While driving you are not allowed to use hand-held mobile phones or other electronic devices (e.g. tablets and similar devices, headphones for music). You may though use mobile phones with hands-free or headset devices, provided you can still adequately hear other sounds around you.

In case of non-compliance with the obligation to wear eyeglasses, the sanctions provided for in Article 173, paragraph 3 of the Italian Highway Code apply. In case of use of hand-held mobile phones and electronic devices, the sanctions provided for in Article 173 paragraph 3bis of the Italian Highway Code apply, including a driving ban from 1 to 3 months if the offence is repeated within 2 years.

Footwear

You can reasonably choose the type of shoes to wear for driving.

The ban on wearing open footwear no longer applies*, as almost all braking systems today are hydraulic or electronic. As a rule, drivers are free to choose what to wear as long as their clothing allows them to drive safely, ensuring free movements and a good grip on the pedals.

* As a rule (Article 141 paragraph 2 of the Italian Highway Code), drivers must keep full control of their vehicle at all times and safely perform all necessary manoeuvres, especially the timely stopping of the vehicle. In the first instance, it is the traffic/police officer who will check whether the shoes you were wearing allowed you to drive safely. In case of appeal, the judge will decide on the matter. Please, bear in mind that in case of an accident the insurance company can refuse to grant you compensation if the traffic/police officer's report states your footwear was not appropriate for driving.