



FIAT Panda frontal offset test

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FIAT Panda panned as Euro NCAP awards it zero-stars for safety

- FIAT Panda becomes one of only two zero-rated cars in Euro NCAP's history – the other was the FIAT Punto (2017)
- FIAT Panda also awarded lowest ever Child Occupant Protection score (16%)
- Very poor performance from the Jeep Wrangler earns it a one-star Euro NCAP rating
- Five-star ratings awarded to the Audi Q3, BMW X5, Hyundai Santa Fe, Jaguar I Pace, Peugeot 508 and Volvo V60

The 2018 facelift FIAT Panda has today been given one of the lowest ratings in Euro NCAP's history, having failed to achieve more than 50% in any of the car safety organisation's four key testing categories. The safety of children seated in the rear was of specific concern to experts, with the FIAT Panda's Child Occupant Protection score of 16% falling significantly short of the 79% average^[1].

Matthew Avery, Director of Research, Thatcham Research comments, "Most troubling is that the FIAT Panda is seen as a good choice for young drivers and fledgling families. But the only safety technology fitted were seatbelt reminders and the rear system failed to meet requirements, so wasn't even rated. Where budgets are tight, consider a safer small car second-hand, like the five-star SEAT Ibiza.

"Carmakers across all categories have responded positively to the more exacting tests brought in by Euro NCAP this year, especially those that assess crash avoidance technology. As the bare minimum, a standard-fit Autonomous Emergency Braking system should be available with the FIAT Panda. This is especially important since the car offers so little protection in the event of a collision.

"These shocking Euro NCAP test results demonstrate an inconsistent commitment to safety, as FIAT has produced four and five-star cars in the past."

Jeep asleep at the wheel on safety

Another poor performer in this month's round of Euro NCAP testing was the new Jeep Wrangler, which achieved just a one-star rating and a 50% Adult Occupant Protection score. It joins the FIAT Punto and FIAT Panda as the three lowest rated vehicles to go through the programme.

Avery comments, "Unlike the FIAT Panda, the Jeep Wrangler is an entirely new vehicle and doesn't come cheap. Buyers outlaying over £50,000 on a car should expect more than a one-star safety rating. No AEB system is fitted, which is unheard of in this price bracket. There were a number of issues with the Wrangler in impact testing too, in terms of deformation of the footwell and damage to connecting structures, while the make-up of the dashboard was seen to present a risk to occupants."

Taking the shine from the five-star cars

Despite the headline-grabbing zero-star rating for the FIAT Panda and one-star rated Jeep Wrangler, six cars with excellent safety credentials have been launched in December. The Audi Q3, BMW X5, Hyundai Santa Fe, Jaguar I Pace, Peugeot 508 and Volvo V60 all achieved five-star Euro NCAP ratings.

Avery continues, “These six carmakers take a more consistent approach to safety across their model range, and all have made a conscious decision to meet the standards set by Euro NCAP’s toughest tests.

“The Audi Q3, Jaguar I Pace, Peugeot 508 and Volvo V60 are all amongst the ten safest cars produced in 2018, with the BMW X5 and Hyundai Santa Fe not far behind.”

[\[1\]](#) Average based on all Euro NCAP test results for Child Occupant Protection since the percentage system was introduced in 2009

Thatcham Research is the independent voice of automotive safety, security & repair, advising motorists, insurers and vehicle manufacturers to help reduce accident frequency, severity and costs and to realise the vision of ‘Safer cars, fewer crashes’, while driving standards in vehicle security.

As well as its world leading crash and track research, Thatcham Research develops repair methods amongst a number of other products and services within the collision repair industry for insurers, motor manufacturers, equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

In addition, Thatcham Research has administered the Association of British Insurer’s (ABI) Group Rating system for the past 50 years. Group Rating is an advisory system intended to provide insurers with the relative risk of private cars and light commercial vehicles.

A founder member of the international Research Council for Automobile Repairs (RCAR), Thatcham Research has also been a member of the European New Car Assessment Programme (Euro NCAP) since 2004.

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