



Media Release

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Lack of electronic stability control results in low safety rating from ANCAP

The Tata Xenon twin cab ute has received a 2-star safety rating in the latest round of Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) testing.

RAC Manager Vehicles and Fuels, Alex Forrest, said the Xenon entered the Australian marketplace in November 2013, and ANCAP gave it a 2-star rating due to its lack of electronic stability control (ESC).

“ESC is a potentially life-saving active safety system which may help drivers avoid crashes by reducing the danger of a vehicle going into an uncontrollable skid,” Mr Forrest said.

According to ANCAP, the Xenon also lacks potentially life-saving side and curtain airbags, and is equipped with dual frontal airbags only.

ESC became mandatory for all new passenger vehicles from 1 November 2013, but the mandate does not yet apply to light commercial vehicles.

“The Australian Government’s ESC mandate for light commercial vehicles begins on 1 November 2015, when all new light commercial models will be required to have the technology,” Mr Forrest said.

“Pre-existing models without ESC will be able to continue in the Australian market until 1 November 2017, when the mandate will be made to apply to all pre-existing and new light commercials.”

Other models in this latest round of ANCAP testing include the Toyota Kluger, Peugeot 2008, Citroen C4 Grand Picasso and Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV.

All of these models achieved the maximum 5-star ANCAP safety rating, and should be commended for including safety equipment such as the Citroen’s blind spot monitoring and rear camera. All four of the 5-star vehicles have head-protecting side airbags and ESC.

ANCAP is supported by all Australian and New Zealand motoring clubs, the Australian Government, the New Zealand Government, Australian state and territory governments, the Victorian Transport Accident Commission, NRMA Insurance and the FIA Foundation.

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