



Best Safety Choice CZ Award 2009 Edition



Protection

Safety



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Why the prizes CZ?

CENTRO ZARAGOZA (CZ), acting as the vehicle research center for Spanish and Portuguese insurance companies, enjoys a sufficient degree of presence and credibility at European level so that on the basis of justifiable and demonstrable criteria, it is able to state that a car is safe on the basis of specifications set by CZ. This is based on the long experience gained by our research institute in the field of automotive safety.

Most of these insurance companies are multinationals with large international coverage, mainly in Europe.

Therefore, the insurance companies through CZ, have decided to reward vehicles manufacturers who have stood out in Europe by reason of safety improvements made during 2008, taking to account the technological level of development contained in equipment fitted to the vehicle in addition to commercial factors, that is always thinking in terms of benefits to the consumer with the aim of reducing car accidents.

2009 is the first year in which the prize will be awarded; the award will be made on an annual basis, at a ceremony held in the first quarter of each year. CZ will assess the previous year's offerings from manufacturers, placing a premium on factory-fitted standard safety equipment.

Awarded Vehicles

CZ prizes shall be awarded to the following 10 vehicle classes

- "pick-up"***
- "supermini"***
- "small family car"***
- "large family car"***
- "executive"***
- "small MPV"***
- "large MPV"***
- "roadster sport"***
- "small off-road 4x4"***
- "large off-road 4x4"***

In order to award the "Best Safety Choice CZ Award 2009" in each class, CZ has taking into account primary and secondary safety aspects. This means that CZ has studied factory-fitted Electronic Stability Control (ESC) systems offered as standard in all versions of each vehicle model and the level of protection for occupants in different accident scenarios (including rear-end collisions), following always objective criteria.



Hands

Driving elements



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Who does award the prizes?

It is foreseen that the high-level representatives of the European Insurance Sector Institutions, as well as the CZ's Insurance ones, award the prizes in the ceremony:

Maximum representation of CEA (European Insurance and Reinsurance federation).

Maximum authorities of UNESPA (Business Association for the Insurance Sector of Spain) and APS (Insurers' Portuguese association).

Maximum representation of Spanish insurers involved in CZ.

Representatives of the different national motor insurance associations.

Where?

The 2009 CZ prize will be awarded in Brussels, a move that points up the European scope of the prize.

The award ceremony will be held in the exclusive Hotel Le Plaza (www.leplaza-brussels.be)

When?

The date of the ceremony will be on 18th March 2009. The act scheduled time is from 7.30p.m. to 8.30p.m.. After that, a cocktail will be served.

Who is Centro Zaragoza?

The INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN SOBRE REPARACIÓN DE VEHÍCULOS, S.A. –CENTRO ZARAGOZA (VEHICLE REPAIR RESEARCH CENTER) – CENTRO ZARAGOZA), was set up as a firm in 1987, on the initiative of a group of 14 insurance firms operating in the field of car insurance. The firm began operating in September 1989.

Currently, there are 23 insurance companies associated to CENTRO ZARAGOZA (CZ), which represent about 85% of the motor insurance premiums in Spain, and over 30% in Portugal.

Most of these insurance companies are multinationals with large international coverage, mainly in Europe.

The Centre is located in Pedrola, 34 kilometres from Zaragoza (Spain). It occupies a plot of land covering 40 772 m², and has a built-up area of 16 000 m².

At the end of 2009, the Centre will include a second installation in the shape of “Motorland Aragón”, the Aragon Motor City in Alcañiz (Teruel - Spain) that occupies a built-up area of 13 300m², of which an area of 1 300 m² is given over to laboratories.

Both CZ installations are strategically sited in the North-East of the Iberian Peninsula, between Madrid and Barcelona. This means that CZ enjoys good international links, which positions us as a logistics base for the whole of Europe.

The basic main aim of CENTRO ZARAGOZA is: “The Management and Control of material damage in motor insurance sector, and the developing of initiatives to improve Road Safety”.

To this end, CENTRO ZARAGOZA researches, tests, and studies vehicle repair characteristics, methods, and systems, as well as its behaviour and safety in traffic accidents. In addition, CENTRO ZARAGOZA develops on-going training of professional experts involved in one way or another in the diagnosis, repair, and assessment of damaged vehicles.

Experience gained over 19 years of research work in the automotive sector has made it possible for CENTRO ZARAGOZA to make an active and willing contribution to social improvement, working on an institutional basis in the field of research and training with respect to traffic accidents, and in developing initiatives for improving road safety.

CENTRO ZARAGOZA offers Insurance Companies, Courts, Vehicle Manufacturers, and private individuals involved in a traffic accident an Accident Reconstruction Service as well as Technical Opinion Drafting, all characterised by objectivity and technical rigour, and enjoying a well-known level of prestige and credibility in the European area.

Insurance Companies associated with CENTRO ZARAGOZA use the Traffic Accident Reconstruction Service on a regular basis, depending on the complexity of the accidents concerned.

CENTRO ZARAGOZA has ideal material resources to carry out this technical and scientific activity, as well as a highly experienced team of people who undergo on-going training in new technologies in the field.

Centro

Zaragoza

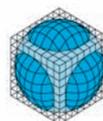


CENTRO ZARAGOZA has also contributed to spreading accident investigation techniques through courses and seminars in various international forums.

CENTRO ZARAGOZA is also a signatory of the European Road Safety Charter. This is one of the main initiatives of the European Commission to attain a general objective: by the year 2010, to halve the number of fatalities arising from traffic accidents.

Some of the European projects recently developed by the multidisciplinary research team at CENTRO ZARAGOZA include: "INVIEW" (Interactive and Immersive Video from Multiple Images); "SARAC" (Safety Rating Advisory Committee); "SAFETY TECHNOPRO"; "PROYECTO PEATÓN"; "PROYECTO FÉNIX"; "SMART RRS"; "PROYECTO DENDRA"; "PROYECTO WHIPLASH"; etc.

The main working groups to which CENTRO ZARAGOZA belongs are: "P-SAFE", a working group made up of several research centres within RCAR (Research Council for Automobile Repairs), and the "International Insurance Whiplash Prevention Group – IIWPG", which aims to investigate prevention of "Whiplash Injury" syndrome.



CENTRO ZARAGOZA

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