

# Transport Psychology in Poland

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Driving is a complex process of decision making. Mistakes made in different levels of this process may lead to risky situations and accidents involvement. Driving a car is a task demanding particular competencies, which include: knowledge, skills and specific mental features. Every driver should possess: knowledge about traffic regulations, vehicle handling, etc, practical skills of driving a vehicle, prediction of traffic situations and, what is especially important, self-diagnosis ability. This skill determines whether driving style chosen by the driver will be safe.

Psychological tests of drivers were introduced in Poland as an element of preventive actions increasing road traffic safety. The reason for the introduction of obligatory drivers' psychological tests was to eliminate those drivers from road traffic, whose psychical condition cannot guarantee proper behaviour on the road.

Polish law acts include obligation of psychological tests for:

- drivers,
- driving instructors and examiners,
- drivers who violated road traffic law – so called „point scorers”,
- drivers detained for DWA (driving with alcohol),
- drivers who caused road accidents.

This paper will present the role of traffic psychology in road safety in many aspects.