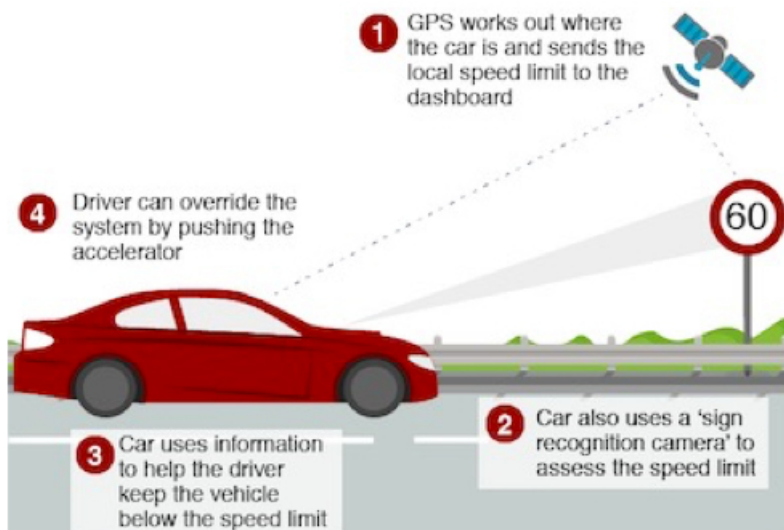


The European Commission have approved a rule to make "Intelligent Speed Assistance" mandatory for all newly-manufactured light vehicles starting in 2022. Legislators say the technology could save thousands of lives and, combined with other mandated new active-safety features, reduce collisions by 30%.



The ISA system, already fitted to a variety of vehicles in Europe, has been widely called a speed-limiting device, but it does not limit maximum speed; ISA is designed to work much like cruise control to prevent the vehicle from traveling in excess of the posted speed limit, but the driver can still override the speed-limiting function.

The ISA would not initiate automatic braking, instead limiting engine power to prevent the vehicle accelerating past the speed limit unless willfully overridden. The legislation, which includes a requirement for other safety equipment such as reversing cameras and lane-keeping functionality, must be formally approved by the European Parliament and EU member states in September. Despite an ongoing initiative to exit the European Union, the legislation also would be enforced in Britain.

Scores of vehicles in Europe—from Ford to Fiat—already are fitted with ISA, and EuroNCAP awards extra points for it.