

Starting and Shifting Gears

Do not exceed maximum speed in the individual selector lever positions. Selector lever position "S" corresponds to marking III (450 SEL — II) on the speedometer, selector lever position "L" to marking II (450 SEL — I).

Maneuvering

To maneuver in restricted area, e.g. when pulling into a parking space, control the car speed by gradually releasing the service brake. Accelerate gently and do not pump the accelerator. To rock a car out of soft ground (mud or snow), alternately shift one forward gear range and the reverse gear at partial throttle.

Trailer operation

Do not allow the engine speed to drop too low at uphill gradients to prevent the engine from laboring at low RPMs. Depending on the degree of the incline, shift selector lever to positions "S" or "L" early enough to maintain engine RPMs within best torque range.

Stopping

For brief halts, e.g. at traffic lights, leave the selector lever in a driving position and control vehicle with the service brake.

For longer stops with the engine idling, shift selector lever to position "N".

When stopping the car on a slope, do not hold it by means of the accelerator but use the brake. This avoids unnecessary heat-up of the transmission.

Safe Driving

Always drive according to the rule "Safety first". The comfortable ride of the vehicle may easily tempt you to underestimate the speed you are actually driving at. For this reason you should get used to keeping an eye on the speedometer needle because high speeds demand long stopping distances.

Do not attempt to move or roll the vehicle with the engine not in operation, as engine-driven accessories such as the power steering system or power brakes are not "powered", therefore, requiring substantially more effort for their operation even though they always remain mechanically operative.

Do not allow your tires to wear down too far. With less than appr. $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (3 mm) of tread, the antiskid properties on a wet road fall off sharply.

Depending upon the weather and/or road pavement, the grip of the tires varies widely.

The retention of the specified tire pressure is essential. This applies particularly if the tires are subjected to high loads (e.g. high speeds, heavy loads, high ambient temperatures).

Aquaplaning:

Depending on the depth of the water layer on the road, aquaplaning may occur even with tires still showing the full tread depth, and even at low speeds. Avoid track grooves in the road and apply brakes cautiously in the rain.

Tire friction:

Dry road = 100 %

Wet road = from approx. 50 % to approx. 80% (be particularly cautious on wet and dirty roads)

Icy road = approx. 15 %

A given speed at which a vehicle driven on dry roads can still be fully controlled must be reduced when the same vehicle is to be driven safely on a wet or icy road.

You should pay particular attention to the condition of the road as soon as the prevailing temperatures fall close to the freezing point. If ice has formed on the road (e.g. due to fog), a thin film

of water is then quickly produced on the ice which substantially reduces the grip of the tires. Under such weather conditions, drive, steer and brake particularly carefully.

We recommend M + S radial-ply tires for the cold season. On ice or packed snow, they can reduce your stopping distance as compared with summer tires. Stopping distance, however, is nevertheless considerably greater than when the road is wet or dry.

When driving down long and steep declines, relieve the brakes by engaging selector lever position "S" or "L". This prevents overheating of the brakes and reduces brake pad wear.

After hard braking it is advisable not to switch off the engine right away but to drive on for some time so the air stream will cool down the brakes faster.

When driving in heavy rain for some time without applying the brakes, the

first braking action may be somewhat retarded and increased pedal pressure may be necessary. For this reason, stay further away from vehicle in front.

The condition of the parking brake will be checked during every maintenance service. Furthermore it is recommended to exert once or twice between the regular maintenance services, a maximum pressure of 22 lbs. (10 kp) on the parking brake pedal for 10 seconds while travelling at a speed around 30 mph (50 km/h) on dry road. Pull release knob during this process! Repeat procedure once or twice. Exercise care, the stoplights do not work.

Have all inspections of and work on the brake system carried out by a MERCEDES-BENZ service station. If the parking brake is released and the brake warning light in the instrument cluster comes on, the brake fluid level in the reservoir is too low.

