



New Ford tech steers drivers away from blind spot side-swipes

Cologne, 04 november 2020 – It's a scenario many drivers will be familiar with: checking mirrors and surroundings before beginning a lane change only to find another vehicle has appeared behind or alongside – seemingly out of nowhere.

Switching lanes is a routine manoeuvre for regular motorway users, but even the most attentive drivers can sometimes fail to spot potentially hazardous situations developing, particularly in their blind spots. Failing to look properly or to judge another road user's speed or direction was a factor in more than half of road accidents in Great Britain during 2018.*

Ford has introduced a new technology designed to help drivers avoid blind spot collisions while travelling on multi-lane carriageways.

New Lane-Keeping System with Blind Spot Assist makes its global debut on the all-new Ford Kuga SUV. The technology monitors the driver's blind spot for vehicles approaching from behind, and can apply counter-steering to warn the driver and discourage a lane change manoeuvre if a potential collision is detected.

"Many drivers will at some point have been caught by surprise when another vehicle seemingly 'appears out of nowhere'," said Glen Goold, Kuga chief programme engineer. "Lane-Keeping System with Blind Spot Assist is like having an extra pair of eyes in the back of your head, helping prevent just a second's lapse in judgement from escalating into something more serious."

Watching your back: Blind Spot Assist

For more than a decade, Ford has offered Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) technology that can alert drivers to the presence of vehicles in their blind spot using a warning light in the door mirror.

New Lane-Keeping System with Blind Spot Assist goes a step further – able to apply a gentle force to the steering wheel to discourage drivers from changing lanes into the path of another road user and guide the vehicle away from danger.

Kuga's Blind Spot Assist radar sensors scan parallel lanes for vehicles up to 28 metres behind, 20 times per second, while driving at speeds from 65 km/h (40 mph) to 200 km/h (124 mph). An intervention can be automatically activated if the control system senses a lane-change by monitoring road markings using the forward-facing camera, and the technology calculates that the two vehicles are on a collision course.

Lane-Keeping System with Blind Spot Assist can intervene to help prevent collisions with vehicles approaching with a closing speed of up to approximately 30 km/h (18 mph).

Looking forwards: Intersection Assist

Also making its global debut on the new Ford Kuga, Intersection Assist technology uses the vehicle's forward-facing camera, combined with radar, to monitor for potential collisions with oncoming vehicles in parallel lanes.

The technology can automatically apply the brakes when travelling at up to 30 km/h (18 mph) to help prevent or mitigate the effects of accidents in scenarios where a driver is turning across the path of an oncoming vehicle, such as commonly encountered at crossroads or mini roundabouts.

One study found that more than one in ten severe accidents at junctions in Europe involved cars colliding with other cars, vans buses or trucks at crossroads.**

And because Intersection Assist operates without the need to detect road furniture such as lane markings or kerbs, it can even intervene in car parks, worksites or other locations without clear markings or traffic priorities.

Both technologies can operate in daylight and in darkness with headlights activated.

Technology to inspire confidence

Kuga offers a wide range of Ford Co-Pilot360 technologies designed to enhance protection, driving and parking.

Technologies including Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop & Go, Speed Sign Recognition and Lane Centring recently earned the SUV a leading position in [Euro NCAP's first Assisted Driving ranking](#) – ahead of models including Tesla Model 3 and Volvo V60.

Further advanced driver assistance technologies available for Kuga – available to order across Europe now – include Pre-Collision Assist with Active Braking, and Active Park Assist 2.

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About Ford Motor Company

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Ford in Belgium & Luxemburg

Ford Belgium distributes Ford vehicles and Ford original parts in Belgium & Luxemburg, since 1922. Ford Lommel Proving Ground is the lead test facility for validation of all Ford models in Europe, with approximately 390 employees.

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