

3 letters to **save your life**  
Built-in **stability and control**



CANADIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION – **FACT SHEET**

## **Electronic Stability Control (ESC)**

**Electronic Stability Control (ESC) is a safety technology that provides built-in stability and control to help drivers avoid crashes by reducing the likelihood of skidding. ESC technology is one of the most significant advancements in automobile safety technology since the introduction of the seatbelt. Here are some key facts about ESC:**

- **ESC uses the vehicle's brakes to automatically correct oversteer or understeer – this helps prevent skids and loss of control. ESC can also reduce engine power to reduce wheel spin in slippery weather.**
- **ESC sensors monitor the vehicle's direction for skids or wheel spin more than 20 times per second and can take preventive action before the driver is able to consciously notice a skid or slip.**
- **A regulation will soon be proposed that will require, as of September 2011, that all light vehicles sold in Canada be equipped with ESC as standard equipment.**
- **ESC-equipped vehicles are already available for sale in Canada.**
- **ESC could reduce certain types of motor vehicle crashes in Canada by 30%, resulting in approximately 225 fewer deaths and 755 fewer serious injuries per year.**
- **The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety estimates that ESC could prevent nearly one-third of all fatal crashes and reduce rollover risk by as much as 80%.**
- **It's not possible to add ESC to a car that wasn't originally manufactured with ESC.**
- **ESC is a passive system and operates behind the scenes; it doesn't interfere with regular driving and most drivers don't notice when it is active.**
- **ESC is sold under a variety of trade names by vehicle manufacturers.**
- **Depending on the condition of a vehicle's tires and on road conditions, ESC may not entirely prevent a skid or a loss of control. It can, however, greatly boost the chances that a driver will not lose control in the first place.**

---

*CAA is a federation of 9 automobile clubs serving 5 million members through 148 offices across Canada. CAA provides a wide range of member services and works to improve travelling and motoring conditions at home and around the world, including national advocacy efforts on both traffic safety and public policy issues that affect Canadian motorists.*