

2022, the golden year of the Ducato

The Italian vehicle was rated by Euro NCAP as the best European commercial van in terms of active safety, as well as being receiving the “Best base for motorhome” award for the 14th consecutive time by the readers of the German magazine Promobil

Words Paolo Galvani



According to the European New Car Assessment Program (Euro NCAP), the Fiat Ducato is the safest European commercial van of 2022. This by was established by comparing 19 vehicles and their advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS). This institution - founded in 1997 and supported by various European governments, automotive, consumer and insurance organizations - is responsible for defining the methods for assessing the active and passive safety of new vehicles using specific test protocols. The conclusions regarding active safety are based on rigorous tests using ADAS carried out on the road. They are measured by a percentage score and a colour: platinum, gold, silver and bronze. The new Fiat Ducato achieved 88 percent and is the only vehicle among those considered to be awarded the Platinum level, as well as the first one to achieve this result. In the previous round of tests, carried out about a year ago, the vehicle was classified in the bronze category, but the important innovations made in terms of safety, with

the introduction of an advanced set of sensors, allowed the Ducato to position itself as clear winner of this comparative. Last year, Euro NCAP drew attention to the poor level of safety equipment on commercial vans. “As the workhorse of choice for couriers and small businesses, these vehicles spend a lot of time on the road where, because of their size and mass, they represent a larger hazard to smaller vehicles and vulnerable road users if they are involved in a collision,” writes the institution. “New legislation will force van manufacturers to fit basic avoidance systems, already widely available on passenger cars, in a few years’ time. In the meantime, Euro NCAP’s commercial van ratings aim to encourage manufacturers to fit more advanced systems more quickly”. This request was taken seriously by Fiat, and when restyling of the award-winning Ducato (the “Best base for motorhomes”

according to Promobil readers also in 2022) it decided to step on the accelerator on the safety front. As a result, the new Ducato boasts Driver Drowsy Detection as standard, a system that monitors driving habits and detects possible driver fatigue. As an option or as standard, depending on the market, you can also have AEB

PLATINUM 2022

FIAT Ducato
2.2 MJT 180CV

- AEB Car-to-Car
- AEB Pedestrian
- AEB Cyclist
- Lane Support
- Speed Assistance
- Attention Assist

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(Automatic Emergency Braking), Lane Control and Adaptive Cruise Control systems. Taken together, these features allow the vehicle to reach Level 2 of autonomous driving.

The Safety Assist score is determined by tests on the most important driving support technologies to avoid and mitigate accidents. In these tests, Euro NCAP verifies the functionality and / or performance of the system during normal driving and in typical accident scenarios. The first evaluation area concerns the system that manages emergency braking (AEB), which uses sensors to detect the presence of a potential hazard in front of the vehicle and, if the driver has not done so in time, applies the brakes to avoid a collision or to mitigate its severity. Euro NCAP verifies the behavior of the system in numerous conditions, judging its effectiveness in the presence of other vehicles, cyclists, or pedestrians.

The second element under the spotlight of the European institution is the cruise control system. A good solution has to be able to inform the driver about the current limit, warn him when the vehicle speed is above the set threshold and actively prevent the vehicle from exceeding the speed limit. For systems that adaptively control speed, tests are performed to ensure that everything is working accurately.

The third aspect consists of Lane Keep Assist (LKA) systems, which help correct the trajectory of a vehicle that is gradually moving out of its lane. Usually, these systems acoustically alert the driver of danger and also apply a small amount of steering to prevent the vehicle from leaving the lane. Emergency Lane Keeping (ELK) systems intervene much more aggressively, but only when a critical situation is detected.

Finally, Euro NCAP verifies the presence and effectiveness of the occupant status monitoring systems, ranging from the reporting of failure to engage seat belts to new technologies capable of monitoring the driver's attention conditions.

The comment of Euro NCAP released after the tests carried out on the new Fiat Ducato is very positive. *"In tests of its response to other vehicles, the autonomous emergency braking (AEB) system performed well at low speeds, even when the target was highly offset relative to the path of the test vehicle,"* the final report reads. The system also worked very well in tests where the target was braking, both in conditions of limited space and in the presence of heavy slowdowns. However, the results at higher speeds can be improved.

The AEB system reacts to vulnerable road users excellently, avoiding collisions with pedestrian targets - adults and children - up to the highest test speeds. In the tests in the presence of a cyclist, the Ducato avoided the collision in all scenarios and scored maximum points.

While last year the Ducato only offered Lane Departure Warning (LDW), today there is also Lane Keeping Assist (LKA), which helps to put the vehicle back on its intended trajectory. The system also intervenes in some more critical situations to prevent the vehicle from going off the road and, overall, the performance was good.

"A camera-based speed-limit information system identifies the local limit using traffic-sign recognition and provides this information to the driver. The driver-set speed limiter maintained speed sufficiently accurately to meet Euro NCAP's requirements and the system was rewarded," adds the Euro

NCAP, which closes by signaling the standard presence of a warning sign for not wearing a seat belt on the three front seats and a monitoring system that warns the driver of any fatigue or problems.



LANE SUPPORT - LANE KEEP ASSIST
18.8/20 pts (94%)



AEB CYCLIST
10/10 pts (100%)



AEB PEDESTRIAN
9.9/10 pts (99%)

Promobil: it has been the "Best camper base" for 14 years

For 14 consecutive years, the Fiat Ducato has been awarded the prestigious "Best base for motorhomes" award assigned by the readers of the German magazine Promobil. The 2022 version was a real triumph, with 59.4 percent of voters citing the Italian model as their favorite. The previous record, with 56.4 percent of the votes, dates back to 2018. This year's victory is even more impressive, considering that the sector has seen several competitors refresh their image in an attempt to become more competitive.

The title awarded confirms the trust placed by customers in the Ducato motorhome as the ideal base for their leisure time. In fact, Fiat Professional has built up its in-depth knowledge of the world of recreational vehicles, always guaranteeing its customers maximum flexibility and freedom. Ducato, which celebrated its 40th birthday in 2021, continues to confirm its leadership in the sector, as demonstrated by the 700,000 European families who have chosen it as the base for their motorhomes.

