DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF EFFECTS ON ROAD SAFETY

Funding: National (Norway)
Duration: Jan 2003 - Nov 2003
Status: Complete with results

Background & policy context:
The European Commission wanted an update of estimates of the costs and benefits of mandatory use of daytime running lights on cars in the European Union (EU-15).

Objectives:
The objective of the project was to provide updated estimates of the effects of daytime running lights.

Methodology:
The project comprised a systematic review of current knowledge regarding the safety effects of daytime running lights (DRL). This included a meta-analysis of 25 studies that have evaluated DRL for cars and 16 studies that have evaluated DRL for motorcycles, and also a cost-benefit analysis of five policy options for the use of DRL in the European Union.

Parent Programmes:
META-ANALYSIS - Use of meta-analysis to summarise knowledge in transport research

Institute type: Non-profit organisation
Institute name: Institute of Transport Economics - TOI (on behalf of the Norwegian Research Council)
Funding type: Public (national/regional/local)

Partners:
TØI - Institute of Transport Economics

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Key Results:
The report presents a systematic review of current knowledge regarding the safety effects of daytime running lights (DRL). A meta-analysis has been made of 25 studies that have evaluated DRL for cars and 16 studies that have evaluated DRL for motorcycles. A cost-benefit analysis of five policy options for the use of DRL in the European Union has been made.

The use of DRL is found to reduce the number of multi-party daytime accidents for cars by 5 to 15%. For
motorcycles the reduction might be greater. The benefits of using DRL were found to be greater than the costs.

**Policy implications**

Five options for the introduction of mandatory use of daytime running lights in the European Union were developed and analysed.

**Related Projects:**

- **STRIA Roadmaps:** Other specified
  
  **Transport mode:** Road transport
  
  **Transport sectors:** Passenger transport, Freight transport
  
  **Transport policies:** Societal/Economic issues, Safety/Security
  
  **Geo-spatial type:** Infrastructure Node