



Saving a life every four hours!

Getting you the help you need in half the time

There is an urgent need for action in order to reduce the number of accidents and deaths on the roads. In 2005, 41,000 people were killed and 1.7 million were severely injured in the 1.3 million accidents that occurred in Europe. The pan-European in-vehicle emergency call technology eCall could help to bring down substantially the number of fatalities and the severity of trauma caused by traffic-related accidents.

With eCall, emergency personnel can reach the scene of an accident much more quickly. When an incident occurs, the eCall device will establish a call to the nearest emergency rescue centre, using the single European emergency number 112. The call can either be triggered automatically when the car senses a major impact, or manually by pushing a button.

eCall enables vehicle occupants to communicate with a trained emergency centre operator. At the same time, essential data about the accident is transmitted – including time, precise location and vehicle identification. Armed with such crucial data, rescue services can reach the accident scene twice as quickly. This could mean the difference between life and death for the accident victims.

2010 is the target for all new vehicles to be equipped with such technology. When fully deployed it could save an estimated 2,500 lives every year. That is one life saved every four hours!

“eCall could have saved 10 years of my life.”



On a rainy October evening in 1986, I had an accident on a semi-rural roadway, going around a curve. The car slipped on leaves and I lost control, hitting a tree. Since I was knocked unconscious, I could not call for help and consequently, medical attention was delayed until the following morning. Due to this delay, blood pressure built up in my brain and caused me to fall into a coma and my heart to stop.

When I regained consciousness from the coma six weeks later, I could not speak, drooled from the side of my mouth and my right side was paralysed. Fortunately for me, time healed the physical damage, but the process of getting my life back, actually re-learning how to walk and talk normally, took 10 emotionally painful years. Had I received timely medical attention, i.e., if eCall were available, my total recovery time likely would have lasted only a month or two.

Rhys W. Robinson, accident victim



“eCall will make emergency services much more effective.”

With eCall we will be able to pinpoint the precise location of an accident just seconds after it has occurred, enabling us to intervene instantly, rush to the correct place and save precious time.

Identifying the correct location of a victim is always a big problem for the emergency services. More than 80% of the calls we receive are made from mobile phones with no identification of the accident scene. With eCall we will know exactly where the accident happened and that will solve a lot of problems.

Another advantage with eCall is that we are 100% sure that the emergency services are alerted instantly when an accident takes place. Often people arriving at the accident scene assume that somebody else has already called for help, but often this is not the case. The result is that it takes several minutes from when an accident occurs before the first call reaches us. These are minutes that could be crucial to whether the victim lives or dies.

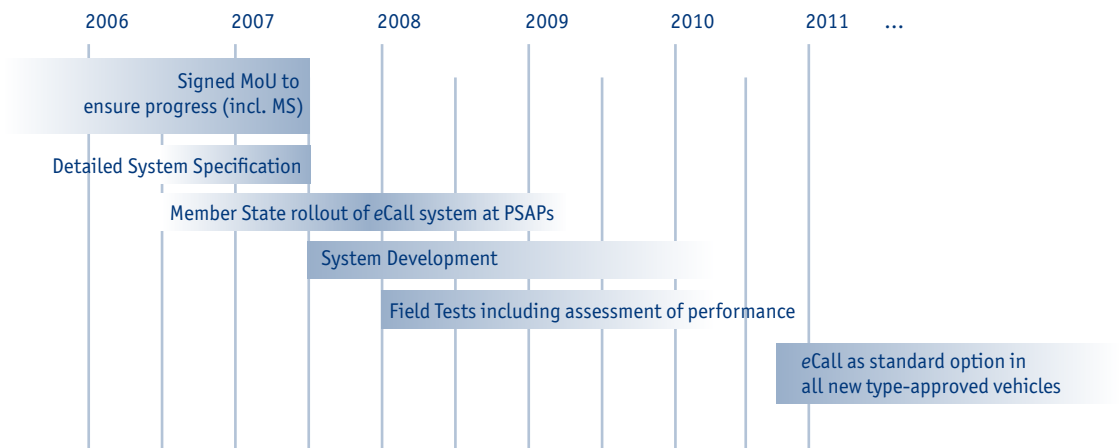
Dr Beacourt, U.Z. Antwerp Emergency Department



eCall on all European roads by 2010

eCall is a high priority in European eSafety policy, and the European Parliament has given full support to the eCall initiative. The European Commission is cooperating with Industry, Emergency Services and Member States to ensure the full-scale roll-out of the technology across Europe by 2010.

eCall Deployment plan (Road map)



The work on introducing eCall is based on a 2004 Memorandum of Understanding produced by the eCall Driving Group – an industry-led group composed of 138 members. The Memorandum, which provides a basic framework for eCall implementation, currently has over 60 signatures, including the European Commission, the automotive industry and seven Member States – Finland, Sweden, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Slovenia and Cyprus. The non-EU countries Switzerland, Norway and Iceland are also signatories to the Memorandum.

The eCall System architecture has been thoroughly debated within the eCall Driving Group and specified in its Final Recommendations which were published in April 2006. The recommendations set out a road map for making eCall a reality in all Member States by 2010, upgrading national emergency service centres to enable them to handle eCalls and fitting eCall devices into all new cars. Achieving this however, will require a joint effort by all stakeholders.