

Being able to read traffic signs or even overtaking bans is of considerable help, especially in areas where there are so many signs that the driver no longer knows what the speed limit is. The Opel Eye system marketed on the automaker's Insignia and Astra models has been shown capable of identifying and reading signs as much as 100 metres away in favourable weather and light conditions.



The system begins by detecting circular shapes, then identifies the numbers inside the circle, using a reference model. If an image corresponds to the picture of a road sign in the vehicle software, the sign is displayed on the dashboard. Additionally, the system detects the most relevant information: if two road signs are identified near to each other, the mandatory sign is displayed first. The “no overtaking” sign will have priority over a speed limit sign.

The system uses a high definition wide angle camera and processors developed jointly by GM/Opel's engineers in Rüsselsheim and specialists of the equipment supplier Hella. It should be noted that the system's intelligence goes as far as displaying the speed limit only when the car passes the road sign, and not when it is detected. The system's abilities are contingent on uniform configuration of road signs; such a system will be very difficult to deploy in North America where there is considerable variation in signs.