

CIRCUIT RACING - OPERATION OF A SAFETY CAR

The Safety Car will be brought into operation for (in accordance with MSA General Regulations Section Q, Appendix 2) to neutralise a Race upon the sole decision of the Clerk

WARNING

Any car being driven unnecessarily slowly, erratically or which is deemed potentially dangerous to other drivers at any time whilst the safety car is deployed will be reported to the Clerk of the Course. This will apply whether any such car is being driven on the track, the pit entry or the pit lane.

The Safety Car will be driven by an experienced circuit driver (in accordance with General Regulation G5.2.17.) and will carry an Observer capable of recognising all competing cars and who is in permanent radio contact with race control.

It is anticipated that in most cases the Safety Car, yellow/amber lights illuminated, will join and exit the circuit from the Pit Lane and the Safety Car boards will be shown initially from the Startline.

If for safety reasons these procedures are to be varied specific written instructions and verbal briefings will be given at the event detailing the exact procedure to be used.

DEPLOYING THE SAFETY CAR

On the order from the Clerk, the Safety Car will join the circuit with its revolving lights on, regardless of where the Race leader is.

When the order is given to deploy the Safety Car a waved yellow flag and "SC" board will be displayed at the start/finish line.

The waved yellow flags and "SC" boards will flow around the circuit in both directions, as an adjacent post displays both their waved yellow flag and "SC" board.

This system may be replaced by a message being simultaneously broadcast to all marshals' posts if such communication system is available.

Flashing yellow lights may also be used at the Startline and at other points around the circuit.

All competing cars, when notified of the Safety Car intervention (by the flag signals, SC boards, or by any other means) will reduce speed and line up behind the Safety Car, no more than 5 car lengths apart, and maintaining the same speed as it.

Overtaking or overlapping of any other competing car during a Safety Car intervention is forbidden.

Overtaking of a Safety Car is forbidden unless the particular competitor concerned is signalled to overtake the Safety Car by the Observer in the Safety Car.

When ordered to do so by the Clerk, the Observer in the Safety Car will wave past any cars between the Safety Car and the Race leader.

These cars will continue at reduced speed and without overtaking until they reach the line of cars behind the Safety Car.

While the Safety Car is in operation competing cars may enter the Pit Lane, but may only rejoin the track when signalled to do so and not when the Safety Car and the line of cars following it are about to pass or are passing the Pit Exit. A car re-joining the track must proceed at an appropriate speed until it reaches the end of the line of cars behind the Safety Car.

The Safety Car will remain in operation until at least the majority of competing cars on the circuit are lined up behind it.

ENDING THE SAFETY CAR PERIOD

When the Clerk calls in the Safety Car it will extinguish the yellow/amber flashing lights prior to exiting the circuit. This would normally be such that a minimum of 25% of a lap for circuits over 2 miles and 50% of a lap for circuits under 2 miles should be completed by the Safety Car with its lights extinguished.

Following the safety car extinguishing its lights, and prior to passing the green flag, the race leader will dictate the pace and, if necessary, fall more than five car lengths behind the Safety Car.

In order to avoid the likelihood of accidents before the safety car returns to the pits, from the point at which the lights on the car are extinguished drivers must proceed at a pace which involves no erratic acceleration or braking nor any other manoeuvre which is likely to endanger other drivers or impede the restart.

As the Safety Car is approaching the pit entry, the green flag will be displayed at the start finish line and the SC board withdrawn.

Following this display of the start signal yellow flags and SC boards at the marshals posts will be withdrawn and be replaced with a waved green flag for one lap. The waved green flag will flow around the circuit in both directions, as an adjacent post displays their waved green flag.

This system may be supplemented by a message being simultaneously broadcast to all marshals' posts if such a communication system is available.

Each lap covered while the Safety Car is in service will be counted as a race lap unless specified to the contrary in Championship Regulations.

Overtaking remains Strictly Forbidden until the Start Signal at the Start / Finish Line is passed.

Under certain circumstances the Clerk may ask the Safety Car to use the pit lane.

In this case, and provided its yellow/amber lights remain illuminated, all cars must follow it into the pit lane without overtaking. Any car entering the pit lane under these circumstances may stop at its designated garage area.

Should it be necessary to stop a race during a Safety Car deployment the Safety Car, with all competing vehicles following, will pass through the red flag at the start/finish line, complete one further lap at reduced speed and then, once the Safety Car comes to a stop at a position indicated by the Safety Car observer (which will usually be either the grid or Parc Fermé), all competing cars must stop behind it unless otherwise directed.