

Road traffic and the law

Limit. Anyone who drives a motor vehicle with 3.5 ng/ml THC or more in their blood serum commits an administrative offence (§ 24a StVG). For a first offence that means €500 and a one-month driving ban, €1,000 in combination with alcohol. During the probationary period and before your 21st birthday, no THC at all is allowed at the wheel (§ 24c StVG). Anyone who is not fit to drive commits a criminal offence regardless of the limit (§ 316 StGB). If there are signs of misuse or repeated offences, the driving licence authority can order an MPU, a medical-psychological assessment (§ 13a FeV).

Feeling sober is not enough. Impairments can remain after the noticeable effect has worn off. The professional societies for traffic psychology and traffic medicine recommend as a minimum: at least 12 hours after occasional smoking or vaporising, at least 24 hours if the THC content is unknown or the amount larger, more than 24 hours after edibles, usually three to five days with regular use on several days a week, and several weeks with daily use. If you are unsure, leave the car at home.

What tests show. Saliva tests serve as a preliminary test; the blood sample is what counts. In urine, breakdown products can be detected for about three days after a single use, ten to 15 days with daily use and over 30 days with heavy long-term use; in hair for months.

Where use is prohibited. In the presence of minors, in schools, on playgrounds, in children's and youth facilities, public sports grounds and cultivation associations, in each case also within sight (up to 100 metres from the entrance); in pedestrian zones from 7 am to 8 pm (§ 5 KCanG). In NRW, using in a prohibited zone costs €50 to €500, in the presence of minors €300 to €1,000.

Possession and passing on. From 18, up to 25 grams when out and about, up to 50 grams and three plants at home (§ 3 KCanG), stored safely away from children (§ 10). Cannabis from a cultivation association may not be passed on to others, not even to adults (§ 19 para. 4).

Key points

- Do not drive after using; if in doubt, wait longer.
- Probationary period and under 21: zero THC at the wheel.
- Do not pass it on, not even as a gift.

Sources: Road Traffic Act (StVG), §§ 24a and 24c; DGVP and DGVM (2024), Recommended waiting time before driving after cannabis use; Consumer Cannabis Act (KCanG).

More detail: csc.do/en/prevention/knowledge/driving-and-the-law/ · Cannabis Social Club Dortmund e.V. · As of 28 September 2026 · May be passed on unchanged (CC BY-ND 4.0)



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