Electronic Stability Control (ESC)

Electronic Stability Control, or ESC, is an on-board electronic system that helps prevent spin-outs and roll-overs. It’s a fact: Most accidents that involve losing control of the vehicle occur when the vehicle is driven beyond its traction limits, such as during over-steer or under-steer conditions or when driving too fast for weather conditions. ESC senses when the vehicle is about to lose control or when the tires begin to lose traction. It instantly reduces engine speed and applies individual wheel brakes in just the right amount to keep the vehicle in control.

ESC has been called the “seatbelt of the 21st century.” Numerous studies have shown that ESC is highly effective at preventing loss-of-control and fatal crashes. Vehicles with ESC reduce the risk of fatal crashes by half, and reduces rollover risk by up to 80%.

Maintenance Suggestions for ESC-Equipped Vehicles

While the electronic components of your ESC system won’t wear like tires, shocks, struts, or brakes; they should be inspected on a regular basis. Check your Owner’s Manual for a schedule provided by the manufacturer.

Wearable parts like the brakes, shocks, struts, and tires all require regular maintenance and periodic replacement. The Motorist Assurance Program and the Automotive Maintenance and Repair Association (AMRA) suggest replacing OE shocks and struts after 50,000 miles.

Brake and tire wear rates vary, so ask your local Certified Ride Control Specialist to inspect them and other components that affect ESC.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety provides a list of vehicles equipped with ESC. To find out if your specific vehicle is equipped with ESC, visit their website at http://www.iihs.org/research/topics/esc.html.
The KYB OEA Advantage

- KYB is the world’s largest shock and strut supplier to OE’s.
- Their OE products are manufactured on KYB’s OE assembly lines.
- They are designed for the Aftermarket to restore OE performance.

Restoring OE-designed performance is critical. Even with ESC, stopping and turning still depends on good tire traction. Good tire traction depends greatly on well-functioning shocks and struts. The ability of ESC to do its job can be compromised by worn, low-quality, or under-calibrated shocks or struts. Good, Better, or Best shocks sometimes are just not good enough.

- Worn shocks lose their critical effectiveness after 50,000 miles.
- Low-quality aftermarket shocks are engineered and perform differently from OE. The difference in performance shifts stress and wear towards other components, like brakes and tires.
- OEM parts do not compensate for wear and miles driven. Only KYB OEA products are calibrated to restore originally-designed ESC capabilities.

What Does OEA Parts Mean?

OEA stands for Original Equipment for the Aftermarket. It is the standard for all of KYB’s products. “We don’t believe in manufacturing a product that delivers less than the original design that it is replacing.”