



V-16 Emergency Lights



Introduction to N332 Signpost

Signpost is a series of short, practical guides from the N332 Road Safety Project, designed to give clear, reliable advice on essential driving topics.

Each edition follows the familiar Mirror–Signal–Manoeuvre structure: a brief reflection to set the scene, the key information you need to recognise and act safely, and a final step to help you continue your journey with confidence.

Mirror - *a brief reflection*

When a vehicle breaks down or is involved in a minor incident, the greatest danger is no longer the fault itself, but the moments that follow. Walking along a live carriageway to place warning triangles has caused hundreds of fatalities in recent years.

From January 2026, Spain replaces triangles with a new system designed to avoid that risk entirely: the V-16 emergency beacon. This guide explains what it is, how it works, and how to choose the right one.

Signal - *the important info*

1. The V-16 replaces warning triangles

From 1 January 2026, all drivers in Spain must use a V-16 emergency beacon rather than warning triangles when their vehicle is immobilised on the road. The beacon is placed on the highest point of the vehicle, usually the roof, and provides both physical and digital visibility.

2. Only connected models are valid

Not all V-16 lights on sale are compliant. The law requires a connected device that automatically transmits your location to the national traffic system (DGT 3.0). Cheaper, non-connected versions are not valid after the changeover date.

3. Look for DGT certification

A legal V-16 must be certified, tested by an authorised laboratory, and listed on the official DGT register. Some low-cost imports sold online do not meet the required standards. Always check that your model appears on the official list at dgt.es/v16.

4. Connectivity and data are included

Approved devices include all data and connectivity for at least twelve years. They do not pair with apps or rely on phones. Everything required is built into the beacon itself: SIM, antenna, battery, and transmitter.



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5. How activation works

When activated, the beacon emits an intense flashing yellow light visible for up to one kilometre. At the same time, it sends your precise GPS position to DGT 3.0. Your vehicle then appears on national traffic maps and, where available, on motorway matrix signs.

6. What the V-16 does not do

The beacon does not call the emergency services or summon recovery. It does not replace the SOS button fitted to modern vehicles. Its purpose is to warn other drivers – physically and digitally – that your vehicle is stopped.

7. Placement and storage

Keep the V-16 in your glove box for fast access. In an incident, you place it directly on the roof by reaching through the window or stepping out briefly. A built-in magnet holds it in position. You do not walk along the road.

8. Battery and maintenance

Treat the V-16 like a smoke alarm: test it regularly and check its battery status. Most certified models guarantee operation for at least eighteen months on a single battery or charge. Rechargeable models are acceptable if you can charge them in the vehicle.

9. Motorbikes and adapters

Motorcyclists are not required to carry the V-16, but many choose to. Adapters are available for curved fairings or top boxes.

10. International use

Visitors driving foreign-registered vehicles may continue using the warning devices required in their home country.



Manoeuvre - *moving on*

The V-16 emergency beacon is a simple device that removes the most dangerous part of a breakdown: stepping into traffic.

Before the rule change takes effect, ensure you have a certified, connected model with long-term data and clear documentation. For approved brands, technical details, and updates, visit n332.es/v16 or the official DGT site.

A few minutes of preparation now ensures compliance and may protect your life – and the lives of others – when it matters most.

More Info

n332.es/v16



