

Cell phone at your ear: higher fines for mobile telephoning while driving

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Whoever is caught in the future with his/her phone at his/her ear must reckon with a higher fine and a point on his/her driving card. "We have recognized that there are more and more people using their cell phones while driving without hands-free devices," said a spokesman of the Federal Traffic Ministry Monday this week in Berlin. One must react to this. "Therefore we shall attach one driving point to cell phone use and additionally raise the fine," he continued.

The spokesman basically confirmed a report from the weekend. According to the report, a new catalog of traffic fines will soon appear. Drivers who talk on their cell phones while driving must soon pay 70 € instead of 40 € (about \$91 instead of \$52). According to the speaker the number of offences has grown from 288,000 in 2005 to 450,000 last year.