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TÜV/HU — Technical Inspection in Germany

HU (Hauptuntersuchung) is a mandatory technical inspection in Germany conducted every 2-3 years by organizations like TÜV, DEKRA, and GTÜ.

Deutsche Begriffe: TÜV | HU | Hauptuntersuchung | Plakette | AU

TÜV/HU — Technical Inspection

What is it?

HU (Hauptuntersuchung) is a mandatory technical inspection. **TÜV** is one of the organizations that conducts it (the most famous).

How often?

Vehicle Type	Interval
New car (first 3 years)	Every 3 years
Car > 3 years	Every 2 years
Motorcycle	Every 2 years

Where to get it done?

- **TÜV** — stations throughout Germany
- **DEKRA** — TÜV's competitor
- **GTÜ** — another organization

- **KÜS** — cheaper option
- **Authorized workshops** — some have certification

How much does it cost?

Service	Cost
HU (main inspection)	€50-70
AU (emissions) — included or separate	€30-50
HU + AU combined	€80-120

What do they check?

- Brakes
- Lights
- Suspension
- Tires
- Emissions (AU)
- Steering
- Rust (structural integrity)
- Windows (cracks)

Plakette — Sticker

After passing, you receive a round sticker for your rear license plate.

Color = validity year:

- Pink = 2025
- Green = 2026
- Orange = 2027
- Blue = 2028

Number on top = month.

Overdue inspection?

Delay	Fine
2-4 months	€15
4-8 months	€25
> 8 months	€60 + 1 point

Failed the inspection?

- You receive a defect list (Mängelbericht)
- You have **1 month** to make repairs
- Fix it → return for re-inspection (cheaper)

Tips:

- Check lights before inspection
- Make sure you have all documents
- Clean your car (they may refuse very dirty vehicles)
- Triangle, first aid kit, safety vest — mandatory