

New generations of Kodiaq and Superb successfully complete super-cold testing in the Arctic Circle

- › **Hardware and software endure tests in extremely cold conditions**
- › **Most important findings are immediately incorporated into the further development of the vehicles**
- › **New Kodiaq and Superb will have their world premieres in autumn 2023**

Mladá Boleslav, 11 May 2023 – The new generations of Škoda's Superb and Kodiaq models have successfully passed intensive cold testing in the Arctic Circle. The vehicles' functions, quality and durability were assessed in temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees Celsius. The main focus of these tests was on driving stability, passenger comfort in icy conditions and overall reliability during long winter journeys. In addition, the vehicles had to withstand the extra weight of ice and snow. With the extreme-cold trials completed, testing of the new models now enters the final phase. The new Superb and the second-generation Kodiaq will have their world premieres in autumn 2023.

Johannes Neft, Škoda Auto Board Member for Technical Development, says: "Real-world testing in the toughest possible environmental conditions remains a crucial part of new-vehicle development, despite the advances in computer simulation. Our extensive test programmes in desert climates with extremely high temperatures on the one hand and on the other hand in the Arctic Circle ensure that Škoda customers can rely 100 percent on their vehicles in any weather conditions. At the same time, these tests give us the opportunity to identify optimization needs as early as possible and to design the vehicles in the best possible way to meet the requirements of everyday operation."

Comprehensive range of tests covering all vehicle aspects

Intensive test drives in extreme cold conditions are part of the standard programme for new-vehicle development. Škoda Auto regularly conducts such tests in the Arctic Circle, where the fourth-generation Škoda Superb and the second generation of the Kodiaq SUV have now proven that they can cope with any winter challenge. Every part of the test vehicles was scrutinised: chassis, body, engine, heating, and the entire electrical system.

Vehicle performance in snowy conditions

To assess the vehicles' general winter performance, Škoda Auto examines the impact of snow on the bodywork as well as the effects of snow entering the engine compartment and air intakes. All mechanical functions of the vehicle body as well as the electrics must perform flawlessly even at temperatures of minus 25 degrees Celsius, and the engine should start without problems at temperatures close to minus 30 degrees. All doors, the bonnet, and the

tailgate as well as the fuel filler cap and the cover of the charging socket on PHEV vehicles must be capable of opening even under such adverse conditions.

Tests examining driving behaviour and assistance systems

Numerous aspects of vehicle behaviour are assessed during real-world driving – for example, how well the vehicle copes with slush on the road, or how the front and rear bumpers perform when the vehicle hits a snow barrier. Driving over blocks of ice tests the robustness of the suspension and underbody. The test drivers check how the vehicles behave on icy and snowy roads and how well the assistance systems work. The testers evaluate the cars' driving dynamics, the performance of the all-wheel drive, if applicable, and the functional characteristics and ride comfort of the suspension. They check whether the transmission shifts faultlessly and whether the windscreen wipers and washers work. The vehicle lighting at night and the acoustic behaviour of frozen vehicle parts are also tested. High-voltage batteries of PHEV vehicles are charged in a frozen state, followed by a determination of the maximum range. To precisely assess the vehicles' durability in winter conditions, the test drivers cover tens of thousands of kilometres.

Testing interior functions

The test programme also looks at many interior functions, for example the performance of the heating system at extremely cold outside temperatures and the level of thermal comfort in the interior. The testers also check whether the windows mist up and how quickly they can be defrosted. Furthermore, they also evaluate whether the heating systems for the seats, the steering wheel, exterior mirrors, windscreen, and rear window perform as expected. Where applicable they also test the optional auxiliary heating. In addition, the drivers check how well the central touchscreen responds when the vehicle's interior temperature has dropped below zero.

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Video and media images



Video: New generations of Kodiaq and Superb successfully complete super-cold testing in the Arctic Circle

The video shows how the new Škoda Superb and the new Kodiaq are tested for function, quality and durability at temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees Celsius.

Source: Škoda Auto



New generations of Kodiaq and Superb successfully complete super-cold testing in the Arctic Circle

The new generations of the Škoda Superb and Kodiaq have undergone comprehensive tests on snow-covered roads in the Arctic Circle to assess their driving behaviour and assistance systems.

Source: Škoda Auto



New generations of Kodiaq and Superb successfully complete super-cold testing in the Arctic Circle

During super-cold testing in the darkness of the Arctic Circle, all lighting units of the new Škoda Superb and the new Kodiaq were checked for correct function.

Source: Škoda Auto



New generations of Kodiaq and Superb successfully complete super-cold testing in the Arctic Circle

The Superb, is already entering its fourth generation. The premiere will take place in autumn 2023.

Source: Škoda Auto



New generations of Kodiaq and Superb successfully complete super-cold testing in the Arctic Circle

Like the new Superb, the second generation of Škoda's large Kodiaq SUV will be unveiled in autumn 2023.

Source: Škoda Auto



New generations of Kodiaq and Superb successfully complete super-cold testing in the Arctic Circle

The snow-covered roads in the Arctic Circle are perfect for fine-tuning the handling of the new Superb in difficult road conditions.

Source: Škoda Auto



New generations of Kodiaq and Superb successfully complete super-cold testing in the Arctic Circle

The wintry track conditions in the Arctic Circle are perfect for fine-tuning the handling and all-wheel drive of the Kodiaq, the brand's top SUV.

Source: Škoda Auto

Škoda Auto

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the Next Level - Škoda Strategy 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in important growth markets such as India or North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers twelve passenger-car series: the Fabia, Rapid, Scala, Octavia and Superb as well as the Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Enyaq iV, Enyaq Coupé iV, Slavia and Kushaq.
- › delivered over 731,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2022.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; has additional production capacity in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs 45,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.