Official Status & Practice of the Reach for

Safe Exiting of Vehicles in the Netherlands.

A Dutch transportation & traffic professional now at CROW.NL explains:

First and for all I have to tell you, that cycling and the way we treat bicyclists just plain common practice, which we don’t consider anything special.

The right-handed reach-to-open method used by Dutch drivers, has been done this way for at least 50 years. It has no specific ‘inventor’ or origin story, but emerged in this bike-friendly country as our preferred commonsense practice.

In time, safe exiting became a formal driver teaching and licensing exam requirement by state authority. Presently, there are two rules that are specific about opening vehicle doors. [See: <http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0015600/2013-12-31> ]

Article 4 e says: het permanent rekening te houden met (mogelijke) andere weggebruikers, in het bijzonder kwetsbare weggebruikers als voetgangers, fietsers e.d; **(*translated: to take permanently into consideration (possible) other road users, special vulnerable road users such as pedestrians,bicyclists, etc.)***

And Article 6a says that you are specific tested on: het op juiste en veilige wijze in- of uitstappen; **(*translated: getting in and out of the car in a safe way)***

On the website about car driving instruction the method for safe exiting is specified. [See: <http://www.autorij-instructie.nl/2010/02/handelen-de-lesauto-instappen-en-uitstappen/> ]

This way of getting out of the car is the standard in driving instruction:

**Handelen bij uitstappen en weglopen van de auto:**

1. pak de handgreep van het portier vast met je linker hand. Houd de handgreep vast zodat losrukken door de wind later bij het ontgrendelen (3) voorkomen wordt
2. kijk vóór de auto, in de binnenspiegel, de linker buitenspiegel en over je linker schouder om te oordelen of je veilig en zonder het overige verkeer te hinderen uit kunt stappen
3. ontgrendel het portier met de rechterhand, terwijl je de deurgreep met links blijft vasthouden Door deze volgorde aan te houden bevorder je een juist kijkgedrag. Je lichaam moet je op deze wijze al een kwart naar links draaien, waardoor het kijken over je linkerschouder en naast de auto een automatisme wordt

**Translated:**

1.       Grab the grip/hold of the door with your left hand. Hold the handle in order to prevent tugging the door by the wind when unlocking

2.       Look in front of the car, in the inside mirror, the left outside mirror and over your left shoulder if yoy can get off the car without disturbing th eother traffic

3.       Unlock the door with your RIGHT HAND, holding the doorgrip with your left hand. By following this sequence you encourage the correct way of watching. Your body should make a quart turn, ensuring that looking over your left shoulder alongside the car becomes an automism

Note: Above is edited response to an inquiry by M. Charney Aug. 2016. For information, contact www.DutchReach.org using the Contact form. v2 092416