

STAGE FLASH

Date: 18 August 2017
Day: 2
Stage: Mittelmosel 2
Weather: 18 degrees, heavy rain
Track: wet

Flash N°: 6
Distance: 22.00 km

1	OGIER Sébastien/INGRASSIA Julien	FRA/FRA	FORD FIESTA WRC	“Not so easy. I don’t know, let’s see how the guys behind go, but it might work with the rain tyres here – we were aquaplaning in places. The important thing is that Thierry and I are on the same.”
2	TÄNAK Ott/JÄRVEOJA Martin	EST/EST	FORD FIESTA WRC	“Actually, not so good. There was a tight hairpin, I pulled the handbrake but I couldn’t see out and I went straight into the vines. I was very lucky to get back. I still feel sorry I didn’t take full wet tyres like the team suggested.”
3	EVANS Elfyn/BARRITT Daniel	GBR/GBR	FORD FIESTA WRC	“A mix of tyres on the car. Some places it worked well, in others no grip at all.”
4	PADDON Hayden/MARSHALL Sebastian	NZL/GBR	HYUNDAI i20 WRC	“Hard to know if this was the correct choice [diagonal cross of wet and soft tyres]. I’m not driving too committed. It’s difficult to judge the tyres on the way I’m driving the car.”
5	NEUVILLE Thierry/GILSOUL Nicolas	BEL/BEL	HYUNDAI i20 WRC	“I was on full softs. I don’t know what is the best choice. In the lines with the water there is no grip. I had a full spin in a hairpin. I tried my best but it’s not very nice in these conditions.”
7	MEEKE Kris/NAGLE Paul	GBR/IRL	CITROËN C3 WRC	“The road was a lot cleaner than I expected. The rain has washed it. I was expecting more mud, which might have benefited us. We don’t often run these tyres, even on tests, so they took a bit of getting used to.”
8	BREEN Craig/MARTIN Scott	IRL/GBR	CITROËN C3 WRC	“I felt the wet tyre go off really quick. I struggled to commit in there.”
9	MIKKELSEN Andreas/JÆGER Anders	NOR/NOR	CITROËN C3 WRC	“[Taking four full wet tyres] worked for me, yes. Not everywhere. In the vineyards, it was not so bad. But I didn’t have a choice anyway. This stage was a mudbath near the end. I’m happy not to lose more time from this position on the road.”
10	LATVALA Jari-Matti/ANTTILA Miikka	FIN/FIN	TOYOTA YARIS WRC	“The first part was quite okay. Towards the end on the big road I started aquaplaning and I lost the confidence.”

11	HÄNNINEN Juho/LINDSTRÖM Kaj	FIN/FIN	TOYOTA YARIS WRC	"Better than I expected. In places the grip was reasonable."
12	LAPPI Esapekka/FERM Janne	FIN/FIN	TOYOTA YARIS WRC	"70 percent of the stage was really okay, but when you have standing water and slick tyres it's not much fun. I had some water splashes. Still, I managed to survive."
14	KREMER Armin/WINKLHOFER Pirmin	DEU/DEU	FORD FIESTA WRC	"My first time on the full rain tyres. Good grip. The best option I think."
34	KOPECKÝ Jan/DRESLER Pavel	CZE/CZE	ŠKODA FABIA R5	"It is a difficult stage. I picked rained tyres which was okay."
41	GRIEBEL Marijan/KOPCZYK Stefan	DEU/DEU	ŠKODA FABIA R5	"I'm driving this car for the first time in the wet. But it was okay."
66	TANNERT Julius/HEIGL Jürgen	DEU/AUT	FORD FIESTA R2	"I was on rain tyres. The conditions are extremely hard to judge."
71	KREIM Fabian/CHRISTIAN Frank	DEU/DEU	ŠKODA FABIA R5	"It is very dirty and slippery but I was safely on the road. Luckily, this time I didn't have a hit."