

Porsche Cayenne Turbo GT sets first official production SUV lap record at Yas Marina Circuit

20/05/2025 The Porsche Cayenne Turbo GT is officially the fastest production SUV around the Yas Marina Circuit. The lap time of 2:14.046 is the first production car lap record sanctioned by the circuit organisers, as well as the Emirates Motorsport Organisation.

Abu Dhabi |The Porsche Cayenne Turbo GT is officially the fastest production SUV around the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The Cayenne Turbo GT set a new production SUV lap record of 2:14.046 for the full 5.281-kilometre Grand Prix layout of the F1 venue, with racing driver Ramez Azzam performing driving duties.

The new benchmark was set in an officially sanctioned event, the first time that the Yas Marina Circuit and Emirates Motorsport Organisation (EMSO) have combined to conduct a newly established format for officially recognised production car lap records.

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The Cayenne Turbo GT features the most powerful Porsche V8 engine. It produces 659 PS of power and 850 Nm of torque, paired with an eight-speed Tiptronic S transmission.

Performance upgrades include Porsche Dynamic Chassis Control (PDCC) active roll stabilisation system, Active Rear Wheel Steering, and the Porsche Ceramic Composite Brake (PCCB) system as standard.

New official production lap record management debuted

The new official format dictates that cars receive scrutineering prior to track activity to ensure they are production specification. On track activity is then limited to a 60-minute practice session, followed by a 45-minute qualifying session in which the lap record time must be set.

The entire process was overseen by EMSO, led by experienced senior FIA official Fergus Lavers, with the full facilities of race control in operation. Even track limits are enforced closely, to ensure lap times are within regulations.

“We thank Yas Marina Circuit and EMSO for working together to establish this new, official format for production car lap records at our home circuit.” said Wissam Khalil, General Manager of Porsche Centre Abu Dhabi and Al Ain.

“Our congratulations also go to Ramez for setting such a fast lap time, slightly faster than our previous Cayenne Turbo GT lap record set in 2023.”

The Yas Marina Circuit is the host of the Formula 1 season finale each year and a hub for motorsport activity in the Middle East. The venue is now able to officially sanction production car lap records for the first time.

“We congratulate Porsche on setting an official production car lap record with the Cayenne Turbo GT,” said Ali Al Beshr, General Manager of Yas Marina Circuit.

“This achievement contributes to our growing portfolio of sanctioned lap records across various car categories, reinforcing Yas Marina Circuit as the benchmark for performance in the region.”

Ramez Azzam performs under pressure

Azzam, winner of the GT4 class in this year’s Dubai 24 Hours, was the pilot selected for the lap record

run.

“The new official format puts more pressure on the driver and car, but I enjoyed it,” said Azzam.

“You really get the feeling of a proper event where the pressure it on to ensure you can put a clean and fast lap together in an official timed qualifying session. I even had one time disallowed for track limits, so the entire process is now very much like a proper motorsport event.”

Azzam was impressed with the performance of the Cayenne Turbo GT around the full Grand Prix layout of the Yas Marina Circuit.

“The power and sound of the engine is impressive, but what sets the Cayenne Turbo GT apart is its braking and handling performance. For a car of this size to brake so late, carry so much corner speed and sit so flat is remarkable. I could push it so hard and still have confidence. It’s crazy”

More product information on the Cayenne Turbo GT can be found here on the Porsche Newsroom.

Production SUV Lap Record Facts

Car: Porsche Cayenne Turbo GT
Circuit: Yas Marina Circuit – Grand Prix Circuit
Circuit Length: 5.281 kilometres
Location: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Driver: Ramez Azzam
Lap Time: 2:14.046
Average Speed: 141.83km/h
Date: 24 April 2025
Session Time: 7:00pm to 7:45pm
Air Temperature: 27.6 degrees Celsius
Track Temperature: 39.1 degrees Celsius
Humidity: 61.7% rH
Wind Speed: 1.4 km/h
Official Timekeeper: Faraz Niaz
EMSO Observer: Fergus Lavers
Verification: Hamid Al Mazroui

In The Media

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Path: media/Images/img_2.jpg
Title: 0001_A&S_LaptimeRecord2025-12.jpg
Subline: Racing driver Ramez Azzam (left) and Wissam Khalil, General Manager, Porsche Centre Abu Dhabi and Al Ain.

Path: media/Images/img_4.jpg
Title: 0001_A&S_LaptimeRecord2025-11.jpg
Subline: Racing driver Ramez Azzam with the Porsche Cayenne Turbo GT at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, UAE

Path: media/Images/img_5.jpg
Title: IMG_9614.JPG
Subline: EMSO, led by experienced senior FIA official Fergus Lavers, oversaw the official lap record attempt, including full operation of the Yas Marina Circuit race control.

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