



The Risks of Driving to Work – Managers

Introduction

More than a quarter of all road traffic incidents may involve somebody who is driving as part of their work at the time. **(Department for Transport figures)**

For most of us, driving for work is the single most dangerous task that we perform on a daily basis. There are comparative levels of risk however, driving a car, van, bus/coach or truck for work related purposes is the riskiest activity most people undertake.

The Issues

Young drivers are often regarded as higher risk because they lack driving experience and are sometimes required to drive larger vehicles such as vans in higher risk locations during busy traffic periods. Vans have additional blind spots and are bigger, heavier, longer and react differently when braking compared to the small cars that many young drivers learned to drive in.

Identification

It's not just younger drivers that are exposed to risks when driving for work. In the UK there is an estimated one million company car drivers and a further nine million employees using their own private cars on work-related business.

Next Steps

As a fleet operator, you are responsible for assessing the risks to health and safety (including risks created by privately owned vehicles driven on company business often referred to as 'Grey Fleet'. A risk assessment for work-related driving should follow the same principles as for any other work activity.

It is vital for employers to make sure they are undertaking their duty of care obligations correctly. You should ensure that all vehicles used for business, whether company-owned or employee-owned, are roadworthy and that all drivers are competent behind the wheel.

Drivers of all vehicle types are affected by some kind of risk when driving for work.

Some examples of risk factors are:

- **Driving with tight deadlines to meet** (being tempted to rush, speed or take risks)
- **Driving whilst tired or fatigued** (losing concentration or falling asleep at the wheel)
- **Road type** (busy periods and unfamiliar roads)
- **Poor weather conditions** (heavy rain, wind, snow, ice, bright sunlight, affecting vision)
- **Vehicle defects** (tyres, with poor tread, overloaded vans & trailers)
- **Driving for long periods of time** (loss of concentration, tiredness)
- **Driving at night or early morning** (poor reactions)
- **Driving whilst feeling stressed** (taking risks)



Examples of work-related driving:

- Driving between sites
- Driving on any company business
- Dropping a parcel off on your way home at another office location
- Driving to attend a work-related meeting or conference
- Driving to work in a company vehicle
- Driving to the post office to drop of the post
- Using a pool car to travel on a business trip



For clarification or further information please contact:

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