

SAFETY ADVICE DESIGNED TO KEEP YOUR STAFF SAFE AND YOUR BUSINESS COMPLIANT



Working Safely When Driving on Public Roads

Every year there are many deaths on the road that are in some way work-related. Driving between work sites, deliveries, driving to meetings and events and visiting customers increase risks to the driver's health and safety. Road-going vehicles range from lorries, vans and cars to tractors, motor bikes and bicycles.

Main Points

Many road related deaths involve vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders etc. Common causes of incidents include:-

- Collisions with other vehicles, pedestrians or objects
- Overturning
- Unstable or poorly secured loads shifting or falling from vehicles
- Poorly maintained vehicles
- Driving at an inappropriate speed for the road conditions, weather or vehicle
- Driving whilst under the influence of alcohol and/or prescribed /illegal drugs
- Lack of care, inexperience or lack of concentration when driving (e.g. using a mobile device)

Discussion Points

You can reduce the chance of an accident or ill health by following these guidelines:-

- Ensure you are authorised, trained, competent and hold a licence for the category of vehicle/combination you are intending to use (including traile equipment).

- Inform your supervisor/manager immediately of any endorsements applied to your licence.
- Inform your supervisor/manager of any health concerns which may affect your ability to drive
- Check that your vehicle and any attachments are safe to drive on the public road – before use, check.
 - Safety features such as horns, lights, indicators, reflectors, mirrors, and reversing lights are intact/working correctly. Always keep lights, reflectors and number of plates clean and clear.
 - That service and parking brakes are working well and that any independent rear tractor brakes are linked.
 - Tyre pressures are adequate and tyres are free from cuts, excessive wear or other faults.
 - All fluid levels are within their safe limits. Make sure the correct types of oil and coolant are used
 - The windscreen and windows are clean, free from cracks and chips. Check that wipers, washers and demisters are all working.
 - Report any defects with the vehicle and any attachments immediately.
- Ensure, before you start your journey, that you:-
 - Adjust mirrors so that you can see behind the vehicle easily
 - Adjust your seat so it is comfortable, you can see properly and you can reach all controls.
 - Make sure seat belts work and are worn by everyone on the vehicle
 - Make sure you know where all the controls are and how to use them. Take time to familiarise yourself with any vehicle new to you
 - Carry suitable emergency equipment (e.g. torch, spare tyre, jack, warning triangle, toolkit, first-aid kit, high viz etc
 - Ensure that you are taking a tractor or other slow moving vehicle into a public road, the flashing beacon is clearly visible to other road users.
 - Remove or fold back attachments where applicable (eg telehandlers) – many accidents occur where attachments protrude beyond a junction onto a carriageway.
 - Ensure any loads carried on the front of vehicles do not obstruct your vision or make the vehicle unstable.
 - Plan your route carefully to avoid known difficult roads (e.g. road width and height restrictions) where possible
 - Avoid rushing. Give yourself the time you need to the journey, taking account of travel time and traffic.
 - Always take extra care when driving at night, in snow and ice, rain and fog or when the road conditions are poor. Cancel journeys if necessary.

Talk to Atlas about Safety Management for your business

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