

FLAGship IN BRIEF

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Uninsured opt-outs who ignore car safety checks

RANDOM checks on 328 company cars and drivers and 143 private opt-out cars and working drivers have revealed:

- 78% were not weekly checked for safety. The drivers admitted to 'never bothering'.
- 20% of opt-out drivers' cars used for business were badly maintained.
- 14% of all 471 cars checked, corporate and private opt-out, were unroadworthy.
- 8% of the opt-out drivers were not properly insured.
- 4% of the opt-out drivers had invalid licences.
- 2% of all the cars were untaxed.

Simon Hill, MD of Leicester based Total Motion vehicle management whose engineers conducted the checks, says: 'Employers should be worried about prosecution if an employee or contractor driving an unsafe or

illegal car was involved in an accident while on company business.

'We found illegal or incorrectly inflated tyres, low oil levels, dangerous brakes, lights not working and toolkits missing, which could all cause accidents or problems on the road and result in hefty repair bills or even fines.

'Generally results were worse where drivers were using their own vehicles.'

That alarming situation, placing companies and directors at risk of prosecution, hefty fines and even jail, is not unusual. It is typical of working cars and drivers nationwide.

Such dangerous slapstick is precisely what FSG risk management eliminates. And as a spin-off the RiskMaster programme slashes £thousands off fleet vehicle running costs – free.

Secret diesel misfuelling

BEWARE of unreported company diesel car misfuelling with petrol. Employee 'secret' quick fixes, or driving on regardless, are coming home to roost – in seriously damaged vehicles.

FSG Technical Services Manager Mike Kick warns: 'Unless properly treated misfuelling damage appears after six-eight months. The symptoms are engine starting problems, intermittent cut-out and a smoking exhaust indicating wrecked fuel injectors and other possible costly damage.

'Increasingly we are experiencing problems resulting from misfuelling in second hand diesel cars. Employees who don't report misfuelling and buy quick fixes are a danger. They think they are getting away with it but they can't and don't.'

Accident management up 125%

FSG's one-stop does all Accident Management handled 4000 claims for client companies in 2004; last year 9000, and 2006 is edging higher. The service does all claim administration and recovers every penny possible.

Masterview goes high definition

MASTerview, FSG's see-all-anywhere video enabling garages to transmit live images, placing the viewer 'at the scene', now has superb high definition with the Mk4 Vista SmartTel broadband transmission system.

Pay up, it's cheaper



THERE is no dodging London's £8-day C-charge in a hire car. The system ultimately reaches you as a penalty, albeit via FSG where settling client employee unpaid fines is a nightmare. 'Collectors of penalties are harsh people,' sighs FSG.