

FLAGship

IN BRIEF



May 2007

Michael Kemp reporting affairs as he finds them

Warning: 'get new Kitemark or die...'

"ANY crash repairer who ignores the new Thatcham-BSI Kitemark (PAS 125) will not be working on cars in five years.

"This is the last chance for independent bodyshops to prove their competence," declared MVRA chief Mike Monaghan in addressing last month's FSG annual Masterserve Bodyshop Workshop in Chippenham, Wilts.

By mid-April seven UK bodyshops had received the Kitemark, costing £2500pa for BSI auditing and licensing, and with MVRA guidance a further 500 had applied.

Mr Monaghan said the Kitemark was needed by crash repairers to meet insurers' demands and to comply with corporate responsibility legislation.

A second version of the Kitemark, identifying garage technical competence to service and maintain cars to manufacturers' standards, was coming next year, he added.

Phil Todd, FSG Supplier Liaison Manager, commented: "With the Thatcham-BSI Kitemark FSG Masterserve garages will prove beyond question that they equal top franchised quality."

'Thatcham' is the Motor Insurers' Repair Research Centre at Thatcham, Berks.

FSG puts reliability into an uncertain market

Best car-van hire goes up still higher in quality (by 'growing' into rental products)

CAR-VAN rental at FSG is simple and cheaper. One call achieves all plus special attention to client business requirements, exactly to need, is provided on request.

It is a unique formula that was started by FSG as a client facility, grew into a nationwide necessity for many client companies, and now has mushroomed into a product to:-

MEET business demand for still more managed systems developed to comprehensively audit rented vehicles operating in uniquely specialised ways at multiple locations.

GROW FSG car and van rental supremacy as a pace setter and class leader in efficiency. In other words, establish FSG's 'form' of car/van hire into a product.

Named HireMaster Service the re-born operation "retains all its original vehicle hiring attributes giving maximum individual attention". It is geared to meet any specialised requirement.

FSG Technical Director Julian Bailey-Watts says it is a:-

TRUE one-stop shop for business vehicle rental. Telephone or email your

requirement/s and HireMaster does the rest.

COST cutter. Standard charging produces lower overall prices. "FSG takes pride in saving its clients money."

GOOD availability of vehicles and response times.

HireMaster's creation is "stability and dependability in a market place fluctuating with uncertainty and rising prices".

In recent years car makers have reduced supplies to the daily rental sector, some motor manufacturers now avoid sole supply contracts to rental concerns, and cuts in vehicle supplies have led to widespread price increases.

"We are providing a vital industrial and commercial need. Our vehicle rental to requirement on demand at clearly displayed fair prices cannot be bettered," states Mr Bailey-Watts.

FLASHBACK: Until now FSG has never actively sold vehicle rental as a product. It managed replacement vehicle rental as a convenience to business vehicle management customers, who like it so much they asked FSG to manage all their replacement car-van rental.

When H&S says you count in the boss

OWNERS of independent garages are often hands-on technical gurus drawing salaries from their businesses.

Legally they are company employees.

So, they must be counted as such for Health & Safety

(H&S) compliance, states Lawgistics the motor trade legal advice specialist, because:-

"When bosses count employees they too easily forget to include themselves.

"Yet when a company's

employees exceed four its H&S policy must be in writing."

Penalty for violation: subject to circumstances an enforcement notice, or up to £5,000 magistrates' fine or unlimited Crown Court fine.