



Now ORR protection is a 'must' for every employer

Police tick-sheet to become a H&S fear?

A VOLUNTARY police questionnaire, to check the safety precautions at companies employing working drivers, is destined to become a feared H&S instrument.

For it is expected to be adopted by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE). And if/when that happens the questionnaire must become a compulsory document.

If then routinely H&S demands that it be completed by a company whenever one of its employees is involved in a serious work-driving road crash, the document will be feared because it is self-convicting.

A-B-C-D reply options, ticked as appropriate, reveal if a company's management is flouting occupational road risk (ORR) precautions and likely to be breaching H&S requirements.

In 21 questions every safety aspect of work vehicle operation, especially care and safety taken of working drivers and those in private cars on their employers' premises, is laid bare for police study.

The 'Self/Joint Assessment Questionnaire' is a Metropolitan Police - Freight Operator Recommendation Scheme document "assisting police in their management of work-related road safety".

Currently it is described as being "educationally led... for likely future H&S enforcement". So answering it is voluntary for now.

And it currently makes good sense for a company to co-operate, to learn at first

hand the way police see its ORR-H&S protection.

Questions include:-

HOW do you ensure that your employees are competent to drive safely? With optional comment added, a choice of four "compliance indicators" is required to be ticked:-

Assessment of driver competence; delivery of safe driver training where competence is identified; handbook or written guidance; induction training in policies.

WHAT checks do you make of your employees' driving licences? Ticks can be placed against:- *checked before employment; regularly checked; employees required to inform company of driving offences.*

DO you check opt-out employees' private work vehicle insurance? *Comment invited.*

WHAT are your management arrangements for preventing driver fatigue and are they sufficient?

WHAT are your incident reporting and investigation procedures?

More questions discover arrangements for preventing mobile phone use while driving, ensuring safe speeds, seatbelt use, safe driver vision, contract driver protection on employer premises, etc.

**FSG RiskMaster ORR protection does it all for you. It's fast becoming vital - and FREE. See adjoining report.*

Designed by vehicle management and legal specialists it covers all of the Questionnaire and more.

Getting ORR cover free...

A MAJOR broker is providing Motor Trade insurance with:-

Free RiskMaster employer-ORR protection worth £42-year per work-driving employee in a **discounted** premium of around 15 per cent - "or more".

That legally-vital insurance, at cut price, is being offered to Motor Trade businesses by national broker Smart & Cook at its 28 UK offices.

A garage with six employees can save £1000p/a, or more. And a business with 100 work-drivers can save around £17,500p/a.

Smart & Cook Regional Director Steve Jeffries, in Bath, says: "The offer is win-win because by adopting RiskMaster an employer minimises his risk of H&S violation and that makes his trade policy a win for insurers.

"Hence lower risk, lower insurance. The maths make sense for all businesses."

Many smaller companies are sceptical about ORR protection yet it safeguards against their greatest risk of costly H&S violation - in a road crash. RiskMaster is the most complete protection against H&S slip-ups.

David Blacklock, FSG Insurance Manager who negotiated the new Smart & Cook offer, says: "It's going to FSG's thousands of motor trade suppliers and will extend into other business areas."

*Contact: david.blacklock@fsguk.com

Brighter drivers avoid rushing

"**AVOID** speeding, fatigue, and distraction by smart journey planning that avoids rushing" is a coming 2008 Government safety pitch targeting working drivers.

SPEED limiters in fleet cars, new pressure on employers for safe work driving, and an HSE road death investigation unit, are being demanded by transport safety lobby group PACTS.

FATIGUE is a natural state

we cope with from birth. It's when a demanding task like driving is added that fatigue can be a killer if not 'cured' quickly by rest, says IAM.

POLITICAL lying to justify CO₂ taxes is disgraceful. Eco-driving makes sense to save money. If all UK road and air traffic stopped it would make no measurable cut in global man-made carbon dioxide (CO₂).

NINE-in-ten motorists do

not know their vehicle's correct tyre pressures for braking safety and to save fuel and reduce CO₂, says RoadSafe partner TyreSafe.

SINCE 1997 the UK truck-van fleet has grown by 113,000 vehicles, 90 per cent of them CVs under 3.5-tonnes, says the SMMT.

BEWARE: Now 2.7-million drivers (1-in-10) are dodging road tax (VED) and insurance - an official figure.