

Welcome to your AA DriveTech newsletter.

At AA DriveTech we continue to deliver this informative newsletter on a regular basis. If you have a topic of interest you'd like us to include, please let us know by contacting your Account Manager.

Kind regards,  
**AA DriveTech Team**

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## Information For Drivers

### Tighter Drink & Drugs Driving Penalties Arrive

95% of drivers are unaware that some prescription drugs fall under the scope of the new drug-driving regulations which came into force this month, according to a recent survey. We gave details of the changes in our February newsletter.



Also, under the new legislation, drink drivers are no longer entitled to request a blood or urine sample when their breath specimen registers less than 51mg/100ml.

Penalties for breaking the tightened drug-driving laws are a minimum one-year driving ban and a fine of up to £5,000. Those convicted will get a criminal record.

## Increased LGV Speed Limits

New speed limits for trucks over 7.5 tonnes come into force this month.

The limit on single carriageways rises from 40mph to 50 mph and on dual carriageways from 50mph to 60mph.



However, European law requires speed limiters to be set at a maximum of 56mph, so the impact on dual carriageway traffic flow will be minimal in reality.

Incidentally, for those of you that travel in rural areas a lot, it's worth noting that tractor speed limits have also risen, to 25mph!

### Abbreviated Safety Advice for Drivers #1

Driver posture is crucial to reduce fatigue. If the seat has height adjustment, use it to ensure your eye line equates to the centre of the screen. Forward/back seat adjustment - with arms outstretched, your wrist should ideally be on the top of steering wheel rim. Don't forget the head restraint - the back of your head should touch headrest centre.

## Driving Licence Counterpart

From 8 June 2015, the paper counterpart to the photocard driving licence will not be valid and will no longer be issued by DVLA. The counterpart was introduced to display driving licence details that could not be included on the photocard.



These details include some vehicle categories you are entitled to drive and any endorsement/penalty points.

If you already hold a paper counterpart, after June 8 2015 it will no longer have any legal status. You can destroy your paper counterpart after this date if you want - we recommend you don't at this time (see below) - but you still need to keep your current photocard driving licence. Paper driving licences issued before the photocard was introduced in 1998 will remain valid and should not be destroyed.

From June 8 new penalty points (endorsements) will only be recorded electronically, and will not be printed or written on either photocard licences or paper driving licences. From this date, if you commit an offence you will still have to pay any applicable fine and submit your licence to the court but the way the court deals with the paperwork will change.

For photocard licences, the court will retain the paper counterpart and only return the photocard to you. For paper licences, the court will return it to you but they won't have written or printed the offence details on it.

This means that from June 8 neither the photocard driving licence nor the paper licence will provide an accurate account of any driving endorsements you may have received. Instead, this information will be held on DVLA's driver record, and can be checked online, by phone or by post.

## Breaking News!

In the press recently, there has been a lot of news coverage about hiring a car abroad this year, after the abolition of the paper counterpart licence on 8th June 2015.



While it's not always a problem, we suggest that you don't destroy your paper counterpart for now but take it with you when travelling abroad if you want to hire a car. We also recommend you visit the DVLA's website [www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence](http://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence) before you travel to see if you can generate the unique code that will allow access to your records by a third party for 72 hours; this 'share your licence' service will be launched shortly.

Finally, we recommend you take your National Insurance Number for each driver with you too as this is also required if you, or your hire company, want to make an online check. In case you need it, the DVLA's Driver Check Service for hire companies is on 09061 393 837; call charges do apply. The changes do not apply to driving licences issued by the DVA in Northern Ireland.

## **Distractions – A Lawyer's Perspective**

Jeanette Miller, a motoring lawyer with Geoffrey Miller Solicitors, has confirmed what we have said on many occasions in the past in these newsletter pages, that texting or emailing while driving is particularly dangerous.



"There is research to suggest that texting while driving reduces reaction times to the equivalent of being three times over the drink-drive limit," she said. "But many people disregard this risk; the psychology behind this needs to be further explored by the police, as clearly the penalties in place do not serve as a strong enough deterrent."

Miller added that motorists were generally aware that the law prohibited the use of a handheld mobile phone. "But the law specifies the use of any 'interactive communication device', which includes using your phone as a sat nav, sat nav devices themselves, laptops, and tablets."

She continued, "If you have to touch your device to operate it and take your hand off the wheel while driving, arguably this is committing an offence. However, people using sat nav and not touching controls while driving should be safe from prosecution."

Miller suggested that anyone who witnessed another driver using their phone illegally could report the matter to the police on the non-emergency 101 number rather than 999.

## Brain in Gear?

According to a recent survey, brushing hair, putting on make-up and even shaving are just some of the morning routines that 52% of the commuter drivers in the UK admit to carrying out while driving to work.



The number one morning activity drivers risk in the car is sipping from a hot cup of coffee, either taken from home in a flask or bought on the way to work. This is something 78% of drivers admit to doing at some point, with 43% admitting they do this daily.

The next most risky morning routine while driving is eating toast or another breakfast food (38%), while combing hair and checking your appearance is something 32% of drivers say they do regularly. Also high up on this list of driver distractions are applying make-up (22%) and having a shave (11%).

As we've said on many occasions in these pages, when you're driving that is all you should be doing. Even a momentary lapse in concentration can have tragic consequences.

## Abbreviated Safety Advice for Drivers

**#2** On the road more paint=more danger. Don't turn a blind eye to road markings - they're usually there when there's been a serious incident in the past. Scan the road surface continually - this will help with hazard anticipation. Never cross solid white lines, anywhere. Only enter box junctions if your exit is clear. Never stop, even for a moment, on the zig zag lines near pedestrian crossings.

# General Driver Risk Management - Related News

## Grey Fleet Under Scrutiny Again

Research from Lex Autolease suggests that nine million privately-owned cars are regularly used on work-related business out of a total UK grey fleet of 14m vehicles.



The leasing giant's analysis showed that 74% of fleet managers always check insurance cover on grey fleet vehicles, but 12% said they undertook only sporadic checks. A further 8% admitted they didn't carry out any insurance checks at all.

This is despite the significant challenge they pose to employers, in terms of their impact on the environment and employee safety.

"It appears many businesses remain oblivious to the cost challenges, environmental impact and safety risks associated with employees using their own vehicles for work purposes," said Lex Autolease's managing director, Tim Porter.

AA DriveTech has a suite of products that can assist in the safe and efficient running of grey fleet vehicles used by employees. Email [eloise.rob@AAdrivetech.com](mailto:eloise.rob@AAdrivetech.com) for more information

# Transport Committee Backs Incentive for Safety

MPs have called for the Department for Transport (DfT) to work more closely with fleets in an effort to improve road safety. The cross-party transport committee believes the Government should consider incentives to encourage the uptake of vehicle safety systems, backing a key recommendation from the Fleet Industry Manifesto, published by Fleet News in association with the BVRLA and ACFO.



In its report, 'Motoring of the Future', the transport committee suggests that the DfT should identify vehicle safety technologies whose introduction needs to be accelerated, and devise a range of fiscal and other incentives to increase their rate of adoption.

The Fleet Industry Manifesto called for tax breaks to be offered on preventative safety systems to encourage wider and faster uptake among fleet operators. Incentives could be used for other purposes, too, says the transport commission report.

Louise Ellman MP, chair of the transport committee, said "The Government must do more to ensure that people and businesses benefit from this opportunity."

## Road Rage Back in the News

Data obtained from 15 Police Forces across the UK reveals that road rage incidents are increasing year on year. Between 2013 and 2014, there was a 59% leap in road rage incidents and between 2012 and 2014, the 15 Police Forces recorded 1,331 incidents of road rage.



19% of drivers say they have been involved in an altercation that resulted in physical contact with another driver, while 37% of drivers reported being involved in road rage in some form.

The figures also show that 15% of drivers claim to have been involved in 10 or more road rage incidents.

## And news from AA DriveTech.....

### Driving a Better Business Video

Our Driving a Better Business video describes our comprehensive approach to fleet and driver risk management called the Journey – Audit, Validate, Assess, Train and Manage – and the business benefits that organisations enjoy when they adopt it.

Click on this link to view the video in YouTube - [https://youtu.be/ecX4SDhJi\\_w](https://youtu.be/ecX4SDhJi_w)



### AA DriveTech at Multimodal

Our Commercial & Passenger Vehicle team will be exhibiting at Multimodal (stand 1166) at the NEC, Birmingham on 28-30 April 2015.



Now in its eighth year, Multimodal is the UK and Ireland's premier freight transport, logistics and supply chain management event. Shippers and cargo owners visit to find ways of moving cargo more efficiently and to meet new suppliers.

Multimodal represents every logistics sector under one roof, making it a unique and highly valued industry showcase.

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