

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

Beware - The guy coming towards you may be high on drugs

According to Road Safety GB, the latest round of roadside drug drive tests, conducted by police forces up and down the country, have revealed alarming rates of positive results. 50% of drivers, tested since March, had levels of substances in excess of the new limits permitted by law.



Newly approved roadside testing equipment has enabled the police to prove what they for a long time suspected – drug use amongst drivers, particularly those in their twenties and thirties, is at epidemic proportions.

More than ever there is a need for responsible, trained business drivers to anticipate, and allow for, the errant behaviour of other road users.

Illegal mobile use is not restricted to conversations

At least 15 motorists are to be prosecuted for using their mobile phones to take pictures or video of a four lorry pile up on the A14 in Cambridgeshire in May. As far as the police are concerned, the use of mobile phones in this way is just as dangerous while driving as having a conversation on one.



CPS figures have shown that, in 2011, there were 7,380 prosecutions for illegal phone use while driving, 10 times higher than six years earlier when the law outlawing mobile use when driving came into force. However, a government survey published in February suggests that some 500,000 motorists regularly use mobiles while driving.

Abbreviated Safety Advice for Drivers #1

It's cool to be a smoothie! Why race to join the back of a queue? Look well ahead and anticipate the actions of others to allow you to smooth out the peaks and troughs of normal driving patterns. Always brake and accelerate gently and progressively. It saves fuel, is kinder on the vehicle mechanically, cuts stress and allows more space to avoid collisions.

Hydration is crucial at this time of year

According to new research by Loughborough University, being dehydrated while driving can cause sufficient driving errors to equate to being at the drink driving limit.



In a professionally conducted university experiment involving simulators, dehydrated drivers made over twice as many driving errors as their properly hydrated counterparts. This clearly demonstrates the clear need to maintain fluid levels while driving, especially in the summer months, as it doesn't take long for a body to lose hydration once out of an air conditioned vehicle.

Abbreviated Safety Advice for Drivers #2

Winding the window down and listening can help identify risk. Many cars, and all cycles, are virtually soundless but their tyres often become audible before they come into view. So remember this tip: 'at junctions in town, windows down'. This can also help spot other road users that might be in your blind spot, particularly pedestrians talking on mobiles or to other pedestrians.

Anti-social driving purge

At least 10,000 motorists have been fined for offences such as tailgating, hogging the middle lane and undertaking on the motorway, under the new Careless Driving laws, which we highlighted a few editions ago.



Other specific examples of bad driving that have attracted the £100 and three penalty points allowed by the revised law, are failing to give way at junctions, spinning wheels unnecessarily, pushing into a queue of traffic and deliberately soaking pedestrians by running through roadside puddles.

Overtaking - Making the right decision

According to another recent online poll, 14% of drivers report that in the past year they have been forced by another driver's overtaking to swerve, pull over or brake hard to avoid a collision.



Also, 80% of drivers have felt endangered by an overtaking manoeuvre, either of their own, by their driver or by another vehicle. 94% of respondents said they had witnessed a risky overtaking manoeuvre, with 53% seeing them monthly or even more often.

A driver who has benefitted from defensive driving techniques will instinctively know when it's safe to overtake and when it isn't. Advanced drivers will know that if you have to think about whether it's safe to overtake or not, it's already the wrong decision and you shouldn't.

General Driver Risk Management - Related News

Training could overcome the fear factor

According to a recent survey of 2,000 UK driving employees, 16% of business drivers feel invincible when driving, claiming that they never consider their safety to be at risk.



However, LCV drivers turned out to be the least likely to feel invincible, with only 10% saying that they don't consider their safety while driving. By contrast, 26% of public transport drivers feel invincible on the road at all times.

One to one training with an experienced, fleet-qualified instructor is a sure fire way to quell these sorts of concerns and improve pro-active risk management on the move. As always AA DriveTech can help; please contact your Account Manager or tellmemore@AADrivetech.com to find out more.

Foreign truck collisions up again

Analysis of recent traffic statistics has revealed that collisions on motorways involving foreign LGVs have increased by 14% since 2012. Polish trucks represented 15.7% of accidents, while German vehicles followed with 13.1% of collisions. LGVs from Spain were only involved in 6.1% of incidents.



Unsurprisingly perhaps, the M25 saw more foreign truck incidents than any other road in the UK, followed by the M6 and the M1. City and town centre locations accounted for over a third of collisions. Across all road types, estimates put the number of foreign lorry incidents at 3,100, or nearly nine per day.

Half the tyres on the road could be illegal

Tyre supplier ATS Euromaster warns that more than half of the tyres replaced at one of its depots this year have had less than 1.6mm of tread remaining, meaning they were illegal when customers drove onto the forecourt.



We know from previous findings that fleet vehicles are no exception to the rule, with many company drivers believing that responsibility for their tyres lies not with them but instead with whoever maintains the vehicle.

The law is clear – the driver is responsible for the condition of the tyres on the vehicle he or she is driving. If an examination of the tyres reveals that the tread is worn below the legally required level, there is significant tyre carcass damage or they are even underinflated, prosecution could follow.

In theory a court could apply a maximum fine of £1000 and three penalty points per illegal tyre.

Licence check confusion

According to one industry source, fleets are confused about the ways they can check employees' driving licences once the paper counterpart is abolished from June 8. It follows the introduction of the 'View My Driving Licence' service, an online service for individuals to access their driving licence.



The DVLA has repeatedly stated that this is for driver use only and that any use of the service by third parties, including an employer, is an offence under the Data Protection Act. It has said it will investigate and pursue any case where unauthorised access has occurred.

The only answer is to entrust licence checking to an expert and of course AA DriveTech can help with this. For more information, please contact your Account Manager or tellmemore@AADrivetech.com to find out more.

And news from AA DriveTech.....

AA DriveTech at Safety & Health Expo

Come and see our Fleet team who are exhibiting at the Safety & Health Expo (stand M1910) at ExCeL, London on 16-18 June 2015.



If you'd like to attending please register here

From the 16 - 18 June 2015, ensure you're not missing out on the latest legislation, resulting in potential costly court cases and workplace injury, through the CPD accredited seminars at Safety & Health Expo. Running alongside the 350 companies showcasing new products, you will have the opportunity to get hands on with the most intuitive, safe and cost-effective technologies, enabling you to cut budgets while retaining low risks.

AA DriveTech teams up with Energy Saving Trust

Finally, we're sure you' ll be interested to hear that AA DriveTech has teamed up with the Energy Saving Trust to drive down fuel consumption within fleets. Through a new partnership, we now have the latest eco training techniques fully integrated into the majority of AA DriveTech's core driver training courses.



Backed by the Department of Transport, this joint initiative aims to help employees who drive for work to become more fuel efficient and safer drivers. With average savings of up to 15% on fuel costs, a typical business driver covering 12,000 miles a year could expect to gain annual savings of £200-£250.

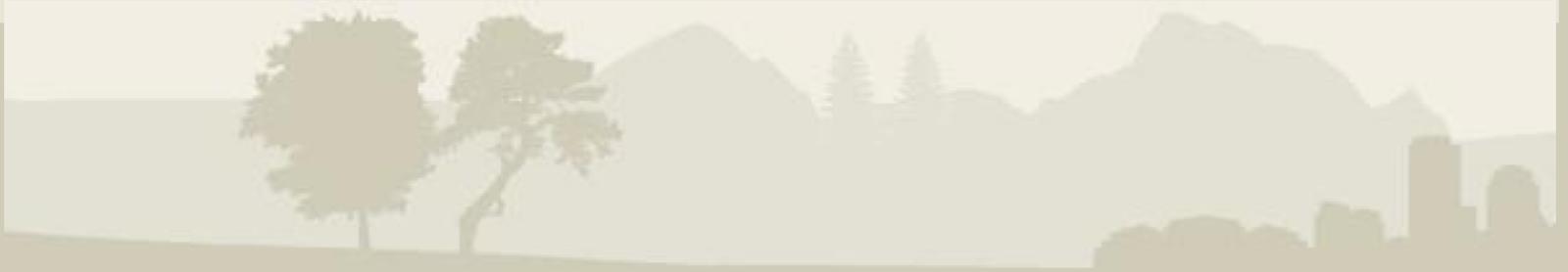
The initiative integrates the EST innovative training methods into our AA DriveTech's market-leading courses, with each driver completing two laps of a pre-defined road circuit which simulates a full range of common driving scenarios. Comparative MPG figures and average speed figures are recorded for each circuit both before and after the driver receives practical and easy to follow coaching; each driver is given a driver report to show what they' ve achieved on the day.

For more information, please contact your Account Manager or email us via tellmemore@AADrivetech.com

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