



ROAD TRANSPORT FORUM

DVSA publishes new load securing guide for vehicle operators

DVSA has published new guidance to help vehicle operators transport loads securely.

The guide, which has been developed with the transport industry, sets out important information such as:

- Who's responsible for load securing;
- The consequences of poor load securing;
- How DVSA enforces the rules on load securing.



It also gives practical advice about:

- Loading on different types of vehicles;
- Carrying different types of loads.

The guide includes videos so operators can find out things like:

- What DVSA looks for when it stops a vehicle at the roadside
- How different load securing systems can be used

Abolition of the counterpart to the photocard driving licence: Paper section to be scrapped and replaced by online system

From the 8th June 2015, the paper section of the two-part UK driving licence is to be abolished. It will be replaced with an online system that holds the details of all licenced drivers.

The DVLA says that paper counterparts will be invalid and should then be 'destroyed'. However, motorists with the old-style paper driving licences, which pre-date the photocard's introduction in 1998, will not be affected and can continue to use them.

What about operators that need to check their driver's driving licence?

Haulage companies that rely on the counterpart to check the driving record of their drivers can use a free online Share Driving Licence service. This will be available before the counterpart is abolished.

This new service will be offered in addition to the existing services, but is designed for those who have a business need for real-time access to the information, and may not wish to call DVLA or be in a position to use an intermediary.

However, driving licence information via Share Driving Licence will only be made available with the consent of the driving licence holder.



Is 'drinking and driving' as bad as 'not drinking and driving'?

Hopefully we are all fully aware of the dangers of drinking alcohol and driving, but how many of us are aware of the dangers of not drinking and driving?

No, I'm not advocating driving your car back from the pub after a night out but I am suggesting you consider drinking more water when you drive.

According to recent research from Loughborough University into hydration and concentration, failing to drink enough water whilst behind the wheel is the equivalent to being over the drink-drive limit.

The research indicates that drivers who consumed only 25ml of water per hour made the same number of mistakes on the road as those who were over the drink-drive limit. This is double the number of mistakes which motorists that are well hydrated make.

The researchers said that not having enough water can lead to reduced brain activity, as well as a drop in concentration, alertness and short-term memory. They wrote: 'There is no question that drink driving and driving while tired increases the risk of road accidents. Given the present findings, perhaps some attention should also be directed to encouraging appropriate hydration among drivers.'

So if you drive for a living, or you are about to undertake a long journey, it is probably best to consider whether you have adequate supplies of water for your journey.

For advice on transport law, contact **Jared Dunbar at Dyne Solicitors on 01829 773 100.**

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