



ROAD TRANSPORT FORUM



Changes to headlamp aim testing for HGV's

On 1st April 2015, the authorities introduced a simpler headlamp standard that aligns the headlamp aim test with the 2010/48/EU and 2014/45/EU directives.

The changes will extend the tolerance band for headlamp centres up to 850mm and change the requirements to test the 'image break' point.

For advice on transport law issues, contact **Jared Dunbar on 01829 773 105.**

Content believed to be correct at time of writing and article written on 20.07.15

Middle Lane "Hogger" Convicted

A van driver in Yorkshire has been convicted of 'hogging' the middle lane of a motorway. He was seen driving in the middle lane when the inside lane was free. It is believed that this is the first such conviction since the law changed in 2013.

The driver was apparently driving at 60mph in the middle lane of the M62 near Huddersfield when the inside lane was free. At Court, he was ordered to pay a £940 in fine and costs and had five penalty points put on his driving licence.

Police said that six drivers were affected by the vehicle, as it travelled along the motorway. Leeds Magistrates' Court was told that the driver had numerous opportunities to move back into the left-hand lane but failed to do so, choosing instead to drive in 'an inconsiderate manner'.

Regarding middle-land hogging, the Police said: "It reduces the capacity of roads and motorways, and can lead to dangerous situations where other drivers 'tailgate' the vehicle in front to try and get the lane hogger to move over.

"Members of the public regularly tell the Road Policing Unit that lane hogging and tailgating are real problems on our roads and this conviction shows that the police and the courts understand the public's concerns and take this offence seriously."

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Consultation on Vocational Driver Conduct Opened

On Monday 13 July 2015, the Senior Traffic Commissioner launched a consultation on how commissioners deal with the conduct of professional lorry, bus and coach drivers.

The consultation is open until 7 September 2015 and focuses on planned changes to the Senior Traffic Commissioner's guidance document on Vocational Driver Conduct, which was first issued in 2011.

Whether you're a driver, transport manager or operator, the Senior Traffic Commissioner wants to hear from you. You can comment on any part of the guidance, but the main areas are:

- The decisions that commissioners make;
- What action is taken against drivers;
- Issues that can be dealt with by staff working for commissioners;
- Serious offending;
- Disqualifications;
- Case studies;
- How to communicate the guidance to professional drivers.

Launching the consultation, Senior Traffic Commissioner, Beverley Bell, said: "Professional drivers carry out the frequently challenging work of transporting goods or passengers across Great Britain and on the continent.

"This consultation is a key part of our work around the regulation of those drivers. I therefore encourage the industry, stakeholders, safety groups and other interested parties to respond and help inform how traffic commissioners deal with the conduct of professional drivers."

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Temporary relaxation of the EU drivers' hours rules: Port of Calais industrial action

The Department for Transport has agreed to a temporary and limited, exceptional relaxation of the enforcement of EU drivers' hours rules, applicable in the UK only.

The temporary relaxation applies from 00:01 on Thursday 30 July 2015 and will run for a period of 30 days at the times when Operation Stack is in place.

It is only for drivers whose journeys are delayed due to the industrial action or disruption at Calais and who:

- have used a cross channel ferry or Eurotunnel to reach or leave Kent
- are waiting within Kent for departure to mainland Europe
- are driving a commercial vehicle operated from an operating centre in Kent and whose journey has been disrupted

The department can withdraw or suspend the relaxation earlier if circumstances change.

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