



ROAD TRANSPORT FORUM



Recovery vehicles may remain exempt from Operator Licensing

The DfT has stated that the government wanted to help develop an industry-led voluntary standard for the sector rather than operator licensing.

However, the result of the Government's Goods Vehicle Licensing Exemptions Consultation, which looked at bringing an estimated 4,000 exempt HGV-derived vehicles into the requirement to have an annual test, received support from more than 75% of respondents.

The DfT official stated that they wanted to work with the European Rescue and recovery Initiative and the Federation of Vehicle Recovery Associations to develop the recovery standard, which was formerly known as the R-licence; a voluntary scheme that sets standards for maintenance, training, and health and safety for recovery operations.

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

Content believed to be correct at 24.09.15



DVSA rolls out remote enforcement nationwide

The DVSA has announced that it is set to roll out remote enforcement nationwide after successfully piloting the system in the South West Traffic Area for 18 months.

The system will see DVSA checking operators compliance remotely using desk-based assessment and data collection.

Caroline Hicks stated that "If we contact you about the enforcement office, don't ignore us. Because this is how we're going to decide how compliant your culture is".

It's about identifying ways an operator that has a culture and history of compliance can work with us and share information with us to lessen the burden on enforcement on it"

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Smoking in vehicles: new rules from 1 October 2015

From 1 October 2015 it will be illegal to smoke in a vehicle with anyone under 18 present in it. The new law will apply in England and Wales.

Under the legislation, both the driver and the smoker could be fined £50. The law applies to every driver, including those aged 17 and those with a provisional driving licence. However, the law does not apply if the driver is 17 years old and is on their own in the car.

The law is changing to protect children and young people from the dangers of second-hand smoke.

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Safer Lorry Scheme – London

New regulations come into force in London on the 1 September 2015, which means that only HGV's with basic safety equipment fitted will be allowed on London's roads. This includes construction vehicles which are involved in a number of fatal collisions involving cyclists and pedestrians.



Under the scheme, vehicles over 3.5 tonnes (with very few exemptions) will be required to be fitted with:

- Class V and Class VI mirrors giving the driver a better view of cyclists and pedestrians around their vehicles;
- side guards to protect cyclists from being dragged under the wheels in the event of a collision

The requirements under the Safer Lorry Scheme are also necessary for operators that are Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) accredited.

All roads in Greater London (except motorways) will be covered by the scheme and it will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will be enforced by the police and DVSA.

The maximum fine for each breach of the ban will be £1,000.

It is worth noting also that the relevant Traffic Commissioner will also be notified of companies operating vehicles in breach of the scheme.

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