

HEALTH AND SAFETY – MAKE IT A TOP PRIORITY

Both Governmental and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reports including “work related road safety” and “prevention of work related road traffic accidents” together with the work of Government task groups means Health and Safety legislation will almost inevitably come to apply to drivers in the future.

For Private and Public Hire employers this would lead to a need for a Health and Safety policy that requires reference to driver safety which would need to be incorporated into that policy. Mandatory risk assessments including vehicle selection, route planning and break periods would also be a requirement, as would driver training at least where a driver’s accident history points to it being a need. Accidents on the road would also need recording in the same way as other workplace accidents. Those accidents deemed serious would have to be reported to the Health and Safety Executive and such accidents would have to be investigated and analysed by law. Whereas the current Road Traffic Acts are enforced by the Police, the new Health and Safety laws would be enforced by the Health and Safety Executive itself.

Action you should take now

Driver fatigue, route planning, hours of work, driver training and mobile phones are all health and safety issues that need to be addressed by Taxi operators. For employers of more than 5 people a written statement would be needed which sets the overall direction and objectives of the companies health and safety policy. Safety to your employees on the road would need to be included.

More information is available :

For details of health and safety information you can access the HSE web site at www.hse.gov.uk and for hard copy publications contact HSE Books on www.hsebooks.co.uk .

Don't wait for legislation to force the issue on Health and Safety.

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