

Press Release



www.carbenefitsolutions.cc
mail@carbenefitsolutions.cc

14 March 2005

Health & Safety compliance is number one priority says CBS

There is a complex and tough legislative environment surrounding health and safety for employees driving on business and every indication that it will get even tougher as the government tightens up the laws on corporate killing this year.

In September 2003, the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) produced its 'Driving at Work: Managing Work-Related Road Safety' document which sets out best practice for companies.

Managing a fleet of any size now involves managing a broad range of issues and concerns. It is no longer simply a case of deciding how to finance a fleet and which leasing company, what manufacturer and insurer to employ. Companies need to consider other strategic areas such as duty of care and risk management. These issues must be properly managed regardless of how the company decides to fund its fleet and regardless of the fact that some employees may be driving their own vehicles for business purposes.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires you as an employer, to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of all your employees while at work. You also have a responsibility to ensure that others are not put at risk by your work-related driving activities.

Although the driver is ultimately responsible for how a vehicle is driven the employer can have a significant influence on what the driver does.

The guidelines set out by the HSE, asks organisations to look at their current health and safety practices and assess whether they include work-related road safety. This should be addressed in areas such as policy, responsibility, organisation and structure, systems and monitoring.

For a business to comply with the duty of care requirements of the legislation, employers must;

- Have a comprehensive road safety policy supported by top management
- Have road safety management procedures in place, including risk assessment and implement safe practices that eradicate or minimise identified risks
- Ensures employees are given relevant information, training and supervision to be safe on the road
- Regularly audit the safety of journeys and amend policies and procedures accordingly if new risks are identified

In addition, a robust company car policy that addresses all of these points must be implemented and made available to all employees. It is vital that companies ensure this has 'buy in' from the

Press Release

top downwards as there is no point in developing a policy if no one has access to or does not act upon it. It cannot just be a case of going through the motions to tick 'legislative' boxes.

CBS highly recommends creating clear policies around the use of cars for business, ensuring these are communicated effectively to all employees and conducting risk assessments on a regular basis.

CBS believe that the biggest risk that companies face in relation to business travel is setting schedules which require employees to drive too fast for too long for them to achieve targets. Companies must have robust policies which are enforced, that ensure employees take adequate breaks when driving long distances and do not expect employees to drive more than an appropriate maximum number of hours or miles in a day. The major cause of motorway accidents, according to the police, are drivers falling asleep at the wheel.

There are significant benefits that can be gained from carrying out health and safety best practice. The true cost of a motoring accident can easily be up to ten times that of the cost of the repair alone once other factors such as lost working hours and consequential loss of business are taken into account. Therefore, measures taken to reduce accidents such as carrying out risk assessments, having up-to-date policies and taking actions such as introducing driver training, is likely to result in considerable financial savings and ensure that your organisation does not face legal proceedings.

In today's busy workplace, fleet decision-makers typically have to perform fleet safety and risk management duties as well as having a bigger involvement in areas such as human resources, monitoring and management. Clearly, maintaining the level of documentation that is required is time-consuming and complex, and if a company lacks the resources or expertise to deal with this in-house, they should consider sourcing a supplier that is able to offer guidance and support in all of these areas.

Martin Maguire, managing director at CBS comments; "The benefits of adopting a structured risk management approach to occupational driving risks are far reaching and go beyond these legal issues. Certainly a company that properly manages all aspects of its occupational road risk will be able to improve the safety of employees and those around them. This will also help to improve the public's perception of the organisation and promote a 'feel good' factor among employees. It will also generate cost savings through reduced repair costs, downtime and personal injury claims."

If you would like to receive a copy of CBS's Health & Safety Checklist please contact the Communications Department on 0161 477 8998.



About CBS

Car Benefit Solutions Ltd (CBS) is an organisation based in the North West, devoted to the development of cost effective strategies to maximise the perceived value of car benefit for employees whilst minimising the provision cost to the employer. Since their inauguration in

Press Release



www.carbenefitsolutions.co.uk
mail@carbenefitsolutions.co.uk

July of 2002, CBS have established themselves as a leading authority on structured workplace car schemes and the supplier of choice to several major UK corporates. Their business is dedicated to the design, development, implementation and ongoing management of tax efficient alternatives to the traditional company car.

For further information contact:

Car Benefit Solutions Media Contact Sinéad Sopala on 0161 447 8998
ssopala@carbenefitsolutions.co.uk, or visit our website www.carbenefitsolutions.co.uk