

# CORPORATE DRIVING

## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

## **Here's a scary fact; 1 in 3 of your corporate drivers is not fit to drive**

Did you know 33% of road traffic collisions involve someone driving on behalf of work?

Recent research has shown that 1 in 3 drivers may not have good enough eyesight to drive safely; indeed many drivers will not have taken an eyesight test since being asked to read a number plate at 20 m during their driving test.

Changes to legislation could affect you and your employees.

Company car and van drivers could be stripped of their license within hours if they fail a roadside eyesight test.

Fleet managers are being advised to give everyone who drives a company vehicle regular eyesight tests following the introduction of tougher legislation.

The police were officially given enhanced powers to take immediate action against any motorist who fails a roadside eye test.

Any driver stopped by police who is unable to read a license plate at a distance of 20m will now have their driving license stripped within a matter of hours.

Although there is currently no specific legal requirement for a business to ensure that its drivers comply with minimum sight requirements, companies are being encouraged to introduce regular eye tests to prove duty of care.

The following Acts of Parliament could also affect the employer of anyone who drives at work, whether in a company vehicle or on company business in their own vehicle. The information is provided below as a guide only and employers should check with the relevant government body for the most up to date information

### **Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007**

This act came into force on 6th April 2008. The Act means that businesses, both large and small can be held liable for manslaughter where there has been gross negligence in the management of health and safety causing death and not only for violations of health and safety.

The Act is concerned with the corporate liability of the organisation and does not apply to individual directors, senior managers or other individuals; however, if there is enough supporting evidence, individuals can be prosecuted for gross negligence manslaughter and any offences under current health and safety legislation.

If an organisation is found guilty of the offence, they may be liable to an unlimited fine.

Fleet Managers and Health and Safety personnel are therefore urged to encourage regular sight testing and that a record of the sight test is kept.

Our **EyecarePlan Drive** voucher ensures that you, the employer has peace of mind, by providing a sight test, frame glazed with single vision, bifocal or varifocal lenses with an anti-scratch and anti-reflection coating. Additionally a visual acuity report is kept on file which demonstrates that you have adopted a 'best practice' approach to ensuring the safety of your corporate drivers and other road users.

### **Standards of vision for driving**

You must be able to read (with glasses or contact lenses, if necessary) a car number plate made after 1 September 2001 from 20 metres.

You must also meet the minimum eyesight standard for driving by having a visual acuity of at least decimal 0.5 (6/12) measured on the [Snellen scale](#) (with glasses or contact lenses, if necessary) using both eyes together or, if you have sight in one eye only, in that eye.

You must also have an adequate field of vision – your optician can tell you about this and do a test.

### **Lorry and bus drivers**

You must have a visual acuity at least 0.8 (6/7.5) measured on the Snellen scale in your best eye and at least 0.1 (6/60) on the Snellen scale in the other eye. Glasses or contact lenses can be worn to reach this standard but they can't have a corrective power greater than plus (+) 8 dioptries.

You must have a horizontal visual field of at least 160 degrees, the extension should be at least 70 degrees left and right and 30 degrees up and down. No defects should be present within a radius of the central 30 degrees.

You must tell DVLA if you've got any problem with your eyesight that affects either eye.

### **What if I need to know more?**

Give us a call and one of our team will be happy assist, T: 0844 800 4028

Visit our website; [www.eyecareplans.co.uk](http://www.eyecareplans.co.uk)