

# Fleet Risk Management



In the UK approximately 3,500 people are killed on the roads each year and various studies show that people driving for work purposes are involved in a high proportion of road traffic incidents.

Estimates vary, but it is agreed that of all road traffic incidents, at least 30% involve a driver who is at work:

- The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) estimates that each week 20 people are killed and 250 seriously injured in road accidents involving a person driving on company business.
- The Department for Transport estimates that drivers falling asleep at the wheel cause the death of 300 people each year and approximately 40% of these incidents involve tired people driving for work purposes.

These are very damning statistics and with the advent of the Corporate Manslaughter/Homicide Act 2007 which allows companies to be held liable for negligence by senior staff which has resulted in death, there is now an even greater focus on these issues. It is commonplace that businesses do not understand that the same duty of care an employer has for its employees under Health and Safety legislation extends to driving at work.

A typical fleet of the 1990's and earlier would include leased and company owned vehicles, however, nowadays many companies have opted for "cash for cars" schemes where many vehicles used for business are in fact privately owned. The same duty of care exists, but this situation means it is much harder to control and involves the employer in similar liabilities as outlined in the HSE's guide Driving At Work. If the correct management systems are not in place, the employer may have a greater or uncontrolled liability to its employees and the public.

If as a business you still run your own fleet of vehicles, it is no doubt a greater financial burden than it was five years ago. Fleet risk management not only looks at the regulation but also the practicalities of the day to day running costs and can assist with the design of systems to help reduce such costs.



## The Oval Fleet Risk Management Service

Oval Risk Services (Oval), can help with advice, systems, training, monitoring, database management and provide practical help on improvements to reduce risk exposure. This can be by identification of trends, root causes or repeat offenders to name a few. We can track not only the cost of claims i.e. excess and increase in premiums but also the hidden costs such as hire charges, vehicle downtime, impact on customers and bad press. In association with the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM), who advise the HSE in all fleet related matters, we are also able to offer various driver training packages and online assessments.

One of the key advantages of involving Oval is that insurers' attitudes have often improved, which has led to reductions in premium rating and/or an improvement of policy terms and conditions. Fleet insurance claims can have financial implications and be time consuming. By tackling the problem head on, our involvement can assist in the identification of root causes to reduce future trends. Insurers can in some cases offer partial funding for us to be involved, as what benefits them, benefits our clients, often in reduced premium expenditure.

A comprehensive, specialist Fleet Risk Management service is available from Oval.

This includes:

- Auditing/Gap Analysis of existing systems to identify areas of non-compliance and possible costs efficiencies.
- Online Assessment for new and existing drivers.
- Full cycle Fleet Risk Management system design to reduce your claims frequency and financial burden.
- Driver Training ranging from train the trainer to individual courses delivered by the IAM.

### Example of our work

A well respected national furniture manufacturer used Oval to undertake an audit of their extensive mixed vehicle fleet systems. As a result, the client now has routine independent inspections of their high mileage fleet cars every three months when their sales staff attend their quarterly sales meeting, with any issues found generally rectified during the meeting to maximise unproductive time off the road.

### Contact Us

For further information simply telephone or email your normal Risk Services contact at Oval. Alternatively email: [riskservices@theovalgroup.com](mailto:riskservices@theovalgroup.com)

[www.theovalgroup.com](http://www.theovalgroup.com)