

## Section 7: Safer Driving

### Summary:

This section is all about how to maintain the highest standards of driving as a PHV driver:

- PHV drivers need to keep a careful watch on the roads at all times and be able to interact safely with all other road users, especially those that are more vulnerable such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.
- A PHV driver must obey The Highway Code and behave in a professional way and avoid behaviours like speeding or driving too fast, making dangerous manoeuvres, and getting distracted.
- Drivers must drive within the speed limit which is appropriate for the situation, environment and weather conditions.
- Drivers must think while making manoeuvres, including looking carefully when pulling out of junctions, turning across traffic or passing cyclists or motorcyclists.
- Drivers should not get distracted by mobile phones and other electronic devices, music or passengers as distractions can affect judgement decision-making abilities. It is unsafe and illegal to use a hand-held phone or similar device when driving. In case of making a call, you should park the vehicle and turn the engine off considering the queue of traffic.
- Drivers should not drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Any prescribed medicine must check if it is safe to drive or not. Drivers must be aware of the safe use of vehicles including MOT certificate, and driving licence, and wear a seatbelt.
- Drivers must be aware that all adults must wear seat belts, those under 14 years of age wear seatbelts or sit in an approved child car seat, except those under 3 years old. Otherwise, drivers may get a fixed penalty notice (FPN) or be prosecuted including penalty points or loss of license.
- Annexe 6 of the Highway Code, which deals with vehicle maintenance, says ‘windscreens and windows must be kept clean and free from obstructions to vision. make sure you have a clear view through the windscreen.
- Covering the windscreen by mobile phone or sat nav is committing an offence and may get penalty points on driving licence. It also increases the chance of getting distracted.
- Drivers should adjust their behaviour at they time of being tired, in weather conditions or when driving at night and reduce speed. Also, focus on cyclists which are easily involved in a collision that results in death or serious injury.
- Drivers should indicate well in advance to allow others to react and give as much space as they would for another car.
- Drivers must ensure the good condition of their own seat belt, steering wheel, handbrake, warning lights, indicator, horn, windscreen, washers, mirrors and clutch and brake pedals have anti-slip covers.

- For the passenger compartment, must ensure seat belts fitness, Upholstery, headlining, carpets, wheelchair safety, belt door locking mechanisms, vehicle heater system, no smoking sign, and CCTV signage.
- Drivers must ensure tyres must be the correct size, speed and weight rating for the make and model of the vehicle and that tyre wear bar indicators are positioned around the tyre. Also, make sure all wheel nuts are in place and secure. If the tread pattern has worn down to the level of the indicators, then the driver must replace the tyre
- Make sure there are no signs of fluids (oil, brake fluid) leaking from under the vehicle onto the ground.