



LeasePlan

What's next?


Fleet Risk Guide

Businesses with smaller fleets may be tempted to see road risk management as a burden, but we believe it is actually an opportunity. An effective fleet risk management policy gives you a way to look after your company's reputation, its people and its finances.

Looking after **your reputation**

Health and Safety requirements aren't just for big corporations with big compliance teams. They are also a legal obligation for businesses with one or two vehicles – and if you're in this position, you could have even more reason to take them seriously.

After all, it's a lot harder for a smaller business to defend themselves from prosecution or come back from the reputational damage associated with losing their case – or simply being involved in one. Not to mention the possibility for unlimited fines and even imprisonment.



"It shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all his/her employees."

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

"Health and safety law applies to work activities on the road in the same way as it does to all work activities and you need to manage the risks to drivers as part of your health and safety arrangements."

HSE guidance on Driving at work

Looking after your people

People driving for work are involved in almost 500 road deaths every year (over a third of the total number), as well as 5,000 serious injuries and 40,000 slight injuries.¹

While it's impossible to get rid of accidents completely, a good risk management plan can help keep them to a minimum – and reduce the severity when they do happen.

An additional advantage is that it shows your drivers that you recognise and respect the duty of care you have to them, which may boost employee morale and could help with staff retention.

500

Road deaths

5,000

Serious injuries

40,000

Slight injuries.

Looking after your finances

Reducing the level of accidents is likely to save your business money – potentially more and more each year. In part, this is because the increasing complexity of vehicles means the cost of repairing them has risen significantly. With the pace of technological development looking unlikely to slow down, this trend seems set to continue.

But that's not the only expense to consider. There are a lot of indirect costs as well, from vehicle downtime and employee recovery time to higher premiums, replacement vehicles and the need to administer it all. An effective risk management plan could give your business one of its best returns on investment.

£1,919²

Average vehicle repair cost after an accident in 2019

40%³

Increase in average cost from 2013

Between £8 and £53⁴

Level of uninsured losses for every £1 of insured losses

£33bn a year⁵

Total value of prevention of all reported and unreported accidents

¹Source: Driving for Work, Fitness to Drive report from RoSPA, May 2018

²Source: UK Car Body Repair Market report, Trend Tracker, 2019

³Source: UK Car Body Repair Market report, Trend Tracker, 2019

⁴Source: International Loss Control Institute

⁵Source: Reported road casualties in Great Britain, Department for Transport, 2019

What's next?

Our advisers can help you with your risk management strategy. Just get in touch with them using the details below and we'll explain everything we can do to help.

Alternatively, if you'd like to start making your own plans, here are three areas that our team suggest as a great place to start. We call them the **'three Ds'**

1. Daily checks

Encouraging your drivers to check their vehicles every day helps keep everything in the best condition – and could give you early warning about bigger issues down the line. These checks should include brakes, tyres, lights, wipers, mirrors, couplings, plates and load security.

“There's an old saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure – and this really applies to daily checks. So many minor issues can be caught this way before they become problems.”

2. Data analysis

Fleet data should be recorded and reviewed. As well as giving you information you can use to create and develop your risk management strategies, this can strengthen your case in the event of any accidents – such as when they deal with insurance claims.

“If you want an easy way to gather data, turn to the latest technologies. From telematics systems to mobile apps, you'll find something that can help you understand your fleet in more detail.”

3. Driver knowledge

All drivers should receive general induction training when they join a company. Everyone should then receive regular refresher training, particularly when they need to know about new laws. High-risk drivers should also receive special training programmes.

“Don't just focus on your fleet. You need to consider your drivers' personal vehicles – and the drivers themselves – when you are making your risk plans.”

Discover more about Fleet Risk on our website, with podcasts, webinars and tools to help you manage your fleet related risk.

www.leaseplan.com