

Lone Workers

Every year about 70 people are killed and about 2500 seriously injured in accidents involving vehicles in the workplace.

It is a legal requirement under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 that "It shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health safety and welfare at work of all his employees"

So what does it mean?

Every employer has a duty to protect his employees and this is especially difficult when those workers are away from the protective environment of the workplace where monitoring and safe supervision can be more easily managed.

Policy should state that the work equipment supplied (in this case the company vehicle) should be used in a safe manner and as intended.

Employers also have Vicarious Liability for their employees which means that although procedures were in place where the employee still puts the health, safety and welfare of himself or others at risk then the employer is still held responsible for those actions.

So what can I do?

By actively monitoring the driving habits of your employees you can make their jobs safer and protect both employee and anyone else who may be affected by their actions. Typical examples are:

- Monitoring driving hours and ensuring that employees work within safe guidelines set out by your organisation. Reports are available detailing the length of each and every journey, rest times and distance travelled between breaks
- Producing speed reports highlighting when employees have broken speed restrictions
- Times and places of work to identify potential risks for lone workers

By having these detailed reports available you can actively monitor performance and implement improvements to safety.

To find out how we can help your organisation become safer have a look at our reports.

For further help and guidance on the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 visit www.healthandsafety.co.uk/hasawa.htm