

Legislation

Mobile Phones

Under the new Road Safety Act, drivers caught using a hand-held mobile phone while driving will be fined £60 and given three penalty points on their license.

The same changes are also being made to the penalties for not having proper control of a vehicle - and can be enforced where a driver has been distracted by using a hands-free mobile phone. But, if the police or the driver chooses to take a case to court rather than use a fixed penalty notice, the maximum fine remains at £1,000 (£2,500 for drivers of vans, lorries, buses and coaches).



Child Restraints

- You must wear a seat belt in cars and goods vehicles where one is fitted. There are very few exceptions to this. The driver is liable to prosecution if a child under 14 years does not wear a seat belt or child restraint.
- You must not carry an unrestrained child in the front seat of any vehicle.
- Children up to 135cms in height must use the appropriate child restraint when travelling in any car, van or goods vehicle - there are very few exceptions.
- A child may use an adult belt when they reach 135cm or the age of 12.
- In buses and coaches with seat belts fitted, passengers aged 14 years and above must use them. Passengers on vehicles used for public fare-paying passengers on 30mph roads are exempt.

The child car seat web-site at www.childcarseats.org.uk also has information about the law, and the fitting and wearing of child restraints.

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Smokefree

Introduced to protect employees from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, the new smokefree law will require all company cars to be smokefree at all times if they are used in the course of paid or voluntary work by more than one person – regardless of whether they are in the vehicle at the same time.

As a driver, you have the duty to prevent smoking in a smokefree vehicle.

This includes:-

- Displaying 'no smoking' signs in smokefree vehicles.
- Taking reasonable steps to ensure that staff, customers and visitors are aware that vehicles are legally required to be smokefree.
- Ensuring that no one smokes in smokefree vehicles.



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