

..... ❖ **Check your company driving policy**

The company regards your driving as a valuable skill and we want you and the general public to be safe.

Most employers have a policy that clearly sets out your responsibilities when you're driving on company business, whether it's a fleet vehicle or your own. If you're not already familiar with this policy, ask your manager for a copy so that you know exactly what's expected of you.

Safety - the basics

- Always stick within the speed limits
- Always wear a seat belt
- Never use any type of mobile phone while driving



“ It's in your company's interests to keep you safe and to reduce the risk of crashes and injury ”

Apart from saving lives, safe driving protects your licence, your wallet and your job.

driving business - safely!

Following a few commonsense rules can make the difference between enjoying the driving part of your job and coping with the potential stress and consequences of a crash.



www.drivingbusinesssafely.org



Safer driving practices
mobile phones
and speed



driving business - safely!



“ Using a mobile phone while you’re driving makes you four times more likely to crash ”

•••• Being a responsible driver

Your employer values your driving skills and wants to protect you and the public from harm and distress.

Why bother?

Because sooner or later, you pay the price for unsafe driving such as speeding or using a mobile while you’re on the road. Every time you get caught, there are fines to pay and maybe penalty points on your licence – you could even lose your job. Worse still, you’re much more likely to have a crash, which can literally be a matter of life or death. So safe driving is worth taking seriously.

Whether you clock up high mileages or only drive occasionally on company business, it’s easy to lose concentration when you’re thinking about the next meeting or delivery. That makes you vulnerable, so you have to be especially careful. Plan for delays. Watch out for speed limits and stick within them. And never use a mobile at the wheel. Apart from being safer, it’s good for your image at work. Everybody respects a safety-conscious driver.



“ Speeding could cost you your licence and your job ”

•••• Don’t talk - JUST DRIVE

Research shows that even a **hands-free** mobile phone conversation will impair your driving as much as being over the drink drive limit, so is it really worth the risk?

Understand the penalties

OK, so only an idiot nowadays would try to drive one-handed using a hand-held mobile phone. The penalties are severe and it’s obviously dangerous. But what about hands-free? You need to keep in touch while you’re on the road, and it’s just like talking to someone in the passenger seat, **right?**



Wrong. Passengers share your awareness of the road ahead, and instinctively talk less when there’s danger – unlike the person you’re straining to hear on the other end of your mobile. That’s why your reaction times slow down so dramatically. At 70 mph, even hands-free users take an extra 46 feet before they react*. So if you care for your own safety and others, it’s simple: never use any type of mobile phone while driving.

£60 fine **3** penalty points

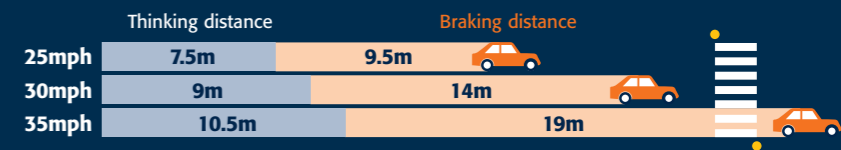
*Source: Transport Research Laboratory 2002 – How dangerous is driving with a mobile phone? (Ref: TRL547)

£60 fine **3-6** penalty points

•••• Know your limits

Speed limits are there for a reason: the faster you go, the less time you have to react and the more likely you are to crash. And you’re twice as likely to kill a child at 35mph than you are at 30mph.

Safety cameras aren’t there to make money, but to reduce death and serious injury. And they do.



Stopping distances

No matter how good the brakes on your vehicle are, it still takes longer than you would think to stop in an emergency. For example, when travelling at 70mph, you will have travelled at least 21 metres (5 car lengths) before you even start to brake and another 75 metres (19 car lengths) before coming to a stop. That’s nearly 100 metres (24 car lengths) in total. Remember large vehicles and motorcycles need a greater distance to stop.

Understand the consequences

- The standard speeding fine is a fixed penalty notice of £60 and 3 points on your licence, with possible disqualification after 12 points
- If the case goes to court, you can be fined up to £2,500
- Your speeding could be classified as careless or dangerous driving – you risk immediate disqualification and up to two years in prison