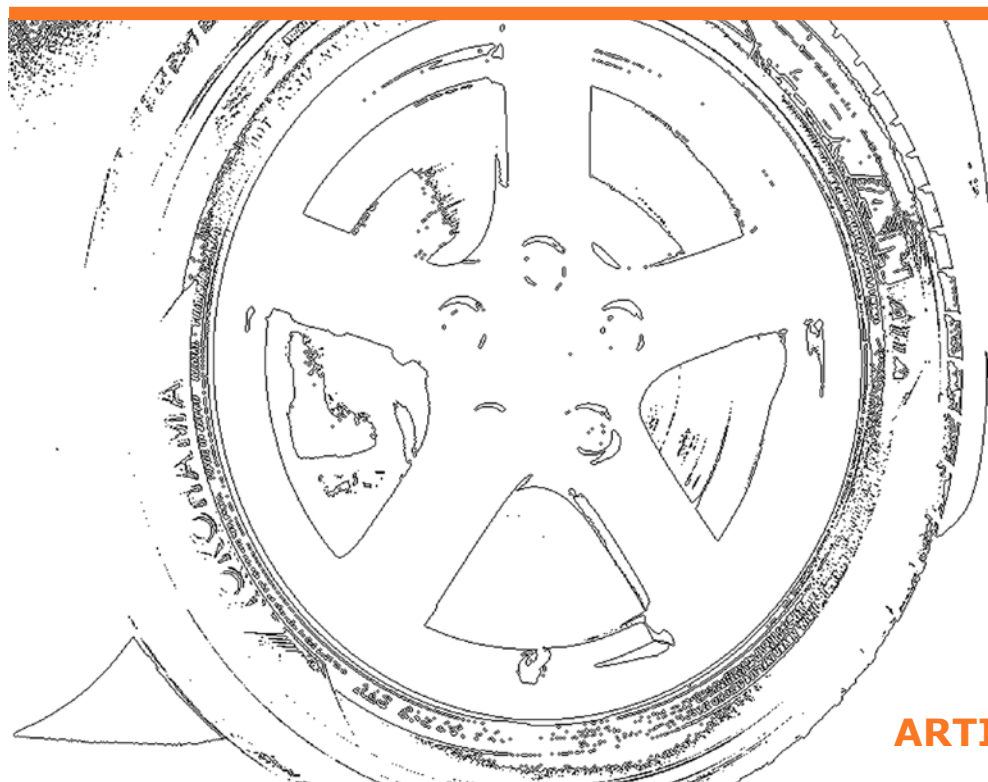


# Knowledge

# BANK



**ARTICLE 23**

Safety at the wheel

### Safety at the wheel

#### Health and safety policy

As we have seen, there is a legal requirement for every company to assess the risks its employees are exposed to and to put in place measures to reduce these risks.

The first step for most organisations is to produce a formal Health and Safety Policy document that sets out, at a high level, the company's commitment to safety at work and the rules they expect their staff to follow. The managing director or owner should sign the policy.

There is little point in producing such a document and holding a meeting to launch it to the employees if the director who signed the document does not attend. This sends out the message 'We have produced this document because we had to, we are paying lip service to it and you might as well do so too'.

A useful document on workplace safety is available from the Health and Safety Executive – HS (G) 136 '*Workplace Transport Safety*'. The British Safety Council provides a wealth of resources for organisations wishing to adopt the best practices in health and safety management. It can be contacted at: [British Safety Council, 70 Chancellors Road, London, W6 9RS](#). Phone: +44 (0)20 8741 1231. Fax: +44 (0)20 8741 4555. Email: [mail@britsafe.org](mailto:mail@britsafe.org).  
**Website: [www.britishsafetycouncil.org](http://www.britishsafetycouncil.org)**

If you operate light commercial vehicles fitted with mobile elevating work platforms, you should be aware that the HSE has issued a new guide covering their safety. This is available from the [HSE on 01787 881165](#)

#### Brake

Brake is an organisation that works to stop unnecessary road accident death, injury, trauma and expense, and to create roads that are safe for everybody – motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, truck and bus drivers, motorcyclists and horses. They promote the safe use of roads by addressing the skills and attitudes of road users, enforcement of traffic rules and appropriate punishment and education of road users who break the law.

### Safety at the wheel

They produce guidance on these topics and advise policy makers, the media, professional transport companies and all road users about the importance of prioritising safety on the road. They organise a Road Safety Week and actively support traumatised road accident victims. They have established a network of road safety professionals, called the Road Risk Forum, to encourage discussion and development of road safety solutions. Members include road safety officers, vehicle fleet managers, enforcement officers, insurers and organisations with a concern for road safety.

Brake is a non-profit making organisation funded by donations. They run the Pledge to Drive Safely campaign, designed to stop deaths on roads by improving the safety of drivers. Drivers are asked to:

BELT UP	front and back and ensure children are correctly restrained
MOVE UP	head rests to no lower than the top of your ears
SLOW UP	abide by limits and only overtake if totally safe
BACK UP	from the vehicle in front – leave a two-second gap, it's your braking space in a crisis
BUCK UP	calm yourself before driving if stressed, angry or excited
SOBER UP	'just say no' to alcohol or drugs if driving
WAKE UP	take breaks every two hours on long journeys, never drive on if you are tired
SHUT UP	put your phone on message service
LOOK UP	look for people on bikes, horses and on foot, particularly at junctions and on country roads
WISE UP	if it's night, or if it is bright or there is bad weather, go slower
CHECK UP	check brakes, tyres, lights, mirrors, and windows
SHARPEN UP	wear glasses or lenses if you need them

This is good advice to give your drivers.

One of Brake's divisions is the Fleet Safety Forum, a membership scheme for fleet safety professionals. Its members include fleet managers, health and safety officers, fleet engineers, academics, risk managers, insurers and consultants. For a modest membership fee members get a monthly fleet safety newsletter and briefing sheet, invitations to seminars and conferences and road safety literature from the government and other agencies.

## Safety at the wheel

Brake produces *Managing Road Risk*, a useful introductory guide to road safety for employers

Brake's website, [www.brake.org.uk](http://www.brake.org.uk), contains downloadable information on;

- how to drive at safe speeds
- how long to wait after drinking before getting behind the wheel of a car
- what to do if you have lost a loved one in a road accident

They can be contacted at: Brake, PO Box 548, Huddersfield, HD1 2XZ.

Phone: +44 (0)1484 559909. Fax: +44 (0)1484 559983.

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