

## DVS Phase 2

The Direct Vision Standard (DVS) and HGV Safety Permit Scheme mandate all lorry operators, who must secure a safety permit for any gross vehicle weights exceeding 12 tonnes before driving in most areas of Greater London. Without this permit, operators may incur a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).

Updates to the DVS requirements will take effect on 28 October 2024.

### **Why is an HGV safety permit necessary?**

The Direct Vision Standard and HGV Safety Permit Scheme comply with the zero initiative for completely eradicating serious injuries and fatalities on London's transport network by 2041, as set by the Mayor of London.

The DVS evaluates the visibility an HGV driver has through a cab window. It is represented by a star rating from zero (limited visibility) to five (excellent visibility). This star rating is determined by the vehicle's design and reflects the potential danger posed to vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists.

Ratings are assigned at the manufacturing stage and remain unchanged.

### **Upcoming DVS Changes**

From the date specified above, HGVs exceeding 12 tonnes in weight need to have a rating of at least three stars or have the Progressive Safe System in place to operate in Greater London. Although fitting the Progressive Safe System does not alter the vehicle's star rating, it enhances overall safety.

### **How to Obtain a New HGV Safety Permit**

Permits for vehicles rated with between zero and two stars issued before 24 June 2024 expire at 23:59 on 27 October 2024. To obtain a new permit, vehicles with these ratings must be fitted with the Progressive Safe System.

### **HGV Safety Permit Requirements**

All lorries over 12 tonnes gross vehicle weight must have a HGV safety permit to enter or operate within Greater London to avoid a PCN, regardless of whether the operator believes the vehicle meets the required standards.

The HGV Safety Permit Scheme is in operation 24/7 in most parts of Greater London. Applying for a permit is free of charge.

### **Guidance on the Grace Period**

Operators needing additional time to install the Progressive Safe System can apply for a grace period on specific vehicles. This lasts for six months, from 28 October 2024 until 23:59 on 4 May 2025, as confirmed in July 2024.

To apply for the grace period:

- Submit applications for each vehicle you want to cover
- Provide evidence that installation of the Progressive Safe System has been scheduled for after 28 October 2024 but before 4 May 2025 at 23:59. Evidence includes emails, appointments or correspondence
- Apply for the grace period through your London Road User Charging account. Follow the instructions on the DVS enquiry form, keeping in mind that a separate application is required for all individual vehicles

### **Applying for Newly Registered Vehicles**

If you have a newly registered vehicle, start the permit application process early even if the vehicle's registration mark is not yet known. Check whether TFL has VRM details to find your vehicle's star rating. If your VRM isn't found, submit proof of the rating from the manufacturer along with the V5C.

If you don't have a V5C log book, you can submit:

- A record from the DVLA's View Vehicle Record service
- A copy of your DVLA registration application
- An email from the manufacturer confirming the star rating
- Files should be in JPG, PNG or PDF format, not exceeding 10MB each

### **Self-Certification of Vehicle Star Ratings**

If your vehicle's star rating is between zero and two stars, and if it is not yet registered with TFL, you have the option to self-certify. This process applies only to vehicles with one or two stars under the Progressive Safe System.

To self-certify, upload a statement in English including your name, the VRM, vehicle make and/or model, and confirmation of the star rating.

Once confirmed, you can apply for an HGV safety permit.

### **Non-UK Registered Vehicles**

All HGVs over 12 tonnes registered outside the UK which operate in Greater London must have a valid safety permit. Apply in the same manner as UK operators, submitting non-UK equivalents of the required documents.

For left-hand drive vehicles, ensure mirrors, cameras and sensors account for the blind spot on the vehicle's right side. The stickers required in France are deemed acceptable for the rear blind-spot warning sign.

### **Cherished Plate Transfers**

Safety permits are non-transferable between vehicles or VRMs. If transferring a cherished plate, you must notify TFL and apply for a new safety permit as soon as the correct star rating has been recorded.

## **Vehicle Exemptions**

Some vehicles, particularly those used off-road (like telehandlers and mobile cranes) may be exempt from the HGV Safety Permit Scheme. If a registered vehicle in the UK is fully exempt, registration with TFL won't be necessary but you should still verify the star rating.

For non-UK registered and unclear exemptions, contact TFL with documents and photographs of your vehicle showing the VRM.

## **UNECE Type-Approved Vehicles**

Any vehicle with Camera Monitoring Systems (CMS) or Blind Spot Information Systems (BSIS) that complies with UNECE Regulation 151 and 159 may not need additional CMS installations if key safety benefits are met.

## **Abnormal Loads**

Vehicles operating under Special Types (General Order) Regulations carrying abnormal loads may be exempt from BSIS and MOIS components if these features interfere with the vehicle's functionality. These vehicles must still obtain a safety permit and install other Progressive Safe System components.

## **Information for Safe System Requirements (2019)**

Guidance for previous Safe Systems will be available until 28 October 2024, after which time the new Progressive Safe System will be required.

Should you need advice on DVS Phase 2, please contact Hales Commercial on 01708 725013.