

WARNING OVER PRIVATE VEHICLES USED FOR BUSINESS TRAVEL

New research by fleet management company Total Motion has revealed that a large number of privately owned vehicles used for business travel purposes are unroadworthy.

60% of the private vehicles used for business purposes monitored as part of the survey were found to be unroadworthy, with the same number also not being properly maintained.

The survey, which ran between April and October 2007 also found that 31% of the vehicles surveyed were being driven for business use without correct insurance, the owners of 12% of the vehicles did not have a valid licence and 2.5% of the vehicles were being driven without tax.

98% of the drivers surveyed said that their employers did not monitor whether safety checks had been carried out on privately owned vehicles used for business use.

The main safety area associated with privately owned vehicles was found to be tyres with 71% of the cars classed as unroadworthy having under-inflated and defective tyres. With government figures identifying tyres as being the

cause of one third of UK road crashes resulting in injury, ensuring employees' car tyres are of a suitable standard for private business use is of significant importance to businesses.

The survey found that increasingly popular 'cash for car' schemes are significantly contributing to an increase in unroadworthy privately owned vehicles, affecting one third of drivers surveyed. It was found that the cash given to employees to spend on cars as part of these schemes is often spent on high specification cars that use the entire budget, meaning money is not set aside for repairs and maintenance.

The survey concludes that more emphasis should be placed on employee safety instead of profits and businesses are encouraged to encourage safety checks on employee's privately owned vehicles.

Information on health and safety and driving for work can be found at www.dft.gov.uk/drivingforwork



RSI AWARENESS DAY

To mark International Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) Awareness day, which is held annually on the last day of February, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have launched a new Display Screen Equipment (DSE) and Visual Display Unit (VDU) website.

Display Screen Equipment is any work equipment that displays information, such as computer monitors. Computer workstations and DSE are significant causes of RSI with many users of computer workstations often reporting aching limbs and eye discomfort.

RSI cases associated with DSE can be eliminated through following guidance outlined in the Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations and best practices developed from these Regulations. The new website incorporates different information that can be used to minimise the risk

of RSI, including

- A free guidance leaflet for both employers and employees on working with VDUs, covering adjustments that can be made to workstations to reduce the risk of RSI.

- An FAQ section where common employer and employee questions on all aspects of DSE are covered.

- Information on the DSE Regulations and their requirements.

- Case studies covering common DSE problems in typical working environments

A DSE checklist is also provided to help employers identify and manage the risks that their employees may be unknowingly exposed to.

The new DSE website can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/msd/dse

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISOR

GRAHAM & BROWN - ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESSES OF A LANCSBEA FOUNDER MEMBER

Wallpaper manufacturer Graham & Brown have developed successfully as an organisation, working hard to reduce their environmental impact over the 14 years since becoming one of the LancsBEA founder members.

Graham & Brown was founded in 1946, at India Mill in Blackburn, where the Company is still based. Over the years the Company has expanded into a distribution centre at Padiham, as well as sales and distribution platforms in the USA, Canada, Holland, France, Poland and Russia. Graham & Brown export to 40 countries worldwide and the Company has also diversified into designing innovative home decorative products which are manufactured at approved factories in China.



In 2000 Graham & Brown invested £5 million in a 130,000 square foot, purpose built, energy efficient distribution centre on Shuttleworth Mead Industrial Estate in Padiham, on the banks of the River Calder.

To minimise the need for artificial lighting in the distribution centre, skylights were built into the roof to incorporate as much natural light into the building as possible. The aisles inside the distribution centre were also fitted with automatic zoned lighting, which is triggered when people enter or leave the aisles, reducing energy usage without compromising safety.

The heating of the distribution centre was designed to be as efficient as possible with inflatable dock shelters incorporated into the 8 distribution bays, and the doors of the distribution centre are thermally lined to prevent heat from escaping.

Graham & Brown's commitment to sustainability is reflected in their range of products and production processes with all of

the paper used by the Company sourced from well-managed forests.

Graham & Brown's production process has been made more efficient through the inclusion of two incinerators which deal with the fume driven off through the process by incinerating it, recovering the exhaust heat and returning it to the process machines.

The Company has benefited from support from LancsBEA over their 14 years of membership with employees attending a wide range of courses from REACH to Carbon Footprinting. Graham & Brown are also part of LancsBEA's Waste Exchange, where the Company's waste is exchanged with organisations that can make use of it.

A further sign of Graham & Brown's continuing commitment to sustainability can be seen in the Company's new product range of 'Eco Wallpaper.' The 'Eco Wallpaper' incorporates 100% water based inks containing no VOCs (volatile organic compounds) and is printed on 100% Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) paper from well-managed forests. The wallpaper is wrapped in a compostable film made from corn and the outer packaging carton is glued instead of taped to make it easier to recycle.



Future projects include the production of a Corporate Social Responsibility report with assistance from LancsBEA, set for release later in the year.

If you are a long-standing BEA member and would like your environmental achievements to feature in a future bulletin contact Claire Galvin on 01254 669041.

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OUR PATRONS

BAE SYSTEMS

BAXI POTTERTON

bosal

brabners chaffe street solicitors

TESTER MANUFACTURERS J. H. BIRY WISTLE

JJO plc

Rolls-Royce

senator

Verifyne Plastics

WARDLE STOREYS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- * Fire Risk Assessment (3 days), 22nd-24th April
- * CIEH Principles of Manual Handling (1/2 day), 30th April
- * CIWM Waste Awareness (1 day), 7th May
- * CIEH Principles of COSHH (1/2 day), 14th May
- * CIEH Environmental Awareness (1 day), 15th May
- * A Practical Guide to Carbon Footprinting (1/2 day), 20th May
- * CIEH Health & Safety in the Workplace (1 day), 21st May
- * Basic Fire Extinguisher Training (1/2 day), 22nd May

Courses will usually be held at Groundwork Environment Centre, Blackburn with discounted rates for BEA Members. For more information or to suggest a new Training Course for 2008 please contact Dayna Patterson on 01254 669034

MEMBER INFORMATION

WELCOME TO NEW LANCS BEA MEMBERS...

- ◇ R & A SECURITY SERVICES LTD
- ◇ SIS (SCIENCE IN SPORT).COM
- ◇ WILLIAMS WHOLESALE LTD
- ◇ METALS GROUP LTD

GREEN DESK HELPLINE

01254 669024

The free helpline- providing confidential environmental and health and safety advice exclusively for BEA members

DID YOU KNOW?

SEASONAL ENERGY SAVINGS

British Summer Time begins on the 30th March, and with the days staying lighter longer and getting warmer, energy savings can be made by taking the following actions:

- Make the most of the extra natural light through leaving curtains and blinds open for longer, as well as saving energy the sunlight helps the body to produce vitamin D.

- Switch off unnecessary lighting. One light bulb uses 60 watts of energy every hour and through switching one light bulb off for an hour a day, 22,000 watts of energy can be saved annually.

- Switch from traditional bulbs to energy saving light bulbs. Energy saving light bulbs use up to 80% less electricity than traditional bulbs, meaning that one energy saving light bulb can save £7 a year on electricity bills and can make carbon savings of up to 26kg a year.

- Make the most of the warmer temperatures - turning the thermostat down by 1°C can make savings of over 10% on an annual heating bill.

For more information on business energy savings visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

DIFFERENCE IN EMPLOYEE ATTITUDE TO ENVIRONMENT IN WORKPLACE AND AT HOME

Research by 'Enviro-Fresh' has revealed that UK employees are not as environmentally responsible in the workplace as they are at home.



The survey found that:

- 71% of employees do not switch a light off when they leave a room.
- 71% of employees do not recycle at work.
- 85% of employees do not shut windows if their air conditioning or heating is on.
- 93% of employees have never used the short flush on the WC at work.

A quarter of all the respondents surveyed said that they were not encouraged to be environmentally friendly at work, and a third of all respondents felt that their bosses should be doing more and encouraging staff to be more environmentally responsible. However the survey did find that 90% of employees wanted to

reduce the environmental impact of their place of work.

The research suggests that UK employees need to be further encouraged to reduce their environmental impact at work if organisations want to significantly improve their environmental credentials.

The survey also found that 75% of UK employees questioned underestimated how much water their organisations wasted every year, with 50% being amazed when told the actual amount.

Employees not only need to be encouraged to be more environmentally responsible, but be made aware of the amount of wasted resources generated as a result of their actions in the workplace.

For further information on how to encourage employees to be more environmentally aware visit www.envirowise.gov.uk

SUCCESSFUL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES MEAN SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT

A new survey by online jobs board 'jobs.ac.uk' has identified organisations' environmental policies are becoming an increasingly more influential factor in a job hunter's decision to apply to a particular company.

The survey found that 67% of job hunters said that an organisation's environmental policies would influence their choice of employer and 45% of job hunters said that they would be strongly attracted to apply to companies that are making a positive contribution to improving the environment.

This suggests that through having strong environmental policies and through actively promoting environmental policies to potential employees, a company is more likely to attract higher quality candidates.

The survey also found that job hunters are more likely to look for evidence of an organisation's green credentials via the company website and are particularly attracted to employers that have evidence on their website of their corporate social responsibility programme, their support for charities and their green policies.

ECOLABELLING DIRECTORY LAUNCHED

An independent directory of ecolabels has been launched with the intention of reducing the amount of confusion currently associated with the large number of ecolabels on the market.



The directory has been developed for consumers, producers and procurers and covers 307 ecolabels for products and services ranging from organic food (Soil Association) to wood products (Forestry Stewardship Council) to carbon offsets (EcoLogo).

Companies usually apply

to an ecolabelling organisation for the right to use an ecolabel on their product. They

usually have to meet a certain standard, or in some circumstances can sometimes just award themselves an ecolabel.

The directory provides information for each ecolabel on the standards required to get certification through the particular ecolabel and on who sets the standards for the ecolabel.

The Ecolabelling Directory is free to use and can be found by visiting www.ecolabelling.org

ENERGY EFFICIENT SPRAY BOOTH LEADS TO BIG SAVINGS FOR GASKELL MOTOR BODIES

Since moving to purpose built premises in Great Harwood in 2006, Gaskell Motor Bodies, with the help of LancsBEA, have been working hard to improve the efficiency of their operations.

The specialists in accident and bodywork repairs have implemented several initiatives to reduce energy consumption and waste on site and have experienced significant financial savings as a result.

Energy

The biggest project undertaken by the Company was the installation of an energy efficient spray booth with the help of a substantial interest free loan from the Carbon Trust. The new spray booth is fitted with VSD motors and is only operational when spraying is being carried out, automatically shutting down when spraying finishes. The booth also re-circulates the heat required for the baking process and is fitted with low energy lighting, helping to make the spraying process more efficient.



Gaskell have also reduced energy consumption on site through incorporating skylights into the roof of the company premises to increase levels of natural light thus reducing the need for artificial lighting. A campaign has also been developed to encourage staff to switch off lights when they are not needed.

Compressed Air

Gaskell undertook a compressed air leak detection survey with LancsBEA. The survey

led to the detection of 3 leaks in the compressed air system, which had previously gone undetected.

Waste

The Company has worked hard to reduce the amount of waste they produce by separating recyclables from general waste. Cardboard and waste plastic from car parts are now being recycled.

Savings

Energy wise, Gaskell are saving 12000 kWh of electricity and 29000 kWh of gas per annum as a result of the energy efficiency measures introduced, creating financial savings of over £1,500.

Fixing the 3 leaks in the Company's compressed air system has led to savings of 5,175 kWh of electricity and cost savings of £360 per annum.

Before the waste initiatives were implemented, Gaskells were spending £1,304 on waste disposal annually, but are now only spending £1,302 saving £272 per annum.

For more information on how your business can become more resource efficient or to book a free site visit call LancsBEA on 01254 676747.

GENEROUS LANCS BEA MEMBERS MAKE EASTER 'EGGSTRA' SPECIAL FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN

Every Easter for the past four years employees of LancsBEA Patron Member BAE SYSTEMS at Samlesbury have been collecting Easter eggs for underprivileged children in Blackburn and Preston.

Community and Business Partners coordinate the Easter challenge scheme through their Employee Community Involvement Project and over 1,000 Easter eggs are donated by BAE SYSTEMS employees each year. Community and Business Partners collect the eggs and distribute them to community groups working with underprivileged children in the region, including Groundwork's Youth Works programme at Darwen.

Other generous LancsBEA members participating in the Easter egg scheme include

Akzo Nobel Decorative Coatings and G.G.I. Office Furniture. Inspired by the efforts of our member companies, employees of Groundwork Pennine Lancashire have also joined the collection this year.



Wendy Hobson, Employee Community Involvement Manager, said,

"ECI is a wonderful concept and is one that benefits

completely the local voluntary sector."

For information on how your business can get involved with Community & Business Partners community challenges visit www.cbpartners.org

ERIC FAQs

What is the difference between carbon footprinting and carbon offsetting?

A carbon footprint is the measure of the impact that human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere, measured in units of carbon dioxide.

The first scope of a business' carbon footprint will take into account emissions generated as a result of business operations on site. The second scope of a business' carbon footprint will take into account emissions generated as a result of the amount of electricity the business uses.

A business can also incorporate indirect emissions into its carbon footprint, generated from products and services that a business uses but does not control, or from emissions generated as a result of consumer use of its products and services.

For a business to become carbon neutral, after calculating its carbon footprint, the business must implement measures to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. For any emissions that cannot be eliminated as a result of these measures, the business can purchase the equivalent amount of carbon credits from a carbon emission reduction project to offset the remaining emissions, known as carbon offsetting.

For more information on carbon footprinting call LancsBEA on 01254 676747