

POLICY

D5 In-Vehicle Communication

Main Author	Reviewer	Reviewer	Approver
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REV	Date	Status / Description of Changes
01	05/08/2019	Updating all laws/regulations dates to the current standard. Adjusting template, for a more clear layout.
02	14/08/2020	Updated Template Minor changes
03	07/12/2020	Minor adjustment to template
04	01/11/2021	Minor adjustment to template, laws/regulations checked



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Requirement

To not cause or permit a driver to use a hand-held mobile phone or any other handheld communication device while driving.



Policy

The Company ensures that drivers are not distracted, exercise proper control of the vehicle and have full view of the road and traffic ahead. And has a policy on the use of hand-held mobile phones and interactive communication devices while driving, which is contained in the driver handbook. The policy is supported by a risk assessment and includes:

- Unlawful use of hand-held mobile phones and hand-held communication devices
- The responsibilities of office staff making and receiving calls to and from drivers
- The actions for office staff to end a call if they suspect the driver is driving
- The fact there is no expectation for drivers to answer any call until it is safe to do so

A non-exhaustive list of interactive communication devices includes:

- Navigation devices
- Camera monitor systems
- Tablet computers, laptops and e-readers
- Personal digital assistants (PDAs)
- Two-way radios
- Head-up displays (HUD)

The policy should not allow the use of hands-free mobile phones, interactive communication devices or headphones.

Where a policy does, the conditions of use for hands-free mobile phones and communication devices must include:

- Any conditions of use for hands-free mobile phones and communication devices
- Sending and receiving work-related calls, messages and data safely
- Any restrictions on making and receiving personal calls

If the use of hands-free mobile phones, communication devices or headphones is permitted, a risk assessment or method statement must be completed and the control measures identified included in the policy. This includes:

- Any device being used is fully hands-free
- Safe stowage of the device so as not to limit field of view or cause distraction
- Any messages being limited to a basic level and for a minimum duration
- The responsibility to remain in full control of the vehicle and the risk of distraction from driving

The policy relevant to hand-held mobile phones and communication devices must be:

- Documented and reviewed in accordance with requirement M1
- Retained in accordance with requirement M2
- Communicated in accordance with requirement M₅

Thomas Barrett – Director

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