

# How the London Direct Vision Standard (DVS) is changing



**At Fraikin, we place great emphasis on sharing our knowledge and expertise, particularly when it comes to legislation that impacts your commercial vehicle fleet. London's DVS is constantly being assessed and improved. The latest changes will come into effect in October 2024, but what do they entail?**

## What is the London DVS?

The Mayor of London's Vision Zero plan set a target to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries from road collisions in London by 2041.

In March 2021, the DVS came into force for vehicles 12-tonnes and over, introducing a Safe System designed to improve driver visibility to protect other road users, particularly pedestrians, cyclists, and those on motorcycles. Since its introduction, evidence has shown there has been a reduction in collisions where vision was a contributing factor.

Following a period of public consultation, Transport for London (TfL) has now launched a new Progressive Safe System to further improve HGV safety standards, which comes into effect from October 2024.

## How does it work?

All HGVs operating inside the DVS zone (generally inside the M25) will require a DVS safety permit, available without charge from TfL. Without one, operators will face a fine of up to £550 per day.

Permits are issued to vehicles on a 5-star rating system – from zero (poor) through to five (excellent). The ratings are based on the view the driver has of the road around them and the level of risk the vehicle poses to vulnerable road users.

Currently all HGVs entering the DVS zone must have at least a one-star rating. This will increase to three-stars from October 2024.

## How do I know if my vehicle meets the minimum star rating?

You can easily check vehicle-specific ratings directly with Fraikin or with TFL.

- ▶ Before travelling into the DVS zone, vehicles that meet the current minimum one-star rating can apply for a permit.
- ▶ If your vehicle does not meet the one-star minimum, you will have to take action to implement the basic Safe System to improve visibility.
- ▶ All vehicles rated below three-stars will need to prepare to upgrade to the new, tougher Progressive Safe System before October 2024. Registrations for new permits will open in June 2024.
- ▶ Vehicles currently rated three stars or above will be granted a 10-year permit.



## What does the current Safe System entail?

Essentially aligned to the Vehicle Safety Equipment requirements of the FORS Silver accreditation, the DVS Safe System includes the installation of:

- ✓ Class V and VI mirrors or cameras to eliminate blind spots.
- ✓ A camera monitoring system, including forward, reverse and side cameras with in-cab monitor.
- ✓ Near-side proximity sensors with a driver alert.
- ✓ A left-turn audible alarm to warn vulnerable road users.
- ✓ Sideguards to reduce the chance of injury to cyclists and pedestrians.
- ✓ Signage to warn road users of the hazards around the vehicle.

## How will this change from October 2024?

The public consultation looked at a range of new technology and innovations, leading to the development of the new Progressive Safe System, which all vehicles rated below three-stars will need to implement in order to reach the minimum standard.

**The Progressive Safe System includes:**

- ▶ A Camera Monitoring System (CMS) fitted to eliminate any blind spots and provide a visual alert of any approaching vulnerable road users.
- ▶ Sensors fitted to rigid trucks that provide full coverage of the vehicle's nearside to prevent left turn collisions, these should also be fitted to tractor units pulling trailers and the trailers themselves if possible.
- ▶ A Moving Off Information System (MOIS) must be fitted with sensors on the front of the vehicle to prevent collisions within the blind spot zone when moving off.
- ▶ Audio warnings that highlight intended manoeuvres must be fitted to all vehicles, including those that are left-hand drive.
- ▶ Warning signage and sideguard requirements remain unchanged.

## I need to take action, what should I do?

Talk to Fraikin, allow us to assist in acquiring your vehicle ratings and, if required, implement steps to upgrade your fleet to meet current and future DVS Safe System standards.

With our MYSMARTFLEET packages and expert team on hand to work with you, we can deliver new compliant solutions to optimise your vehicle safety and fleet efficiencies.



You Drive, We Care

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