

# Commercial Driver

## Drivers - Legal Requirements & Vehicle Checks

All Drivers are **legally responsible** for the safety and road worthiness of any vehicle they drive and must be aware of current driving and health and safety regulations and be compliant with them.

### Daily and Weekly Checks

Before driving any vehicle or trailer combination you must ensure that the following items have been checked and are in good working order by completing DAILY and WEEKLY vehicle walk-around checks.

- *Brakes, steering, horn, speedometer, windscreen wipers and windscreen washers must be in working order.*
- *Lights must all be in working order, both day and night with beams correctly adjusted.*
- *Bodywork must be sound, but if damaged, must not have any jagged metal or protrusions likely to injure pedestrians and other road users.*
- *Number plates must always be clean and visible.*
- *Tyre condition, inflation and wheel fixings.*
- *Wheel nut markers must be visually checked to ensure they are aligned (report defects)*
- *Tyres on light commercial vehicles and trailers (including any spare) must be free from cuts and other defects and have a continuous tread depth of at least 1.6 mm across the centre three-quarters of the width. Tread wear indicator bars can be seen in the grooves of the tyre. When the tread has worn to this bar it has reached the 1.6mm legal limit.*
- *For large goods vehicles, the tread depth must be no less than one mm, and the tread pattern must be visible for the entire width of the tyre surface.*
- *Refer to the manufacturer's handbook and the diagram in the back of this handbook for guidance on tyre tread depth limits (see Section 21 - Tyre Tread Wear Assessment).*
- *Tyre Pressures - Correct tyre pressures are vital.*
- *Mirrors must be clean and in a serviceable condition.*
- *Exhaust and silencer must be in good condition, not emitting excessive smoke or noise.*
- *Where fitted, seat belts must be in good condition and worn by all occupants.*

### Vehicles must not be overloaded

## TYRES

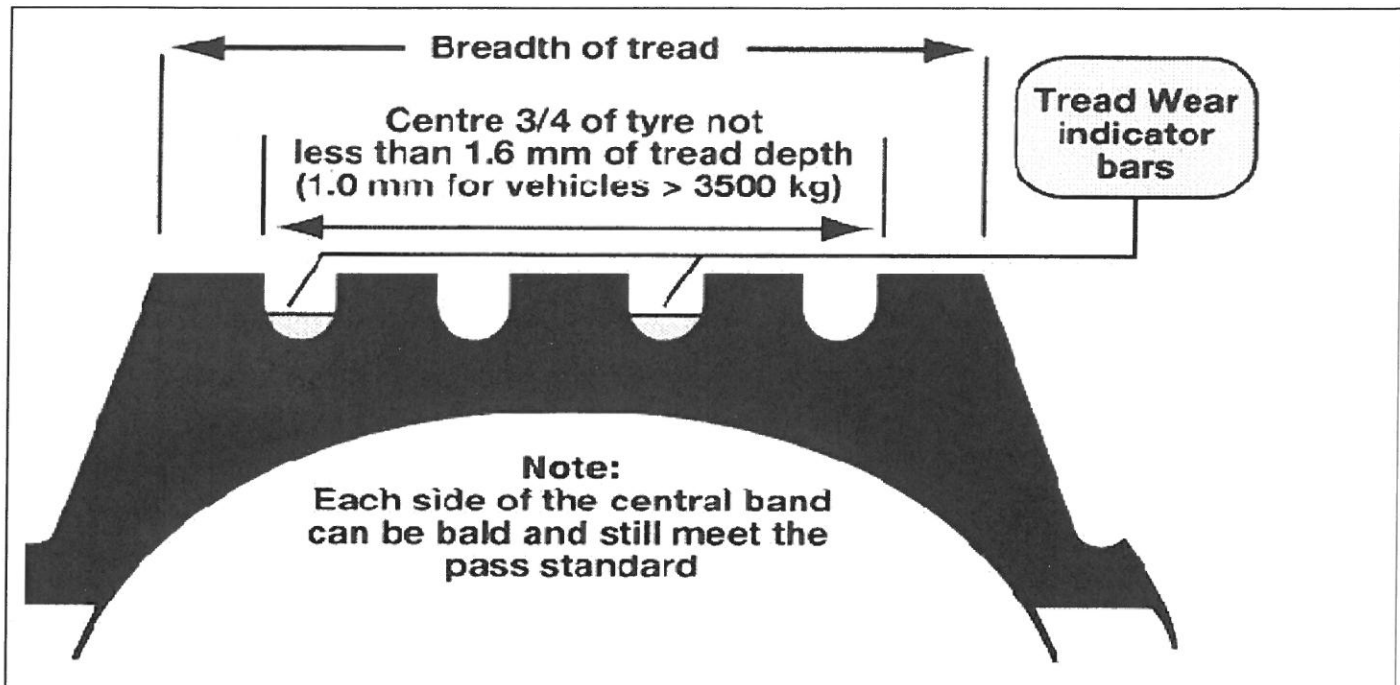
**Daily** - you must visually check tyres for any obvious defects or signs of under inflation

**Weekly** or when refuelling - you must check actual tyre pressures, condition and the depth of tread of your tyres. You should find the manufacturer's recommended pressures on a sticker in one of the door apertures; otherwise refer to the manufacturer's handbook.

Tyre Pressures should ideally be verified cold (tyres not having run for at least two hours or having run for less than 2 miles at low speed) or, if recently driven/hot, add 4 to 5 PSI to the recommended pressure.

### Tyre Tread Wear Assessment

Tread wear indicator bars may be seen in the main grooves of the tread at intervals around the circumference of the tyre.



## SPEED LIMITS

These are national speed limits and apply to all roads unless signs show otherwise. Roads with street lighting are restricted to 30 mph unless signs show otherwise.

Type of Vehicle	Built up Area	Single Carriageways	Dual Carriageways	Motorways
Cars and motor cycles including car derived vans up to 2 tonnes maximum laden weight eg Fiestas, Corsas, Escorts, Ka)	30	60	70	70
Cars or car-derived vans towing caravans or trailers	30	50	60	60
Buses and coaches not exceeding 12 metres overall length	30	50	60	70
Goods vehicles not exceeding 7.500kg / 7.5 tonnes max laden weight eg Ford Transits and Transit Connects	30	50	60	70*
Goods vehicles exceeding 7.500kg / 7.5 tonnes max laden weight	30	40	50	60

\* Speed limit 60 mph if articulated or towing a trailer.

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## Accident Reporting and Repair Procedures

All accidents, damage and incidents of vandalism or theft involving a TES vehicle MUST be reported as soon as practical and always within 24 hours of the incident. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

## Traffic Accidents - At the Scene

If you are involved in a traffic accident you **must**:

- STOP and park your vehicle safely.
- Not admit liability or make any statement or comment on the cause of the incident.
- Give your name and address and the registration number of your vehicle to the other driver.
- Obtain the name, address, insurance company and vehicle details of the other driver, including the registration number.
- Record names and addresses of any witnesses.
- Record road and weather conditions and the positions of the vehicles involved. If you have a camera, take some pictures.

## Traffic Accidents - Reporting the Incident

- Give your name and address and the registration number of your vehicle to the other driver, or any other person having reasonable grounds to require you to do so (e.g. a police officer, third parties etc).
- If for any reason you do not give your name and address to the other driver you should report the incident in person to any police station as soon as is practicable or in any case within 24 hours if there is:
  - injury to people or certain animals (dogs or livestock etc) or
  - serious damage to either vehicle or
  - damage to property (e.g. lamp-posts, fences etc) or
  - any allegation of careless or reckless driving.

**Note:** When reporting an incident to the Police you will normally be required to produce an insurance and MOT (GVT - Northern Ireland) certificate (if applicable).

**Note:** Whatever the cause, **all** accidents involving another vehicle, person or damage to property must be reported to TES as soon as practicably possible after the incident.

I confirm I have read and understood the above information.

Signed:

Date: