

## Managing workplace transport risk

Safety at work is now a complex and heavily legislated area. This month the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has set out the aims and objectives of its 'route map' for managing workplace transport risks which is due to be launched in March 2007. During 2004-2005 there were 5,427 workplace transport-related injuries, 68 of which were fatal. Rather than create new legislation, the HSE wants to guide employers through the vast amount of existing legislation and help them better manage the risks that employees face who work with or near vehicles.

The route map will aim to provide standards or benchmarks in the following key areas:

- Vehicle selection and maintenance
- Competence
- Fitness to drive/operate
- Visiting and agency drivers/operators
- Management and risk assessment
- Communication

The Spring guidelines and the recent Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill 2006 reinforce the responsibility of the employer for the safety of their staff at work. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 already imposes significant fines and up to 2 years imprisonment upon individuals and companies for negligent behaviour.

The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill 2006 has been created to tackle the larger companies for which it is very difficult to hold a specific person accountable. Penalties under this law could include unlimited fines and a remedial order against a company.

**John Britten, Director at Actons Solicitors says:** 'As the plans for this new 'route map' point out, the legislation surrounding health and safety at work is increasingly complex and we would advise all employers to make sure that they take the steps to safeguard both themselves and their employees against accident.'

To protect yourself and your employees or for advice on any other aspect of health and safety or employment law, speak to one of our specialists at Actons on **0115 9 100 200** or email [enquiries@actons.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@actons.co.uk).

### **Notes**

1. <http://www.mhwmagazine.co.uk/bsp/10130/ews.asp?DBID=103-281-013-074&ipgae=1&id=4075>
2. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/routemap.htm>
3. <http://www.healthandsafetytips.co.uk/LN/RC0051.htm>



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