

Road Safety News

From the **TTC Group**



News for fleet managers and road safety professionals

Issue 4

M&S DRIVERS IN "ESSENTIAL" TRAINING

Professional drivers who make food deliveries to M&S stores across the country learned all about the "morning after" at a talk given by the UK's leading driver education specialists.

GIST, supply chain specialists for top firms, called in the TTC Group to deliver a presentation over two days for 70 of the company's LGV drivers who travel across the UK and Ireland.

They learned about alcohol units, how long alcohol stays in the system, problems caused by over the counter medicines and how drinks are now stronger and served in larger measures.

Martin Macleerie, Logistics Manager for GIST in Glasgow, said he called in TTC to the Scottish depot after realising it was essential information for all professional drivers.

"I would definitely recommend it. It was very useful information. As professional drivers they are aware about alcohol but the information on the morning

after was very interesting.

"They learned about how drinks are now stronger and served in larger measures and how long it takes for the body to get rid of alcohol. This is especially important for driving the next day."



Professional M & S drivers from GIST benefitted from TTC training



WHAT WE DO...

The award winning TTC Group is a major training organisation in managing occupational road safety, fleet management policy, driver profiling and assessments, corporate driver training, speed awareness and workplace alcohol and drug education.

For more information on workforce education contact the road safety team on 0845 270 4363, visit the website at www.ttc-uk.com or email: train@ttc-uk.com

Best fleet forward

Fleet managers benefit from sending their staff on a TTC course, said one firm's deputy production manager. Steve Newman, of the Shropshire Star newspaper, said: "The duty of care and issues of company liability were a real eye opener for businesses with fleet management issues."

Businesses who went on a course found out more about their legal

obligation towards the safety of their employees in the workplace - while also helping the Severn Hospice.

Honda and Mitsubishi car dealership JT Hughes hosted an event for 30 firms with all proceeds donated to the charity.

TTC Group Director Graham Wynn took businesses through a host of issues including health and safety obligations and corporate liability. This was followed by a seminar on responsible driving from National Training Manager Malcolm Jones which included information on defensive driving techniques, coping strategies, mobile phones, stress related journeys and driver tiredness.

Training reduces road risk deaths to staff

Bosses can contribute to a serious reduction in UK road crashes while making major corporate savings to their fleet budget, revealed TTCs national training manager.

There is a "huge" financial incentive for companies to initiate fleet management training for their drivers, said Malcolm Jones, of the driver education specialists.

Company car and van drivers and people driving as part of their job make up one third of the 3,500 people killed each year on our roads. This compares to just 350 work related deaths inside the workplace, he told TTCs annual conference attended by 50 trainers from across the country.

Biggest danger area for staff

"Employers are starting to look at the risk they are placing drivers under on the road network. They know that this is the biggest danger area for staff. Risks inside the factory have been considerably diminished compared to the risk on the road."

Companies with large fleets suffer many "rear end shunts" and minor collisions costing firms hundreds of thousands of pounds in repairs and insurance hikes.

"The majority of crashes are little bumps, tyres scuffed, wing mirrors damaged and insurance does not cover them," said Mr Jones, whose trainers are currently running courses in Shropshire with proceeds going to the Severn Hospice.

One firm tackled its problem of a high percentage of accidents on the works car park by training its staff. While another trained all their staff to carry out basic car maintenance to cut costs.

Companies who trained drivers recorded a 25 to 40 per cent reduction in crashes, 25 per cent reduction in insurance costs, ten per cent on fuel savings and maintenance costs cut by five per cent, said Mr Jones.



NATIONAL TRAINING MANAGER MALCOLM JONES

Improving work performance by educating staff about the dangers of alcohol and drugs is also part of the training programme. For more information about workforce driver training contact the TTC Group on 0845 270 4363 or visit www.ttc-uk.com

RICOH GO FOR TTC TRAINING

Managers at a major UK company welcomed TTC training sessions to boost health and safety for staff. The entire workforce of more than 600 employees at Ricoh, a world leader in business communications, was made aware about the effect alcohol and drugs has on driving, health and day to day working at their Midlands manufacturing plant.

Gill Pritchard, Ricoh's Senior Human Resources Officer, said the company had taken the decision to introduce the training after 12 months of research into the impact of drug and alcohol addiction and its effects on employees and the organisation.

"This has also been highlighted by the Government as an issue having a major effect on British industry."

A workforce that had undergone the TTC training would be healthier and it would also result in a fall in absenteeism, she added.

- TTC has just completed a one year UK roadshow to educate 4,000 LGV and Public Service Vehicle operators as part of a Traffic Commissioners event organised by VOSA, the Vehicle Operators Service Agency.

- A UK coach company expertly navigated its way through the complications of creating a successful alcohol and drugs policy for its workforce with the help of TTC. "Everyone said just how impressed they were by the information we received," said Caroline Sturman, HR Manager for Belle Coaches of Lowestoft.

- The TTC Group has adopted the Severn Hospice as its designated charity which was given a boost when trainers answered a company appeal and brought items for a charity shop to raise funds to run the new hospice in Telford, Shropshire.

- A major brewery teamed up with TTC to educate pub landlords about alcohol and drugs. The Union Pub Company praised the series of tailor made courses which were "sold out" within hours of being announced to staff.

NEW INGREDIENT: BESPOKE DRIVER TRAINING

A leading flour distributor added a new ingredient to its fleet driver education programme - essential information on driver training. Allied Mills called in TTC to run bespoke training courses for distribution staff from their UK depots which supply bakeries throughout the country.

Group Distribution Manager Mike Davis took his LGV drivers off the road for a day to attend the course as part of an advanced road risk educational programme aimed at helping drivers protect themselves and keep their "valuable" driving licences.

He urged other employers to put drivers on the same course to educate and protect them on the roads.

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