





# Vehicle Familiarisation

Give your drivers the confidence that comes with proper understanding of their vehicle.

Getting behind the wheel of an unfamiliar vehicle for the first time can be a daunting experience for any driver: every new vehicle comes with subtle variations in control layout, size, and handling characteristics to get used to.

Driving a van for the first time represents a much bigger step, requiring car drivers to make significant changes to the way they use observation and road positioning, and to account for the effects of varying payloads on acceleration and braking, as well as knowing the different speed limits applicable to vans over a certain size.

Our Vehicle Familiarisation course has been designed to prepare drivers to make a safe transition between vehicle types, and is especially suited to car drivers who are new to driving a van as part of their job.

Vehicle types	Car
	Light commercial
Trainer : Delegate ratio	1:1
Duration	
Half-day	Full day
Train 1 driver 	Train 1 or 2 drivers 

# Provide the tools AND the training



Lack of familiarity with equipment is a major limiting factor for any employee carrying out a new task. For employers, providing training for new equipment is standard practice. And yet, it's all too common for employees to be handed a set of keys and trusted to be competent with the most dangerous piece of equipment most employees will ever use – a commercial vehicle.

For the safety of your drivers and all road users, it's essential that all business drivers are provided with the opportunity to get to grips with unfamiliar vehicles before they can be expected to operate them safely and with full efficiency.

- Standard Category D (car) licence holders are legally entitled to drive Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) up to 3.5 tonnes with no further training. How will they develop the skills to manoeuvre a van safely?
- In 2022, half of all leased vans incurred damage charges at the end of their lease, averaging £561 per van, compared to an average of £355 per car.\*
- Compared with cars, per mile travelled, vans are involved in around ten times as many deaths of other road users.\*\*
- LCV traffic on the road is now more than double what it was 30 years ago. Travelling an estimated 55.5 billion vehicle miles per year, the UK's van drivers often operate under pressure, to tight timescales and in challenging work environments, causing concerns for future road safety.

The course is designed to be versatile – applicable to a variety of vehicle types, and adaptable - to suit the individual needs of your drivers and organisation.

Vehicle Familiarisation is conducted on-road, on a one-to-one basis between trainer and trainee. Our trainers are all Approved Driving Instructors, with a wealth of experience across a multitude of vehicles.

A half-day course is perfect for getting a driver confident and comfortable with their new vehicle, and the course can also be extended into a full-day course for a single trainee, giving a greater depth of training when required.

\* Fleet News, FN50 report, 2022; \*\*PACTS, 'What kills most on the roads?', 2020

 **0870 120 2910**

 **business@iam.org.uk**

**[iamroadsmart.com/business](https://iamroadsmart.com/business)**

Registered in England and Wales 562530  
Registered charity number 249002 (England and Wales)  
SC041201 (Scotland)

0429 04/23

## About IAM RoadSmart

We're proud to be the UK's leading independent road safety charity, with a membership of 80,000 people across the country and a thriving community of volunteers, all working towards a common goal: protecting people from harm by improving driving standards in the UK.

## The benefits to your business

Driver training helps to boost your drivers' safety and confidence. It can help reduce the stress that comes with business driving, resulting in a happier, more productive workforce.

Your business will be repaid with benefits that include:

- Fewer collisions and lower vehicle repair costs
- A greener, more efficient fleet
- Protection from prosecution, safeguarding your reputation

**Get in touch** and find out how  
IAM RoadSmart can help your  
fleet thrive.

