

Vehicle Familiarisation

Protect your drivers and vehicles



Getting behind the wheel of an unfamiliar vehicle for the first time can be a daunting experience for any driver. There are many ways in which drivers need to adapt, to account for differences in a vehicle's size, control layout and handling characteristics compared to a more familiar car.

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	
Duration	Half-day	Full day
Trainer to delegate ratio	1:1	

For more information or to book your course:

Tel: 0870 120 2910

Email: business@iam.org.uk

iamroadsmart.com/business

Provide the tools AND the training

A person's inexperience and lack of familiarity with their equipment are limiting factors when it comes to carrying out any new task. For employers, this means that providing new employees with the appropriate training is essential, especially for tasks that involve an element of risk, or equipment that can be dangerous.

The same principle applies to driving, and employees who drive for work must be provided with the opportunity to get to grips with an unfamiliar vehicle before they can be expected to operate it safely and with full efficiency.

- **UK licensing laws mean that a holder of a standard Category B car licence is entitled to drive LGVs up to 3.5tonnes, with no further training.** This category includes vehicles that are much larger than a typical passenger car, many of which have a very long wheelbase and severely limited rearward visibility, making them challenging to manoeuvre.
- **According to the 2020 FN50 report by Fleet News, almost half of all leased vans incurred damage charges at end of lease, averaging £438 per van.** This is 35% higher than the typical fair wear and tear charges for cars, reflecting the often more hazardous working environments faced by LGVs, and the challenges of manoeuvring them safely.
- **In 2019 there were more than 4.1million licenced Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) in the UK, representing an increase of around 80% over the previous 20 years.** As van use continues to grow, more workers will be required to drive vans and other specialist vehicles. Travelling an estimated 55.5billion vehicle miles per year, the UK's van drivers often operate under pressure, to tight timescales and in challenging work environments.

Half-day	Full day
Train 1 driver 	Train 1 or 2 drivers 

- Our Vehicle Familiarisation course is applicable to multiple vehicle types, and can be implemented in a variety of ways to best suit the needs of your drivers and organisation.
- A half-day course is perfect for getting a single driver confident and comfortable with their new vehicle.
- The course can also be extended into a full-day course for a single trainee, giving the driver greater depth of training if required.

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

Why choose Vehicle Familiarisation?



- ✓ **Avoid unforeseen costs by equipping your drivers to avoid collisions**
- ✓ **Protect your employees and the general public**
- ✓ **Protect your vehicles and avoid downtime**
- ✓ **Protect your reputation: avoid those unsightly dents and scrapes**

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