



Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS)

Introduction

The Health and Safety Executive now regards driving as one of the most dangerous regular activities that most people do. Statistically, working as a driver is almost as dangerous as being a deep sea fisherman or working in a quarry, and more dangerous than working in the construction industry.

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, organisations have a responsibility to provide information, instruction, training and supervision to all their staff, and a responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of everyone affected by the organisation. This is further endorsed under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, which also place a duty on organisations to provide appropriate training to staff.

So there is a clear, legal, obligation to ensure your drivers are trained.

Volunteers

In the publication *Charity and Voluntary Workers: A Guide to Health and Safety at Work*, the Health and Safety Executive states: "In general, the same health and safety standards should be applied to voluntary workers as they would to employees exposed to the same risks."

There may not be strict legal duties but the implication from this statement is clear, you should offer the same level of training to a volunteer driver as you would to a paid one.

There are also other reasons for training volunteers, not least of which is making them feel a valuable part of the team by receiving the same training as other staff members. You may also find it easier to recruit, as potential volunteers are more likely to come to an organisation that obviously cares about its voluntary staff, and of course, you may find it easier to hang on to them once you've got them!

MiDAS Training

The simple solution to your driver training needs is to take a MiDAS training course with Telford and Wrekin Fleet Transport Services. MiDAS is the award-winning Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme. MiDAS is a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of drivers.

MiDAS is applicable to any organisation that transports passengers by road, and organisations range from small voluntary organisations operating one vehicle to local authorities operating large vehicle fleets. Many schools and other educational establishments use MiDAS for training drivers and in its guidance to schools using

minibuses, the Department for Education and Skills cites MiDAS training as good practice for all schools.

What is in the MiDAS training?

Under MiDAS, drivers attend an intensive classroom-based theory training session that looks at:

- Driving for Safety and Economy
- Drivers' legal responsibilities
- Passenger safety
- Health and safety awareness
- Manual handling awareness
- Personal safety for drivers
- Collision and breakdown procedures.

Drivers also undertake an extensive, on-road assessment of their driving skills and a written, multiple-choice theory assessment before being awarded a certificate.

Drivers of accessible vehicles undertake further training in the skills and knowledge they require to safely use an accessible vehicle and they must complete a practical skills assessment before being issued with their certificate.

How to Book a MiDAS Training Place

Contact Telford and Wrekin Fleet Transport Services on :

Telephone : 01952 384829

Email : holly.davis@telford.gov.uk

Applying for a Section 19 Permit

Introduction

Section 19 of the Transport Act 1985 allow organisations that operate in GB without a view to profit to have a permit which exempts them from the need to hold a PSV operator's licence when providing transport for a charge. Under specified conditions, the drivers of certain vehicles are exempt from the need to have PCV entitlement on their driving licence.

When applying to become a permit holder you have a responsibility to make sure that your services are operated within the law, with vehicles properly maintained and using drivers with the appropriate qualifications. You should discuss with Telford and Wrekin Fleet Transport Services if you're in any doubt about your obligations in operating your vehicles safely and legally, or your ongoing entitlement to operate under the permit.

Permit Requirements

You need to demonstrate the following in order to be issued with a Section 19 permit:

1. Your drivers are correctly trained – using the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) is the best way to ensure your drivers are correctly trained. (see enclosed MiDAS information sheet)
2. You keep copies of the driving licences of everyone driving your minibus(es) and make regular checks on any endorsements.
3. Your buses are properly maintained and tested – you need to keep records of all the servicing and repairs carried out to your minibus(es) for 15 months. The guide to road worthiness can be found at :
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/321988/guide-to-maintaining-roadworthiness.pdf
4. You are aware of the rules on charging for services and the groups of people you can carry.

Issuing a Section 19 permit

Permits are issued by Telford and Wrekin Fleet Transport Services. You will need to complete an application form and will be asked for evidence to show that you are complying with the above requirements.

A section 19 permit is required for each vehicle you operate. More information on section 19 permits can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/section-19-and-22-permits-not-for-profit-passenger-transport/section-19-and-22-permits-not-for-profit-passenger-transport>

Or from Fleet Transport Services telephone 01952 384829, email holly.davis@telford.gov.uk

Changes in Car seat Laws will come into effect as of December 2016.

Changes within the law now mean your child, or any other child passengers need to be secure in the car at all times.

Here are the gov.uk guidelines to help ensure you are within the law...

Using a child car seat or booster seat

Children must normally use a child car seat until they're 12 years old or 135cm tall, whichever comes first.

Only EU-approved child car seats can be used in the UK. These have a label showing a capital 'E' in a circle.

You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

Height-based car seats

Height-based car seats are known as 'i-Size' seats. They must be rear-facing until your child is over 15 months old. Your child can use a forward-facing car seat when they're over 15 months old.

You must check the seat to make sure it's suitable for the height of your child.

Weight-based car seats

Weight-based car seats must be rear-facing until your child weighs more than 9kg. After that the seat your child can use (and the way they must be restrained in it) depends on their weight.

You may be able to choose from more than one type of seat.

Child's weight	Car seat
• 0kg to 13kg	Rear-facing baby carrier, or rear-facing baby seat using a harness
• 9kg to 18kg	Rear- or forward-facing baby seat using a harness or safety shield
• 15kg to 36kg	Forward-facing child seat (high-backed booster seat or booster cushion)
•	using a seatbelt.

The Child Car Seats website has information on how to choose a car seat and travel safely with children in cars.

www.gov.uk/child-car-seats-the-rules

As of December 2016 booster cushions will only be allowed for children aged 6 years, taller than 125cm or weighing 22kg+.

This applies to NEW products only-if you are already using a booster cushion you do not need to purchase a replacement high backed booster seat but it is recommended.

Children need to be 4 years old to use a high backed booster with adult restraints. Under this they must use the harness.

Child's weight	Car seat
0kg to 13kg harness	Rear-facing baby carrier, or rear-facing baby seat using a harness
9kg to 18kg shield	Rear- or forward-facing baby seat using a harness or safety shield
15kg to 22kg (4-6 years)	Forward-facing child seat, high-backed booster seat and harness
15kg-36kg restraint (6+ years)	Forward-facing child seat, high-backed booster seat and adult restraint (6+ years)
22kg to 36kg	Forward facing child seat, high backed booster or booster cushion using adult restraint (6+ years)