

Direct Vision Standard and Safety Permit for HGVs

(Information from Transport for London website)

Direct Vision Standard

DVS was created to improve the safety of all road users, particularly vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

DVS uses a star system to rate HGVs over 12 tonnes from 0 (lowest) to 5 (highest), based on how much a driver can see directly through their cab windows.

Limited direct vision model



Increased direct vision model





HGV Safety Permit

Consultation feedback has shaped the DVS proposal which now includes an HGV Safety Permit. If the proposal is approved, HGVs over 12 tonnes entering or operating in Greater London will require a Safety Permit. The Permit scheme will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

Subject to final consultation, permits for the scheme will be available from October 2019.

Proposed permit requirements

- From 26 October 2020 all 0-star HGVs over 12 tonnes will be banned unless they prove a Safe System (this is the same date that Low Emission Zone (LEZ) standards strengthen for heavy vehicles London-wide)
- From 26 October 2024 all 0 to 2-star HGVs will be banned unless they prove a Progressive Safe System

Safe System

The Safe System is a series of vehicle safety measures which are designed to reduce the risks HGVs present to cyclists and pedestrians. The core Safe System proposals include:

- Blind spot elimination and minimisation, for example: a fully operational camera monitoring system; Class V and VI mirrors; and a sensor system with driver alerts
- Warning of intended manoeuvre, for example: audible left-turn vehicle manoeuvring warning and external pictorial stickers and markings
- Minimising physical impact of a hazard, for example: side-underrun protection

Driver Training

While highly recommended, driver training is not a mandatory requirement for obtaining a permit.

Progressive Safe System

The Safe System will be reviewed and consulted on ahead of 2024, and will take into account any additional technology or safety equipment not available in 2020. Any new equipment or technology proposed for the Progressive Safe System must be retrofittable to HGVs, industry recognised and readily available on the market at the time. HGVs below 3-star will need to feature the Progressive Safe System from 2024.

Feedback from the third DVS public consultation in early 2019 will feed into a review of the HGV Safety Permit guidance document below.

DVS Star Rating

DVS star ratings for Euro IV, V and VI are now available from vehicle manufacturers. Contact your manufacturer to request a DVS star rating for your vehicle(s) or to enquire about the rating of a new vehicle. You will be asked to provide the chassis number for existing vehicle(s).

Your manufacturer will calculate the star rating of your vehicle(s) or a new vehicle based on the approved DVS Technical Protocol. They will tell you your DVS star rating and send a copy to TfL.

Manufacturer	Contact	Phone	Email/online form
DAF	DAF central engineering	01844 261111	ukwvta@daftrucks.com
Dennis Eagle	-	-	www.dennis-eagle.co.uk/USV
MAN	Sales engineering	01793 448000	salesengineering@man.eu
Renault	Product engineering	01926 401777	DVS@renault-trucks.com
Scania	Product engineering	01908 210 210	product.engineeringuk@scania.com
Volvo	Sales engineering	01926 401 777	Dvs@volvo.com
Mercedes-Benz	-	-	mbtrucks.product@daimler.com

An international standard

Alongside a Direct Vision Standard for London, we are working with other European cities and the European Union to push for long-term improvements by mandating [direct vision in EU vehicle design and safety regulations](#).

More information