

New vehicle safety standards in London – take action now

On 1 March 2021, a new Safety Permit based on the Direct Vision Standard (DVS) came into force for all Heavy Goods Vehicles over 12 tonnes driving within Greater London. DVS is a key part of the Mayor of London's [Vision Zero plan](#) to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries on London's streets.

The DVS uses a star rating system to rate HGVs based on how much a driver can see directly through their cab windows, ranking from zero star (the lowest level of direct vision) to five stars (highest level of direct vision). Vehicles rated zero star will be granted a permit if they are fitted with 'safe system' measures including a camera, audible turn indicator and warning sign. The permit is electronic – there is nothing to display – and it is free.

The DVS operates in the same area as London's existing Low Emission Zone – ie most of greater London – 24 hours a day, every day of the year. HGVs not holding a permit, or in contravention of permit conditions, will be issued with a £550 fine (reduced to £275 if paid within 14 days) for each day the vehicle is driven within the DVS area.

These regulations apply to both UK vehicles and to foreign operators using vehicles registered outside the UK. Foreign operators can apply online in the same way as UK ones, though any accompanying statements must be in English. It's quick, so you still have time:

- Put your number plate into the vehicle checker at <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/deliveries-in-london/delivering-safely/direct-vision-in-heavy-goods-vehicles>. Your vehicle probably won't be on our system ("Vehicle not found") and/or will not have a manufacturer's star rating recorded - but don't worry.
- Most long-haul European trucks – for instance all Volvo FH, DAF XF, Renault T vehicles – are rated zero star and you can simply self-certify. You don't need to ask your vehicle's manufacturer for this. Tell us via "Contact Us" on the right-hand navigation bar at <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/deliveries-in-london/delivering-safely/direct-vision-in-heavy-goods-vehicles/contact-dvs-and-hgv-safety-permit>. In your message say: "I certify that my vehicle [vehicle's number plate, make and/or model] is zero star rated for DVS" and give us your name, company name and country.
- You will then need to wait a day or two for our system to update. You cannot send the self-certification message and make the application at the same time. When you receive email confirmation that we have uploaded your data, you can apply for a permit.
- When you apply you will need to show evidence that your zero-star truck has the necessary safe systems fitted. If it doesn't, you will need to get them fitted – see <http://content.tfl.gov.uk/hgv-safety-permit-guidance-for-operators-entering-london2.pdf>. Send us your application with evidence photos as set out at <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/deliveries-in-london/delivering-safely/direct-vision-in-heavy-goods-vehicles/apply-for-an-hgv-safety-permit>. You should get email confirmation of your permit within two days.

Please do not delay – take action now. You can apply and find full information on the Transport for London website above.