

Motorcycling



Driving for Work

Employers have legal obligations to manage the safety of staff who may use motorcycles to carry out their normal work duties or for occasional work journeys such as travelling to other work locations for meetings



Promoting Safer Motorcycling

Focusing on safer motorcycling can reinforce messages about Managing Occupational Road Risk (MORR) and more generally can help to reinforce a positive safety culture in the workplace

When people are at work they are more likely to respond positively to invitations to take part in important safety initiatives, particularly when they are encouraged to do so by their managers, colleagues and friends

'Time poverty' experienced by most employees outside work due to domestic priorities means they are more likely to take part in safety programmes delivered in the workplace rather than out in the community



Assessments and Training

A good way to start is to arrange an assessment with a motorcycle training organisation or BikeSafe to identify what training would be most beneficial

BikeSafe is run by Police Forces around the UK who work with the whole of the biking world to help to lower the number of motorcycle casualties. By passing on their knowledge, skills and experience, police motorcyclists aim to help riders to become safer and more competent

Advanced rider training is provided by a variety of organisations such as RoSPA, IAM RoadSmart and DIAMond. Particular emphasis is placed on issues such as:

- Initial machine and equipment checks
- Reading the road environment to anticipate hazards
 - Correct machine positioning
 - Safe cornering and braking
- Coping with adverse conditions

Training may then lead on to trainees being entered for an advanced riding test

Different approaches may be needed as riders of scooters mopeds and light motorcycles may feel that they don't have much in common with riders of sports bikes or cruisers

Learners involved in delivering goods such as fast food who may have only completed CBT should receive additional help to pass their test as soon as possible



Involving Employees and Representatives

- Find a management level champion who is a motorcyclist to talk directly to fellow motorcyclists about rider safety issues - many people in senior safety roles are bikers
- Find a workforce or union safety representative who can play a similar role
 - Create a survey to find out about motorcycling to work issues
 - Enquire during driver training programmes to see if there are drivers that are also motorcyclists who might value rider assessment and training
 - Initiate a discussion in a motorcycling safety area on the staff Intranet
 - Encourage employees who have undergone rider assessment or further training to explain the benefits to their colleagues

Sadly, it can be the case that action to improve safety is only taken when a serious collision has occurred; awareness is raised and people tend to be more receptive to the need for action

Should an individual staff member be involved in a motorcycle collision the opportunity should ideally not be lost to put safer riding on the agenda



Motorcycling and Travel Plans

Travel plans need to include a mainstream role for motorcycles

Local Authorities may be able to advise on a Work Travel Plan and larger businesses could take the lead and use local business networks to draw key people together

It is also vital to seek the views and participation of existing riders and also to find out how many employees would like to use motorcycles

You could:

- Consider organising 'Ride-to-Work' days (visit www.mcia.co.uk)
- Develop advice about safer routes and avoidance of local road hazards
 - Examine site transport safety and security measures
 - Provide sufficient secure motorcycle parking

Changing and drying room facilities can also help cater for the needs of all-weather riders