

**For any growing business the health and safety of their workers is a priority and the introduction of Corporate Manslaughter laws now mean that the responsibility of the employer is now even more apparent.**

**For those workers sitting in an office, hot tea may well be their biggest enemy but for anyone running a fleet, worker safety deserves even more attention. With figures on serious injuries and deaths due to traffic accidents still in their high thousands and with more and more vehicles heading on to our roads, it is no wonder that safety and the fear over corporate manslaughter are of paramount concern.**

**There are steps you can take to mitigate the risk of a corporate manslaughter claim by taking the safety of your drivers and the public seriously and using preventative measures and constant monitoring to avoid problems.**

## **TEN WAYS TO HELP YOU AVOID THE PROBLEM OF CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER**

- 1 Regularly check the driving licenses of all your employees
- 2 Understand and check the working hours of your drivers
- 3 Keep detailed and complete records of all accidents and investigate and conclude the cause so best practice can be implemented
- 4 Organise an external or internal risk assessment to highlight problem areas
- 5 Compile a code of practice for drivers to follow and regularly test their knowledge
- 6 Offer full and comprehensive training for your drivers, concentrating on safety manoeuvres
- 7 Ensure that any new drivers are assessed by a qualified person when hired
- 8 Do regular spot checks on drivers and their vehicles including "ride alongs" to assess skills
- 9 Implement regular servicing and checks on all fleet vehicles including tyres, oil and general condition,
- 10 Ensure your HR policies clearly state the importance of safety and the seriousness of causing an accident

The introduction of GPS tracking systems has certainly gone some way in helping fleet managers get a clearer picture of drivers behaviour through reporting on speed, which helps with some of these issues, but there is more to safe driving than just holding off on the revs.

Recognising this, Trimble has introduced an advanced GPS solution called DriveSafe that continuously monitors the style, actions and behaviour of a vehicle's driver. By recording the speed, rate of acceleration, rate of braking, and speed of cornering, DriveSafe

information is used to build a safety profile of each driver and allows fleet managers to understand who is driving well and who requires some training. This information is assessed on a monthly basis and drivers are given scores so that it is easy to assess those at increased risk of being in an accident. This gives the fleet manager a picture of what is happening in the field and how each of his drivers is performing and this knowledge is the cornerstone in protecting both the driver and the company.

In addition to DriveSafe, Trimble Vehicle Tracking Solutions offer ways to track the mileage of each vehicle, set service schedules or even incorporate Vehicle Diagnostics, directly linking in to the vehicle's computer, to allow you to proactively manage the condition of each vehicle.

Monitoring and managing both the vehicle and driver, combined with strong training, is the best way to ensure you are acting in the most responsible way for both the public and your employees by mitigating the factors that affect safety on the road.

## **A CASE IN POINT**

One company running a fleet of ready mix concrete trucks wanted to try and understand their driver's behaviour better as aggressive driving and accidents were significant contributors to the cost of running the fleet and they were hoping emerging technology could help them avoid the pitfalls of corporate manslaughter.

Having already installed GPS vehicle tracking, the company had been collecting data on driver behaviour when they were approached by Trimble with their product, DriveSafe. Using data recorded by the in-vehicle hardware, DriveSafe recorded the speed of the trucks during different manoeuvres, i.e. cornering and braking, to understand the weight and pressure being put on that vehicle and therefore its likelihood to be involved in an accident through turning over, skidding and so forth.

With such detailed information being gathered, it was easy, over a short period to collate enough data to understand what constituted a safe manoeuvre and set benchmarks for the drivers, who were then scored periodically. Once the company could identify the drivers falling below the benchmark they were able to mitigate any potential problems early, creating a safer environment for both their workers and the public.

Watching their accident figures reduce and estimating that an out of action truck could cost up to £50,000 a month in lost revenue, the owners have both saved money and increased their driver safety, reducing the likelihood of any corporate manslaughter claims.

**For more information on Trimble DriveSafe and Trimble Vehicle Tracking Solutions, please contact Trimble:**

**Tel: 0845 450 5995**

**or visit our website [www.trimble.co.uk](http://www.trimble.co.uk)**