

London, 7th February 2024

FLEET DRIVERS AT RISK FROM DANGEROUS WEATHER CONDITIONS IN FEBRUARY

Travel policies must protect drivers in severe weather conditions

With the weather forecast for February promising [wet, windy and wintry conditions](#) across most of the country, Europcar Mobility Group UK has asked people who drive as part of their job what travel policies their employer has in place when it comes to driving in adverse weather conditions. Only just over a quarter (27%) said they must adhere to their company travel policy when driving in adverse weather conditions. And for 1 in 5, suitability of driving in certain weather conditions is not included in company travel policies at all; 23% said their employer had no expectations or procedures in place.

Extreme weather: Travel Policies

- 27% must adhere to a company travel policy when driving in adverse weather conditions
- 23% have no expectations/procedures in place regarding poor weather conditions
- 20% reported no weather conditions in which employees should not drive for work
- 17% require evidence that employees have made an informed assessment of road conditions in extreme weather conditions

“Without clear guidelines on when it is safe to drive or not in poor weather conditions, people driving for work could be exposed to unnecessary risk”, said Evelyn Tourish, Customer Experience Manager - Operations, Europcar Mobility Group UK. “The attitude that ‘It won’t happen to me,’ or ‘I’m a good driver so I’ll be fine’ can be extremely dangerous if drivers convince themselves their journey is important enough to risk driving in poor conditions.”

Employers and Fleet Managers should have in place clear guidelines regarding expectations of drivers and remind employees to carefully consider the weather conditions before embarking on a journey for work. The Highway Code provides useful [guidance for various weather conditions](#).

Regular vehicle checks, including tyre pressure, screen wash levels and lights are also essential – something as simple as an under-inflated tyre can have serious consequences for steering and increases the risk of aquaplaning. Yet the Europcar research found that vehicle checks were not mandatory:

- 23% require employees to check tyre pressure
- 22% must check screen wash level
- 21% must check vehicle lights

As Evelyn Tourish added, the significance of vehicle checks is heightened where employees are using their own vehicles – grey fleet – for business journeys.

“Employers have a duty of care to protect their employees when they are driving for work purposes, and clear guidelines are essential to meet this requirement and protect employees as well as the business. Our recent Grey Fleet Report highlighted the continued heavy reliance of businesses on employees own vehicles – 81% admitted to relying on grey fleet for business travel. It’s critical, therefore, that the right policies are in place to ensure these vehicles are checked regularly, especially if likely to be used in more challenging driving conditions.

“A good alternative is to implement the use of rental vehicles which are maintained and serviced. Europcar offers access to a wide choice of cars and commercial vehicles that give business drivers a fit for purpose mobility solution.”

Full results and more tips for businesses looking to manage Grey Fleet usage are available in the report, Greening the Grey Fleet, available to download [here](#).



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Notes to Editors

About Europcar Mobility Group

Europcar Mobility Group is a global mobility services provider with a leading position in Europe. In the coming years, the Group's ambition is to become a leader in sustainable mobility services, driven by data, technology and people.

Europcar Mobility Group offers to individuals and businesses a wide range of car and van rental services, be it for a few hours, a few days, a week, a month or more, on-demand or on subscription, relying on a fleet of more than 250.000 vehicles, equipped with the latest engines including more and more electric vehicles.

Its brands address differentiated needs, use cases and expectations: Europcar® - a global leader of car rental and light commercial vehicle rental, Goldcar® - a frontrunner at providing low-cost car rental services in Europe, Fox-Rent-A-Car®, one of the main players in the car rental market in the US, with a "value for money" positioning, Buchbinder®, one of the most important players in car and light commercial vehicle rental in Germany, and Ubeeqo® – one of the European leaders of car-sharing (BtoB, BtoC).

Customers' satisfaction is at the heart of the Group's ambition and that of its more than 8,000 employees, everywhere Europcar Mobility Group delivers its mobility solutions, thanks to a strong network in 140 countries (including 16 wholly owned subsidiaries completed by franchisees and alliance partners).

More information: www.europcar-mobility-group.com