

WINTER 2018

LeasePlan

Drive

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WLTP and vehicle orders

The new emissions tests could have a significant effect on some new vehicle orders.

Although the WLTP (Worldwide Harmonised Light Vehicles Test Procedure) is now in effect for all new vehicles, the Government will continue using its previous system (NEDC – New European Driving Cycle) for taxation purposes until April 2020.

This means cars that have already undergone the WLTP will need their CO₂ emissions figures converted into NEDC figures using a special simulation model. These will be called NEDC-correlated figures; or NEDCc, for short.

The challenge for companies is that these NEDCc figures are likely to be different from those generated by the original NEDC. This could affect taxes, of course, but some businesses also have limits on CO₂ emissions in their company car policies. The difference between NEDCc and NEDC could mean a car that was under the cap when it was ordered is now over the limit. We are currently working with manufacturers to discover the NEDCc figures as soon as possible.

In addition, many manufacturers are experiencing delays and upheavals to their production schedules because of the WLTP changes.

You can find out more about WLTP in our guide by clicking below:

Rental refill reminder

Daily rental has many advantages, but there is a hidden cost.

Rental vehicles are a great way to meet business requirements for occasional use or to cover vehicle downtime. But drivers must remember to refuel these vehicles when they return them.

If a rental vehicle is handed back with the same level of fuel it had when it was supplied, there is no refuelling charge. However, if it has to be refuelled to the original level, this will be charged – and many providers add an administration fee to the pump price.

This may not be a significant amount on its own, but if your organisation is using daily rentals on a regular basis, it could add up quickly. This means it's essential to make time to refuel before to returning a rental vehicle.

For more information speak to your Customer Services team

The golden hour of accidents

The importance of First Notification of Loss (FNOL)

If you are in a road incident involving your vehicle, it's essential to tell your accident management provider as soon as it's safe to do so. Any delay can lead to less control over the terms of fixing your vehicle and the cost to repair.

Contacting your accident management provider – ideally within the first hour – means there is less chance of drivers being approached by organisations that can lead to the costs for replacement vehicles and injury claims spiraling out of control. Unfortunately, if you've had an accident, there is a whole industry waiting to make money out of it.

The extra benefit of involving your accident management provider early on is that they will do all they can to ensure you are back on the road as quickly and efficiently as possible. You don't want a ten-day repair to linger for 90 days or a rental vehicle that costs £25 a day with an insurer to cost £200 a day from a credit hire firm.

As with all aspects of your relationship with LeasePlan, we are here to help. That's why we offer a 24-hour Driverline that's open every day of the year to help speed up the process and make it easy for our customers.

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Preparing for the cold snap

Winter can create some of the most challenging environments to drive in. Here are a few tips to help you stay safe on the roads this winter.

The first and most obvious step, is to always check the weather forecast before you set out. If the conditions are treacherous then it would be best to avoid driving at all. Remember, no trip is so vital that it is worth taking unnecessary risks for.

1. HIGH GEAR, LOW REVS

When setting off, using a higher gear will give you more control over the vehicle and in slippery conditions avoid using first gear if possible.

2. SKIDDING

If you do get into a skid in snow or ice, it may seem counter-intuitive, but take your feet off the pedals and steer the vehicle to safety. Only use your brakes when it is not possible to steer your way out of trouble.

3. BRAKING

Triple the normal braking distance and allow enough space to stop slowly, using a low gear earlier than normal and gently applying the brakes.

4. ROADS

Try and stay on the main roads, as these are more likely to have been gritted and cleared by a steady flow of traffic.

5. TAKE YOUR TIME

When driving in snow avoid high revs, but don't drive so slowly that you risk losing momentum and becoming stranded.

6. VISIBILITY

If you have to drive in heavy snowfall, use dipped headlights or fog lights, but remember to turn them off when conditions improve.

7. POTHOLES

Potholes are more likely to appear following freezing temperatures and may be difficult to see in snow or flooded areas. Not only can they cause damage to your vehicle, but also temporary loss of control.

8. FOG

Fog can quickly appear causing a sudden loss of visibility. If this happens, it's important to slow down – but don't just slam on the brakes as this could cause a collision. Gradually reduce your speed, keep your distance and use fog or dipped headlights until conditions improve.

9. FLOOD WATER

During the winter months and into spring, flood waters can appear as a result of heavy rain or melting snow. Wherever possible, avoid driving directly through the deepest water which is normally near the kerb. Take your time, avoid sudden acceleration and test your brakes a few times before you increase your speed again.

10. BE PREPARED

It may seem a little extreme to carry an emergency kit with you, but winter weather can be unpredictable. Pack for every eventuality and ensure you have the following:

- Phone charger
- Warning triangle
- Spade
- Winter boots
- Warm clothing
- Hi-visibility vest
- De-icer and a scraper
- A shovel
- A tow rope
- A torch
- Food and drink

Remember, no trip is so vital that it is worth taking unnecessary risks for.





Fill it with the wrong fuel and you could be looking at a repair between £500 and £3,000

An expensive mistake

According to the AA, as many as 133,000 people put the wrong fuel in their car each year.

There are all sorts of reasons that this can happen, from being preoccupied or distracted at the pump to driving a different vehicle than the one you're used to (whether it's a new car, a hire or your partner's vehicle).

However, the result is always the same. If you catch it in time, the tank just needs draining, but if you don't, you're looking at an expensive repair – estimated at between £500 and £3,000 – plus vehicle downtime.

"We used to know these rates for the next five years, but now the Government seems determined to keep fleets and motorists in the dark..."

Autumn budget leaves drivers in the dark

Drivers will have to wait until next spring to see how the Government intends to mitigate the impact of WLTP on company car tax and Vehicle Excise Duty (VED).

Although the fleet industry was urgently calling for clarity, Chancellor Philip Hammond failed to mention company car tax in his recent Budget speech. However, there is a sentence tucked away in the Budget papers that says "The Government will review the impact of WLTP on Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and company car tax (CCT) to report in the spring."

With regards to Benefit-in-kind tax rates beyond 2020/21 Matt Dyer, Managing Director of LeasePlan UK, observes, "We used to know these rates for the next five years, but now the Government seems determined to keep fleets and motorists in the dark. Philip Hammond must rectify this as soon as possible."

For more information of Budget 2018 click below:



Concentration levels can dip after a long day at work, drivers need to be aware of the risks of drowsy driving

Don't forget the danger of 'the morning after the night before'.

Coping with the clocks changing

Now the clocks have gone back, people are spending more time driving in the dark – and as concentration levels can dip after a long day at work, drivers need to be aware of the risks of drowsy driving.

One in eight drivers in the UK admit that they have nodded off at the wheel, according to new research by the AA Charitable Trust, and the Government's road casualty statistics show that drowsy drivers contributed to 53 fatal and 351 serious crashes in 2017.

The reality is that a bit of forward planning can help you cope with this challenge. A proper night's sleep is, obviously, the best remedy, but you could also have someone in the car with you on long trips, schedule regular stops and avoid alcohol or medication.

If you can find somewhere safe to park, a 20-minute nap can work wonders.

If you are on your own and are starting to struggle, there are steps you can take to see yourself safely home. If you can find somewhere safe to park, a 20-minute nap can work wonders. Failing that, winding down the windows, playing vibrant music or having a strong cup of coffee should help to provide you with the boost you need.

None for the road

The laws on drink driving are very specific. The alcohol limit for drivers is 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood, 35mg per 100ml of breath or 107mg per 100ml of urine. If you get caught over the limit, you can face a minimum 12-month driving ban and a fine of up to £5,000.

However, it's hard to apply these figures to what you actually drink, which is why some people suggest it's best not to have anything at all if you're planning to drive the same evening. Where it gets more complicated is driving the morning after a big night – something that is particularly common in the festive season – as you could still have alcohol in your system.

A survey by road Safety Charity Brake revealed that one in five (19%) drivers admitted to driving

the morning after having a significant amount to drink, when they were likely to remain over the Drink Drive limit.

It takes your body approximately one hour to process a standard drink, such as a half pint of beer, a small glass of wine or a pub measure of spirits. However, everyone is different and there is no quick fix – only time can remove alcohol from your system.

The best advice if you're planning a heavy night is to pre-arrange alternative means of transport such as a taxi, take the bus or designate a sober driver. Alternatively, you can simply drink less and make sure you leave enough time between your last drink and waking up to ensure the alcohol has made its way through your system.

For more information and resources visit [Brake Road Safety](#):



Driverline

For help with your vehicle please call your dedicated LeasePlan Driverline.

Online customer support

Browse our frequently asked questions to get the answers you need, fast.