

## Road safety information for heavy goods vehicle drivers

If you have learned to drive in another country, and want to drive a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) on England's major road network, you must be aware of the driving rules, speed limits, roadside message signs, safe driving recommendations and what to do if you need to stop for an emergency.

### Driving on the left

You must stay on the left hand side of the road at all times. You should also be particularly careful at roundabouts and when driving for the first time each day, as your reflexes may want you to drive on the wrong side.

### Motorway lanes

If you are a driver of an HGV which weighs over 7.5 tonnes, you must not drive in the right hand lane of a motorway if there are three or more lanes. It is best to stay in the left hand lane (lane 1), unless you are overtaking, and try to avoid regular lane changing.

### Rest

You must never drive when tired as this is a risk for everyone. Don't be afraid to take regular rests, especially if you are already tired, driving irregular hours, driving on long, straight roads or if you have been driving for a long period of time.

### Stopping and parking

When you stop and park, make sure you always park somewhere safe. It's important that you can be seen by others, as this will make your vehicle more secure. You must not block traffic and must pose no risk to anyone else. You should use the parking areas at truck stops, motorway service areas or car parks reserved for overnight use.

Parking at entry or exit slip roads of service areas is strictly forbidden. It is also forbidden to stop or park on hard shoulders unless it is an emergency.

### Motorway Service Areas (MSA)

Despite there often being repair services available at European MSAs, this is not common in England. Read about MSAs on the Highways Agency website (<http://www.highways.gov.uk/knowledge/14986.aspx>).

## Safety through road works

Road works may appear very different to what you are used to.

On motorways or four-lane roads, you will be warned at least 1.6 kilometres before the road works begin, so you have enough time to slow down. There will be a new speed limit set in this time - usually between 64 and 80 kilometres per hour (km/h) and there will often be safety cameras installed to regulate this speed.

Sometimes, certain lanes are reserved for certain types of vehicles. It is therefore important to know the size and weight of your vehicle so you can get into the correct lane before the road works begin. In sections of road works, bends are often more pronounced and lanes are often narrower. Overseas drivers are often involved in collisions in road works as traffic to their right hand side is often nearer than they think. You must always be aware of this.

## Emergencies

You will find emergency roadside telephones every 1.6 kilometres on the hard shoulder. You are advised to use these, rather than a mobile phone, to contact the emergency services in an emergency or if you breakdown and cannot leave the motorway. If you cannot get to one of these telephones, then you should dial 999 or 112 from your mobile.

## Feedback

If you feel that more information should be added into this guide, or if you have any other comments, please contact the Highways Agency by email at [truckstops@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:truckstops@highways.gsi.gov.uk).

## Speed limits by road type

Vehicle type	Motorway	Built-up area*	Single carriageway	Dual carriageway
<b>Car</b>	113km/h 70 miles per hour (mph)	48km/h 30mph	97km/h 60mph	113km/h 70mph
<b>HGV (&lt; 7.5 tonnes)</b>	113km/h ** 70mph	48km/h 30mph	80km/h 50mph	97km/h 60mph
<b>HGV (&gt; 7.5 tonnes)</b>	97km/h 60mph	48km/h 30mph	64km/h 40mph	80km/h 50mph

\* All roads with streetlights unless otherwise stated

\*\* 97km/h for articulated lorries or vehicles towing trailers