

DSA ezine for road safety professionals

Driving tests during the Olympics

Test centres to remain open - limited testing at certain centres

The DSA plans to keep all driving test centres open during the Olympics and Paralympics. There will be limited testing programmes at certain centres to allow for increased congestion near Olympic sites. The number of tests available may increase if congestion is less than anticipated.

To see how roads in your area are likely to be affected, visit the 'Get Ahead of the Games' website for anticipated congestion levels at: <http://www.getaheadofthegames.com/travelinaffectedareas/city/london-driving-and-roads.html>.

The London Olympics will run from 27 July to 12 August, and the Paralympics from 29 August to 9 September.

There will also be fewer Module 2 motorcycle tests available and limited testing at LGV sites. Module 1 motorcycle tests shouldn't be affected.

Plans are the same for the Paralympics, although the two week gap between the events will give time to make alterations as necessary.

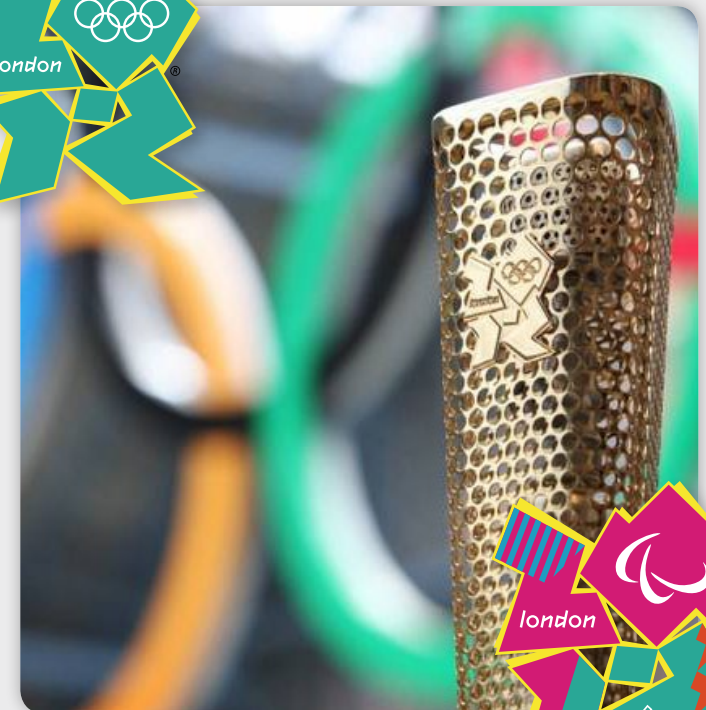
The DSA will re-book any tests it has to cancel - time has been earmarked after the Games specifically for this. The agency will alert candidates as soon as possible if it seems likely their test will not go ahead.

Candidate cancellations will be subject to the usual requirement of three working days notice.

Theory tests will be available on all days, but with flexible opening hours if necessary.

For a list of driving test centres most likely to be affected, go to <http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/UKDSA-3e1fff>.

Three million extra journeys a day are expected in London during the Olympic Games



Sample HPT clips - your comments

DSA responds to comments about computer generated clips

The DSA is looking at how new technologies could be used to update the current hazard perception test (HPT) part of the theory test. As part of this, it published two computer generated image (CGI) clips on YouTube earlier this year and invited viewers to



leave their comments. Here are some of the most common comments, along with the DSA's response.

"Showing unsafe driving in the clips is giving a bad example"

Hazard perception testing aims to reflect everyday driving events so, by its very nature, it has to feature unsafe driving. The DSA wants to make sure that new drivers can spot developing hazards when they come across unsafe driving on the roads.

"Why isn't there any sound?"

Using sound in clips needs further investigation. The test has to be accessible - using sound could discriminate against deaf or hard of hearing people.



"The CGI clips aren't real enough"

These examples are very early tests of the technology the DSA plans to use. The agency knows that they need further development.

"How do you know the hazard perception test is effective?"

Research shows that learners who are better at identifying hazards in the test are better at avoiding incidents when they start driving. A study by the Transport Research Laboratory (<http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/cohort-ii-a-study-of-learner-and-new-drivers/>) confirmed that those who had taken the test were much less likely to be responsible for an incident in the first year of driving.

"Why not film the clips using high definition cameras instead"

This was considered but there would be privacy issues. People can't be filmed without their permission, so faces and number plates would have to be blurred. It's also much easier, cheaper and safer to create a range of hazards using CGI and they can be updated quickly and easily.

Highway Code app launched

New format helps drivers stay up-to-date with rules of the road

Transport Secretary, Justine Greening, has announced the launch of a Highway Code app to help road users keep their knowledge of The Highway Code up to date.

Much of The Highway Code's content has changed considerably since its launch in 1931 - and how road users access that content has also moved with the times. It's free to read online, can be downloaded as an **ebook** and there are also **Facebook** and **Twitter** accounts offering regular topical reminders.

Now a new app for the iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch will make it even easier to keep up-to-date with the rules of the road through a more intuitive, interactive format.

The new app has a search facility making it easy to find rules and information. There are also interactive quizzes, a stopping distance calculator and a tool to help users identify road signs.

The DSA will be looking at rolling the app out for Android and other platforms in the future.

The Official Highway Code app is available on iTunes for £3.99 (<http://www.apple.com/uk/itunes/whats-on/#books>)



“With more and more of us using smartphones and other devices it’s vital that products like The Highway Code adapt to be as accessible as possible.

“This new app makes it easier for everyone to keep their knowledge up-to-date and is a great example of how new technology can help to improve road safety.

“The Highway Code has been helping to save lives for more than 80 years and, with innovations like this, I am confident it will do so for many more to come.”

Justine Greening
Transport Secretary

Mark Magee - the DSA's new ADI Registrar and Director for Regulation, Standards and Development

Mark Magee has brought together his head of modernising driver training role with that of ADI Registrar following Charles Morton's retirement. We caught up with him to find out more.

Q: Tell us a bit about your background.

A: I've been a civil servant for almost 30 years, most of which has been in the Department for Transport with an emphasis on road-based transport. I've been involved in road safety since 2003, covering various areas including delivery of the Government's road safety strategy and speed management (including speed limits and safety cameras). I joined the DSA in May 2008.

Q: How will the modernising driver training agenda improve road safety?

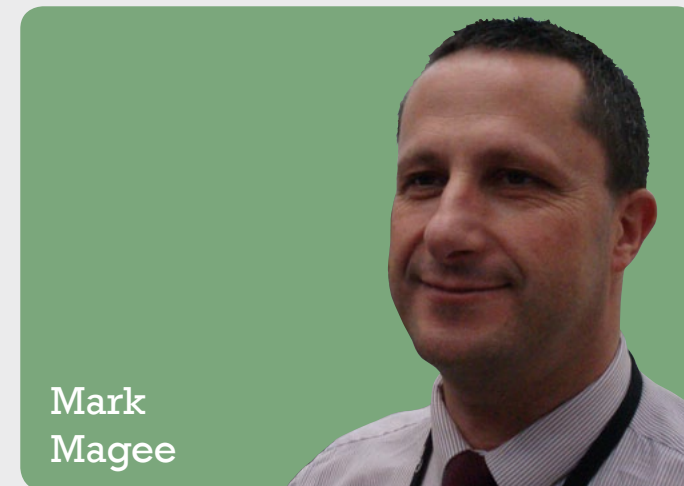
A: Too few people see driving as an important life skill or understand that it's not just about controlling the vehicle, but also attitude, knowledge and understanding. The **DSA's National**

Standards will help people to better appreciate this and the important role that professional instructors can play in giving them a safe start, ensuring that they remain safe and responsible on our roads.

Our modernisation plans are very much aimed at professionalising the industry and driving up overall standards. It's about ensuring that professional instructors themselves have and maintain the appropriate skills and qualifications.

Q: What role does the ADI Registrar have to play in this?

A: My Registrar role, and the check test process, are important in helping to make sure that paid instruction meets the minimum standards and is delivered only by those 'fit and proper' to do so.



Mark
Magee

Q: What are the biggest challenges currently facing the driving instructor industry in your view?

A: In my opinion, more of the industry needs to show that it wants to modernise, and that it is itself capable of taking greater responsibility for standards.

Q: How do you expect the industry to evolve in the coming years?

A: I expect to see a more open and professional industry.

Check test dos and don'ts

If you're an approved driving instructor (ADI), then at some point during your period of registration you'll have to undergo a test of 'continued ability and fitness to give instruction' - otherwise known as a check test. Here's a quick reminder of what's expected of you.

DO keep your contact details up to date: it's your responsibility to notify the DSA of a change of address within seven days of moving.

DON'T forget that the timing of a check test is totally at the discretion of the Registrar.

DO remember it's your responsibility to attend a check test appointment.

DON'T fail to attend without good reason: doing so could lead to removal from the Register - such decisions have previously been upheld at Transport Tribunal.

DO let the DSA know immediately if you can't attend on the date of your check test: if you just don't turn up the examiner can't be redeployed which raises the overall cost of running the Register.



DON'T forget that the purpose of the check test is to enable you to show that you continue to meet the minimum standards to stay on the Register.

DO conduct the lesson in the normal way: the DSA examiner is simply there to observe so just carry on as usual.

DON'T think you have to attend with a learner pupil: you can attend with someone who has a full driving licence as long as it's not another ADI.

DO remember that the examiner can act as a pupil and carry out a role-play check test: not having a pupil isn't a valid reason for cancellation.

For more details about check tests see the information on Business Link at: <http://bit.ly/JBwKcO>.

A round up of this month's news

Paper counterpart reminder

There has been an increase in the number of candidates arriving for their theory and/or practical tests without the paper counterpart to their driving licence. The DSA would like to ask ADIs to remind their pupils that if they don't have the paper counterpart with them, their test will not go ahead.

Updated official help for learner motorcyclists

New editions of official DSA software revision materials have been published to help learner motorcyclists fully prepare for their theory test.

To find out more go to <http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/UKDSA-3f4506>

New promotional materials for Enhanced Rider Scheme trainers

New promotional materials are available to help trainers advertise the Enhanced Rider Scheme - the DSA's post-test training scheme for motorcyclists. A leaflet, poster and web banner are available to download at <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/think-motorcycling/>.

Compulsory basic training (CBT) proposals

The DSA has been reviewing the CBT syllabus with industry stakeholders, resulting in proposals to:

- introduce a restriction where CBT has taken place on an automatic moped or motorcycle
- provide greater flexibility in the delivery of the syllabus

The DSA will continue to review these proposals. Changes could take effect in 2014 subject to consultation and regulatory approval.

CBT guidance notes

New guidance has been published by the DSA to help trainers and learners know what's expected from them during CBT. From October 2012 this will be used to support the DSA assessment for CBT trainers, as well as for feedback after standards checks. The DSA is working towards providing similar guidance for the direct access scheme (DAS).

To view the notes go to: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/dsa-safe-responsible-riding-category-ap-standard/>

Get in touch

For the latest DSA news and information visit dft.gov.uk/dsa

Information and services for candidates: direct.gov.uk/drivingtest

Information and services for driver and rider trainers: businesslink.gov.uk/adi

Contact details for DSA: dft.gov.uk/dsa/about/contact

What do you think of this issue of Despatch ezine? Email your comments to pressoffice@dsa.gsi.gov.uk



Follow us on twitter:
twitter.com/DSAgovuk



Follow us on Facebook
facebook.com/dsagovuk



View DSA videos on YouTube:
youtube.com/dsagov