

# Facilities Management from A to Z

Based on The FM Lexicon by Martin Pickard  
published monthly in Facilities by Lexis Nexis between 2008 and 2016

## **V**ehicle safety

Most facility managers have some responsibility for safety and many are also responsible for their organisation's vehicle fleet. Statistics show that up to a third of all vehicle accidents in the UK involve somebody who is at work at the time including more than 20 fatal accidents and 250 serious injuries each week. Compliance with road traffic law requirements like ensuring that vehicles have valid MOT certificates and that drivers have valid driving licences is not all there is to it. General health and safety law applies to on-the-road work activities as it does to in-the-office work activities and risks must be managed in the same way under the organisation's health and safety management system.

Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 the employer has a responsibility to manage safety effectively. This means carrying out an assessment of the risks to the health and safety of employees, while they are at work, and to other people who may be affected by their work activities including while driving. This assessment does not extend to travel to and from work unless the employee is travelling from their home to a location which is not their usual place of work. The Regulations require the risk assessment to be regularly revisited to ensure that it remains appropriate. The health and safety policy statement itself should address work-related road safety if risks do exist. This might include issues like vehicle selection, management, journey planning, driver training and vehicle maintenance.

Risk assessments for work-related driving activities follow the same principles as those for any other work activity taking into account the fact that poor road safety is more likely to endanger other people than a failure to manage many other risks in the workplace. The risk assessment should be appropriate to the organisation and should be carried out by a competent person who understands the activities being assessed. The aim is to make the risk of someone being injured or killed, as low as possible.

Improving work-related road safety can deliver other benefits to an organisation such as facilitating better decisions about vehicle purchasing; improving cost control; reducing lost time through injury or illness; lower vehicle running costs; less administration; avoiding reputational damage; and preventing business interruption. Promoting sound health and safety on the road and a positive safety culture at work can also influence private driving reducing the chances of staff being injured in a crash outside work leading to sick absence and stress.

*The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) has a page full of free downloadable resources for employers concerned about road vehicle safety. See [www.rospa.com/roadsafety/resources/employers](http://www.rospa.com/roadsafety/resources/employers)*