

Smoking Legislation



From 1st July 2007, the whole of the United Kingdom will have smoke-free legislation in place, making it the biggest jurisdiction in the world (by population) to legally enforce protection from second-hand smoke.

The aim of this legislation is to protect workers and the general public from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke by ensuring work and leisure environments are smoke-free.

The implementation dates for each country are detailed below:

Scotland	26 th March 2006
Wales	2 nd April 2007
Northern Ireland	30 th April 2007
England	1 st July 2007

These regulations vary by country, so please go to smokefreeaction.org.uk for specific details.

What does this mean to you?

Under the regulations, a vehicle is to be smoke-free at all times if it is to be used in the course of paid or voluntary work by more than one person.

The responsibility for ensuring a vehicle is smoke-free rests with the driver or any person with management responsibility for the vehicle.

Offences

Local authorities will be responsible for enforcing the smoke-free regulation and the FTA believe that initially a non confrontational approach to enforcement will be taken. The law creates three specific offences:

1. Failure to display no smoking signs in smoke-free premises and vehicles as required by smoke-free legislation.

A fixed penalty notice of £200 which can be discounted to £150 if paid within 15 days from the issue of a notice or a maximum fine in court of up to £1,000.

2. Smoking in a smoke-free place, including vehicles.

A fixed penalty notice of £50 which can be discounted to £30 if paid within 15 days from the issue of a notice or a maximum fine in court of up to £200.

3. Failing to prevent smoking in a smoke-free place, including vehicles.

There is no fixed penalty for this offence, but you could be liable to a maximum fine in court of up to £2,500.

Signage

The law requires that smoke-free vehicles are required to display at least one no-smoking sign, with the international no-smoking symbol with a minimum width of 75mm in a prominent place in each compartment of the vehicle.

Actions

Below are three suggested steps to ensure as an operator of commercial vehicles you comply with the new legislation:

1. Understand the impact of the legislation on your business.

Understand from a geographical point of view the key dates you need to take action by and the impact of the legislation on your business operations, such as vehicles and business premises.

2. Check the details in the legislation.

For the detailed information go to smokefreeaction.org.uk to confirm your responsibilities as an operator of commercial vehicles.

3. Take appropriate action.

Develop an action plan to comply with the regulation, such as putting signage in your vehicles and communicating the smoking ban in vehicles to your drivers.

Ryder rental and lease vehicles will have no-smoking stickers placed in them and we will communicate the changes to drivers and employees.

**For more information
go to ryder.com**

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