



SHORTS!

A few snippets that may be of interest:

- Most popular courses for Driver CPC
- VOSA - Fines update
- Rising fuel bills and how companies are reducing them
- Six monthly mailer
- Blowing our own trumpet!
- Website - thanks

Most popular courses for Driver CPC:

Driver CPC has been in force since September 10th 2008 for bus and coach drivers and a year later for goods vehicle drivers. In that time Specialist has established itself as one of the biggest independent providers of Driver CPC training and has trained thousands of drivers in a variety of subjects. When we recently worked out which courses were the most popular since the CPC began, it made for interesting reading. Of all courses held the numbers broke down as shown below:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Drivers Hours / Digital Tachograph | 35% |
| • Defensive Driving (PCV or LGV) | 15% |
| • Fuel Efficient Driving | 15% |
| • First Aid | 12% |
| • Health and Safety / Health and Wellbeing | 10% |
| • Customer Service | 8% |
| • Others | 10% |

Specialist is still running all the programmes above, but has now added many more modules to its modular course and seven hour programmes as well. For more details, and to book a subject that benefits your drivers, give us a call.

VOSA fines updates:

In May 2009, VOSA was granted the power to award Graduated Fixed Penalty notices (GFPs). Since then it has raised almost £7.3 million in penalty income. £4.5 million of this has been collected from foreign drivers. The offences that resulted in this tidy sum of money include overloading, breaches of drivers' hours regulations and O licence and driving licence terms. VOSA reports that there is a reduction in the number of offences attracting a penalty. They put this success down to the impact of the GFP approach. Don't think this approach will be finishing any time soon however. VOSA's powers are if anything increasing over time. Just wait until they start policing Drivers who don't have their Driver Qualification Card (DQC) for Driver CPC!

Rising fuel bills and how companies are reducing them:

An interesting article in Commercial Motor recently included a survey on how companies were tackling the problem of ever rising fuel bills. More than half of them had experienced an increase in fuel costs of more than 10% and nearly a fifth had experienced rises over 20%. Not surprisingly 84% of companies surveyed had turned to driver training to help use the expensive resource of fuel more efficiently. Other methods to reduce fuel use included actively sourcing the best priced fuel (56% of respondents did this) using fuel efficient tyres (54%), using telematics (46%), concentration on aerodynamics (24%) and use of fully synthetic fuel efficient oils and lubricants (14%). Whilst oils, tyres, telematics etc will all have an effect on fuel usage, by far and away the most effective way to reduce consumption is to train the driver to be the most fuel efficient part of the package. It is no wonder Fuel Efficient Driving courses are so popular at the moment!

Six Monthly Mailer:

The six monthly mailer has gone out to all and sundry. If you haven't got your hard copy or e-mail copy, give us a call and we will send one out. It is also available as a pdf document on our web site, so you can access it there too.

Blowing our own trumpet:

After a long, complex and highly competitive tendering process, Specialist is delighted to announce that it has been awarded places on two training provider Frameworks for the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA), one of the biggest local authority organisations in the country. One of the frameworks is for the training of Driver CPC for local authority drivers, whilst the other covers both First Aid and Fire Safety training courses for other council employees.

Specialist is not new to servicing the public sector of course. We have been involved in training and consultancy work with local authorities, the military and the NHS for over ten years. Until now our involvement in large scale tendering has been relatively minor however. That is clearly all about to change!

Website - thanks:

A big thank you to those who made comments on our new web site format. It has been a big departure from the old "brochure" style, but is already finding favour with those who prefer net booking and enquiring. It gives an instant picture of availability and is designed to be a user friendly environment. That said, if we can make it better and easier to use, we are still willing to listen to any suggestions. As usual, give us a call or e-mail vicky@specialisttraining.co.uk. Thanks again.

