

Highways Safety Briefing – Vehicle Safety (POWDERY Check)

In Highways, we are asking all our colleagues to make a commitment to driver safety by completing and recording a vehicle check on the telent Mobile App at least every 4 weeks. Whether you drive a telent vehicle or your own, these checks will help you to make sure you and your vehicle are roadworthy.

Know your vehicle – make sure you can complete all the safety checks and understand the control systems. If you are using a hire vehicle, check all the essential safety systems before you start to drive – ask for a vehicle familiarisation if you are unsure.

How to do a POWDERY Check:

- **Power (Petrol, Diesel or Hybrid)**

Top up your fuel before your journey – do you have enough? Do you know where to fill up or recharge? Keep your fuel tank at least one quarter full to avoid running out on your journey. This will help you to avoid breaking down on a busy road or motorway and potentially putting yourself and others at risk.

- **Oil**

Maintaining the correct oil level is essential to prevent your engine from seizing up and breaking down.

- **Water**

Check the level of coolant.

To ensure you have good visibility, always keep your screen wash topped up so you can clear any debris or dirt off your windscreen.

Keep a sealed bottle of water in your vehicle, for emergencies.

- **Damage**

Check the vehicle for damage: wheels, tyres, wiper blades, mirrors, lamps and reflector covers etc.

- **Electrics**

Check all lights are in working order - they are not only essential for you; they are also essential for other drivers to understand how you are driving your vehicle and how you intend to manoeuvre.

- **Rubber**

It is a legal requirement that each of your tyres has a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm.

The minimum tread depth for motorcycle tyres in the UK is 1.0mm. Visually check both walls of each tyre to make sure there are no cracks starting to form due to lack of use or age.

You could receive a £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points per tyre if you have illegal tyres.

Driving with underinflated or overinflated tyres can adversely affect your braking distance, steering, fuel efficiency and lifetime of your tyres.

- **You**

Make sure you are well rested and are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Check that any prescribed or over-the-counter medicines will not make you unfit to drive.

Plan your route and plan breaks during your journey.