

High Speed Driver Competency and Training

CODE OF PRACTISE DRIVER DEVELOPMENT

What competency should a High Speed Driver have and if training is necessary, what training?

Joint Emergency Service
High Speed Driver Training Advisory Group
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High Speed Driver Training

Overview

High speed driver training is primarily focused on the competencies of a driver to use his or her discretion as to when and where to exceed the speed limit on a road or for a vehicle, wisely, and the skill to do so as safely as is possible given need and circumstances.

It is therefore necessary to provide a complete system which will ensure any training establishment, instructors, training and assessment meets both a level of quality and most importantly drivers who meet the competencies required.

To this end there is a suite of codes setting out the basic and minimum levels necessary to meet a high speed driver competency, accepting that organisations providing emergency response will need to provide more training to meet their duty of care for staff and the public and Health & Safety responsibilities. These standards and competencies are therefore a minimum and not expected to make up the entire competency required.

To provide 'High Speed training' you will need to satisfy yourself that you can meet the Codes of Practice provided in this suite, as follows:

- **Provision of High Speed Driver Training** – setting out training bodies, accreditation and summarising other codes
- **High Speed Instructor Competency** – making sure those assessing competency, setting training needs and providing that training are competent and to a consistent level
- **High Speed Driver Competency and Training** – setting out the competencies necessary to meet high speed driver approval and those areas necessary when training need is identified
- **High Speed Assessor Competency** – not compulsory but available should any training body prefer to train and use experienced emergency response drivers to assess others competencies and identify training needs
- **High Speed Driver Training Quality Assurance** – The outcome of a skilled and competent driver must be achieved and to ensure this the system set out in the codes must be quality assured to this minimum standard.

High Speed Driver Competency and Training

CODES OF PRACTISE – DRIVER DEVELOPMENT

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Introduction

These standards have been developed by the Joint Emergency Service High Speed Driver Training Advisory Group, who represented the three emergency services, the Serious Organised Crime Agency and other key stakeholders such as DSA, IAM and RoSPA, operating under the auspices of the Department for Transport.

The development of these standards is in response to the Road Safety Act 2006 which introduces significant changes to the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984. In essence, these changes mean that only drivers who have satisfactorily completed a course of training in driving vehicles at high speed will be exempt from speed limits when the vehicle is being used for “fire and rescue authority purposes, ambulance, police or Serious Organised Crime purposes.”

For the purposes of these draft standards, ‘high speed’ is defined as:

“a driver, from an emergency service, is driving at high speed when he or she legally decides to use the exemption and exceed the speed limit, on any stretch of road, so as to enable them to arrive at an incident or carry out other activities of the service where the higher speed was necessary such as:

- attending an emergency call
- investigating, preventing or stopping the commission of a crime
- helping a member of the public who is in need of emergency assistance.
- Training

“High speed should be construed as any speed which exceeds that of any statutory speed limit in force on the road at that time. It might also be interpreted as a speed which is below the statutory speed limit but in excess of a speed which would be appropriate to the prevailing road conditions at the time.”

The standards are not a training course in themselves. The intention is that they will provide the essential minimum learning outcomes that any training course for Emergency Response Drivers must achieve. They will also provide the basis for the practical and theoretical assessment of Emergency Response Drivers and should ensure a degree of uniformity across all the relevant services and agencies.

The bulk of the assessment must be practical. Questioning will only be used to test Knowledge and Understanding or to check that the Driver would be able to drive competently under conditions that rarely occur (see section on Scope below).

An Explanation of Terms Used

The standards consist of the following components:

- Unit - High Speed Driver Training (HSDT)
- Elements - the 5 modules which make up the High Speed Driving Unit
- Element Summaries
- Elements consist of:
 - Range Statements
 - Outcomes of Effective Performance
 - Attitudes and Behaviours
 - Knowledge and Understanding

Elements

These are the smallest parts of the standards that can be separately assessed and given credit for. To achieve an element, the Emergency Response Driver must demonstrate they achieve all the Outcomes of Effective Performance, Attitudes and Behaviours and Knowledge and Understanding components. They must also show that they cover most of the range statements shown for each unit.

The elements are:

- HSDT 1 Demonstrate basic driving skills
- HSDT 2 Prepare and drive vehicles at high speed
- HSDT 3 Drive vehicles at high speed on motorways and multi-lane carriageways
- HSDT 4 Undertake an emergency response using a vehicle
- HSDT 5 Avoid skids when using an emergency vehicle

Element Summaries

These are just an introduction to the unit. They summarise what the unit is about and who it is for.

Range Statement

This shows all the various situations in which the Driver must demonstrate competence, for example, types of roads and surfaces, traffic volumes etc. Some Drivers may not encounter some of the conditions shown in the Scope (e.g. snow or fog) in the course of their training and assessment. However, they must still satisfy their assessor that they could cope under these conditions. This can often be done by the assessor asking questions about how the Driver would adjust their driving to take account of these conditions or by using simulation. It must be emphasised that assessing Scope in this way must be the exception rather than the rule. Practical and realistic assessment must not be wholly replaced by questioning and simulation.

Outcomes of Effective Performance

These statements show the outcomes the student must achieve to be deemed competent. There must be practical evidence through their driving/instruction that they have done so. Usually this will be done by direct observation carried out by an expert assessor. To achieve each unit, the student must show they can meet all of the Outcomes.

■ Attitudes and Behaviours

Again, these must be demonstrated by the Driver. There must be evidence for all of these.

■ Knowledge and Understanding

These will be tested by the expert assessor questioning the Driver, or through a 'professional discussion'.

HSDT1. Demonstrate basic driving skills

Unit Summary

What is the unit about?

Basic driving is the first level of driving. The aim of this unit is to ensure the driver possesses the knowledge, understanding and skills required to drive vehicles competently. Those undertaking this unit will hold a full DVLA licence for the class of vehicle to be driven.

As 'Basic' drivers are not trained to take advantage of statutory legal exemptions assessment at this level will be conducted within speed restrictions and traffic laws.

Who is the unit for?

The unit is recommended for drivers who wish to progress to drive emergency vehicles taking advantage of statutory legal exemptions.

Links to other units

It will be necessary to complete this unit before progressing to the other High Speed Driving Training units.

Scope of the Unit

A typical variety of road and traffic conditions within statutory speed limits.

Outcomes of effective performance

You must be able to do the following:

1. Complete basic vehicle safety checks, identifying, reporting and documenting obvious defects.
2. Familiarise yourself with the vehicle's controls before driving.
3. Recognise, assess and manage hazards through effective observation, anticipation and planning.
4. Steer the vehicle accurately to maintain a safe and appropriate course.
5. Control the vehicle safely and accurately through the use of:
 - accelerator,
 - brakes,
 - gears and
 - clutchas appropriate to the circumstances.
6. Make progress appropriate to the conditions and circumstances.
7. Approach and negotiate corners safely.
8. Position the vehicle safely as appropriate to the circumstances.

9. Use appropriate signals and respond correctly to the signals of other road users.
 10. Select safe and appropriate locations to park and manoeuvre the vehicle.
 11. Call on the assistance of others before completing difficult manoeuvres.
 12. Reverse, manoeuvre and park the vehicle safely.
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Attitudes and behaviours (To be demonstrating at all times when driving)

1. Give priority to public safety
 2. Demonstrate a calm, considerate and professional manner.
 3. Control the tendency to 'personalise'.
 4. Recognise and respond appropriately to the effects of fatigue, adrenaline, stress and other physical and physiological factors that may impair judgment, performance and decision making.
 5. Concentrate on driving in the face of any other distractions.
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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand the following:

1. Organisational policy and directives covering driving.
2. Relevant health and safety legislation.
3. Human aspects of emergency service driving.
4. The Highway Code.
5. Road Traffic legislation.
6. Manufactures instructions

HSDT2. Prepare and drive vehicles at high speed

Unit Summary

What is the unit about?

The focus of this unit is on vehicle preparation, the system of vehicle control, driver attitude and health and safety. Much of the unit is based on the principles and systems covered by the police Roadcraft Manual, and drivers should have a detailed knowledge of these.

Who is the unit for?

The unit is recommended for drivers who wish to drive vehicles taking advantage of statutory legal exemptions. Those undertaking this unit will hold a full DVLA licence for the class of vehicle to be driven.

Links to other units

This unit links to HSD1, (it is not necessarily intended that students will have completed HSD1 independently before completing this unit, units HSD1 and HSD2 can in fact be trained in tandem) etc.

Scope of the Unit

This unit covers the following:

Speed

- in excess of the statutory speed limit for the road / vehicle
- within statutory speed limit but in excess of traffic flow

Locations

- major roads
- minor roads
- urban settings
- rural settings

Traffic volume

- low
- high

Road surfaces

- good
- poor

Visibility

- good
- poor

Outcomes of effective performance

You must be able to do the following:

Preparing the vehicle

1. Ensure you are authorised to prepare and drive the vehicle.
 2. Familiarise yourself with the vehicle and its controls.
 3. Carry out required checks to:
 - tyres
 - brakes
 - fluid levels
 - lights
 - sound equipment
 - safety equipment
 - bodywork
 - cleanliness of the vehicle
 - operational equipment
 4. Ensure the vehicle is fit for purpose during and after use.
 5. Identify, report and record any defects or damage prior to and following use and take the correct action in regard to these.
 6. Ensure that any equipment required to be with the vehicle is present and in working order.
 7. Keep accurate and complete documentation as required relating to your use of the vehicle.
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Formulating and implementing driving plans

1. Gather information at an early stage through accurate observations and the use of other senses.
2. Use this information to correctly anticipate all driving situations.
3. Use observation links effectively.
4. Use information and anticipation to formulate flexible driving plans.
5. Implement driving plans to safely negotiate all driving situations.

HSDT2. Prepare and drive vehicles at high speed

Outcomes of effective performance

You must be able to do the following:

Making progress whilst showing restraint

1. Accurately judge the speed of your own and other vehicles relative to your proposed actions and the circumstances, taking account of distance.
2. Make progress whilst maintaining the need for restraint and safety.

Controlling the vehicle

1. Control the vehicle safely and smoothly through use of the accelerator.
2. Control the vehicle safely and smoothly by applying the required amount of braking at the correct time.
3. When driving manual vehicles select the correct gear for the circumstances by smooth and accurate use of gears and clutch.
4. Steer the vehicle accurately, adapting steering techniques as necessary when manoeuvring.

Positioning

1. Position the vehicle correctly when following and overtaking other vehicles.
2. Position the vehicle correctly when negotiating:
 3. corners and bends.
4. Position the vehicle to obtain the best view with regard to safety.
5. Adopt the safest road position at all times in relation to existing road and traffic positions.

Cornering

1. Assess corners and bends correctly and accurately.
2. Negotiate corners and bends taking account of all relevant factors.

Making and interpreting signals

1. Make appropriate signals to other road users using:
 - indicators
 - lights
 - audible signals
 - hand signals.
2. Correctly interpret and act on signals from other road users.

Outcomes of effective performance

You must be able to do the following:

Overtaking

1. Identify, plan and execute all overtaking manoeuvres safely when passing stationary and moving objects.
 2. Apply the correct degree of restraint at all times.
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Attitudes and behaviours (To be demonstrating at all times when driving)

1. Give priority to public safety above the desire to attend the incident.
 2. Demonstrate a calm, considerate and professional manner.
 3. Control the tendency to 'personalise'.
 4. Recognise and respond appropriately to the effects of fatigue, adrenaline, stress and other physical and physiological factors that may impair judgment, performance and decision making.
 5. Concentrate on driving in the face of any other distractions.
-

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand the following:

1. Organisational policy and directives covering driving.
2. Relevant health and safety legislation, including dynamic risk assessment.
3. Human Aspects of Police Driving.
4. The Highway Code.
5. The Roadcraft Manual.
6. Road Traffic legislation.
7. Manufacturers' instructions.

HSDT3. Drive vehicles at high-speed motorways and multi-lane carriageways

Unit Summary

What is the unit about?

The focus of this unit is on driving vehicles safely at speed on motorways and multi-lane carriageways. Much of the unit is based on the principles and systems covered by the police Roadcraft Manual, and drivers should have a detailed knowledge of these.

Who is the unit for?

The unit is recommended for drivers who wish to drive emergency vehicles taking advantage of statutory legal exemptions. Those undertaking this unit will hold a full DVLA licence for the class of vehicle to be driven.

Links to other units

This unit links to HSD1 and HSD2.

Scope of the Unit

This unit covers the following:

Speed

- in excess of the statutory speed limit for the road / vehicle
- within statutory speed limit but in excess of traffic flow

Traffic volume

- low
- high

Weather conditions

- good
- poor

Road surfaces

- good
- poor

Visibility

- good
- poor

Locations

- motorways/multi-carriageways
- urban settings
- rural settings

Outcomes of effective performance

You must be able to do the following:

1. Follow the correct procedure for joining the motorway/multi-carriageway road.
 2. Adopt the correct lane for existing road and traffic conditions.
 3. Adjust speed appropriately for type of road and traffic conditions.
 4. Follow the correct procedure for exiting the motorway/multi-carriageway road.
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Attitudes and behaviours (To be demonstrating at all times when driving)

1. Give priority to public safety above the desire to attend the incident.
 2. Demonstrate a calm, considerate and professional manner.
 3. Control the tendency to 'personalise'.
 4. Recognise and respond appropriately to the effects of fatigue, adrenaline, stress and other physical and physiological factors that may impair judgment, performance and decision making.
 5. Concentrate on driving in the face of any other distractions.
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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand the following:

1. Relevant sections of the Highway Code, including the meaning of all road signs, matrix signals, marker boards and cats eyes.
2. Relevant sections of the Roadcraft Manual.
3. The correct procedures for stopping on, and setting off from, the roadside or hard shoulder.

HSDT4. Undertake an emergency response using a vehicle

Unit Summary

What is the unit about?

The focus of this unit is on undertaking an emergency response using an emergency vehicle.

Who is the unit for?

The unit is recommended for drivers who wish to drive emergency vehicles taking advantage of statutory legal exemptions. Those undertaking this unit will hold a full DVLA licence for the class of vehicle to be driven.

Links to other units

This unit links to HSD1/2/3.

Scope of the Unit

This unit covers the following:

Speed

- in excess of the statutory speed limit for the road / vehicle
- within statutory speed limit but in excess of traffic flow

Locations

- motorways/multi-carriageways
- major roads
- minor roads
- urban settings
- rural settings

Road surface

- good
- poor

Time of Day

- daylight
- darkness

Traffic volume

- low
- high

Visibility

- good
- poor

Weather conditions

- good
- poor

Outcomes of effective performance

You must be able to do the following:

1. Ensure that an emergency response is justifiable and should be maintained.
 2. Ensure that there is justification for taking advantage of your speed exemptions.
 3. Make effective use of emergency warning equipment, when appropriate.
 4. Anticipate and respond to the actions of other road users.
 5. Make safe and appropriate progress.
 6. Maintain a duty of care whilst using speed limit exemption.
 7. Ensure all actions are consistent with legal requirements and organisational policies.
-

Attitudes and behaviours (To be demonstrating at all times when driving)

1. Give priority to public safety above the desire to respond to the incident.
 2. Demonstrate a calm, considerate and professional manner.
 3. Control the tendency to 'personalise'.
 4. Recognise and respond appropriately to the effects of fatigue, adrenaline, stress and other physical and physiological factors that may impair judgment, performance and decision making.
 5. Concentrate on driving in the face of any other distractions.
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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand the following:

1. Your organisation's policies and directives concerning emergency response.
2. Relevant health and safety and Human Rights legislation.
3. The Highway Code.
4. The manufacturers' instructions for the equipment you are using.
5. Roadcraft Manual.
6. Road Traffic Acts.
7. Communication and audible and visual warning procedures.

HSDT 5. Avoid and correct skids when driving an emergency vehicle

Unit Summary

What is the unit about?

The focus of this unit is on driving in a way that minimises the risk of skidding and being able to correct a skid when it occurs.

Who is the unit for?

The unit is recommended for drivers who wish to drive emergency vehicles taking advantage of statutory legal exemptions. Those undertaking this unit will hold a full DVLA licence for the class of vehicle to be driven.

Links to other units

This unit links to HSD1/2/3/4.

Scope of the Unit

This unit covers the following:

Types of skid

- front wheel
- rear wheel
- four wheel

Vehicles

- Without active safety devices
 - With active safety devices
-

Outcomes of effective performance

You must be able to do the following:

1. Identify the causation and types of skid.
 2. Drive the vehicle in a manner that minimises the risk of skidding.
 3. Apply appropriate corrective action to the type of vehicle being driven.
-

Attitudes and behaviours (To be demonstrated at all times when driving)

1. Give priority to public safety above the desire to attend the incident.
 2. Demonstrate a calm, considerate and professional manner.
 3. Control the tendency to 'personalise'.
 4. Recognise and respond appropriately to the effects of fatigue, adrenaline, stress and other physical and physiological factors that may impair judgment, performance and decision making.
 5. Concentrate on driving in the face of any other distractions.
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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand the following:

1. Your organisation's policies and directives concerning emergency response.
2. Relevant health and safety legislation.
3. The Highway Code.
4. The manufacturers' instructions for the equipment you are using.
5. Relevant sections of the Roadcraft Manual.