

VM3: Information for Volunteer Drivers

Owner-drivers must tell their insurance company in writing that they will be driving in a voluntary capacity. Otherwise the policy can be invalidated, which results in the driver being personally liable for any damage or injuries sustained in an accident. You can either contact your company directly or use the form provided to let your insurers know that you are working in a voluntary capacity. The form is from the Association of British Insurers and confirms that you should not be liable for any increase in your insurance premium if using your car for voluntary work. Further details can be obtained from the information service at the Community Transport Association Advice Services (details below).

Alcohol

Drivers should not drink alcohol for at least 12 hours before a journey. Alcohol remains in the body for a considerable amount of time. This is an issue that you can tackle in training and you may also want to have a clear policy on it.

Luggage

Luggage and shopping should be put in the boot or kept securely to prevent injury if the vehicle suddenly stops.

Pets

Pets can be carried with clients, at the discretion of the driver, as long as the animal does not affect the safe running of the vehicle. Guide dogs for blind and deaf clients should be taken in the vehicle, unless there are good reasons for not doing so.

Seating capacity

Never exceed the seating capacity of a vehicle, as stated by the manufacturer and insurer.

Accidents, illness or injury

In the event of an accident, the organization and the emergency services should be informed immediately and details given. If a client falls ill or is injured during a journey, then the driver should seek immediate medical help.

Further Information

Community Transport Association Advice Services Website:

<http://www.ctauk.org/advice-and-information/>