

Press release

“Welsh businesses failing in ‘duty of care’! “

Welsh businesses are failing in their ‘duty of care’ towards occupational drivers.

Whilst most at-work health and safety issues are properly drawn up and implemented, too many businesses in the principality are failing to address ‘at-work’ occupational driving risks, warns Chris Titchener, head of risk solutions and training for Wales based Fleetcraft Driver Training Limited.

He says “Welsh business accounts for less than 2% of our total client portfolio and suggests an indifferent attitude towards road related risks. Small medium enterprises (SME’s) are perhaps the most vulnerable in implementing policies to address and reduce road and vehicle risks.”

“Main areas of neglect include licence checking, driver risk assessment and drivers hours. Unless businesses implement policy, corporate responsibility in road related incidents will extend into the board room” Chris warns.

As a result of a government commissioned report in 2001, the Health and Safety Executive will monitor - with police, investigations into ‘at-work’ road accidents. Any failures in corporate policies could result in prosecution - in addition to any charges, brought by police.

Any employee who, in the course of their work, is required to drive a motor vehicle presents employers with a risk which needs to be addressed. Fleetcraft Limited provides advice and training for various sized businesses in Wales, including BBC Cymru, Powys County Council, Swansea based Roland UK, Trainer-BMW and Arriva plc.

“My message to Welsh business is unequivocal” said Chris – “*If you have business drivers, you have business risks - which must be addressed* “

For information and links go to www.fleetcraft.net

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