

## CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER ACT GUIDE

Dr Gerhard Manogg is a Director of Imagitech, one of the UK's leading driver education software providers and has recently launched the new Roadmarque® road safety audit system (see [www.roadmarque.com](http://www.roadmarque.com)).

He makes the case for professional risk assessment as the starting point to help companies reduce their occupational road risk and protect them against prosecution.

He believes technology has a crucial role to play in helping businesses get a clear picture of their risks but warns that the devil is in the detail of the assessment, how responses and data are analysed and how the risk profile of drivers is presented and used to influence further training and actions.

“There is no doubt that technology has an important part to play in helping business meet duty of care obligations; the key thing is the accuracy of the data that is being handed back to the business after the risk assessment and on what inputs the conclusions are based,” said Dr Manogg.

“It is a scientific process. The answers given by drivers in questionnaires need to be analysed in line with government statistics and mathematical modeling to calculate an accurate risk profile. This should be combined with data from a full DVLA licence check and psychological driver profiling to look at attitudes towards driving at work.

“If there are some doubters out there it is because they have not found a product that is comprehensive and accurate enough to give companies confidence. The resulting report should give clear indications of which drivers are at risk and how to act upon the findings. Training, if required, can then be tailored accordingly and directed at those at greatest risk.

Dr Manogg believes that any effective risk assessment should take in each of the following points:

1. Ensure all drivers have a valid driving licence to drive on behalf of the company through a full DVLA licence check.
2. Check whether the licence entitles the driver to drive the type of vehicle they are using for work.
3. When assessing risk, take into account the driver's age, gender, road mileage, collision and driving offence history.
4. Monitor the road mileage undertaken by employees.
5. Check the appropriateness of the vehicle that is being used.

6. Look at the number of hours being driven in the average working day - and what time of day the driving is being carried out.
7. Understand how individuals feel about the amount of driving they do at work.

He pointed out that benefits of improving fleet safety by promoting and supporting safer drivers are numerous and go far beyond legal compliance:

- Reduced fleet running costs due to better driving standards
- Cost reductions from a reduction in collisions
- Reduced insurance premiums
- Improved staff morale
- Enhanced corporate reputation
- Better management of the risk that employees and the organisation are exposed to, in relation to at work driving
- Reduced pollution through better driving standards

Imagitech specialises in the development of software for the driver education market. The company devised the UK's best-selling learner driver package 'Driving Test Success' which has sold more than two million copies.

The independent Roadmarque® system is designed to provide a comprehensive, stand-alone analysis of road risk exposure. Roadmarque also provides a detailed calculation of an organisation's CO<sub>2</sub> footprint as generated from the vehicles used by its drivers as part of the assessment.

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