

# Reducing road danger in London



**Leading the way:** Enabling more Londoners to walk and cycle safely is a top priority

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## VITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN LORRY SAFETY SCHEME ONE YEAR ON FROM ITS LAUNCH

DATA shows that the world-first lorry safety scheme has helped to save lives and prevent life-changing injuries, with serious injuries down by 64 per cent compared to 2017.

The Direct Vision Standard (DVS) requires owners of Heavy Good Vehicles (HGVs) weighing more than 12 tonnes to apply for a free safety permit, and assigns vehicles a star rating based on how much the driver can see directly through their cab windows. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and covers all roads in London.

### SAFER STREETS

In the first year of enforcement, 191,769 safety permits were issued, including nearly 5,000 to five-star vehicles, which provide the highest levels of direct vision.

More than 112,000 0-star HGVs have now had safe systems fitted, improving protection for people walking, cycling or riding e-scooters and motorcycles.

Average daily compliance is also very high, with more than 94 per cent of HGVs in the capital now operating with a safety permit.

Collision severity involving HGVs has been falling, indicating that interventions taken by both TfL

and the freight industry in recent years are already making a positive impact. The overall number of serious injuries involving HGVs has fallen from 48 in 2017 to 17 in 2021.

The first year of enforcement of the DVS and the HGV safety permit scheme has also seen a reduction in fatal collisions where vision is cited as a contributing factor.

Several freight operators including SUEZ Recycling and Recovery, alongside major projects such as Tideway, have led the way in introducing five-star vehicles to the capital. As a result, safer HGVs are now being used across the UK and beyond. TfL is also working with the EU and other cities to mandate direct vision in vehicle design and safety regulations.

The DVS and Safety Permit scheme standards will tighten in October 2024 when the minimum DVS star rating will be three-stars and above.

All HGVs below three-stars will need to feature a progressive safe system that takes into account any additional technology or safety equipment not currently available.

Will Norman, London's walking and cycling commissioner, said: 'It's vital that all vehicles using



**Direct vision:** Standards are set to tighten further in October 2024

London's roads have safety at the forefront of their design. London's world-leading Direct Vision Standard is helping to significantly improve lorry safety in the capital and forms a key part of our Vision Zero plan to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries from our streets by 2041.

'Enabling more Londoners to walk and cycle safely is a top priority for the Mayor and at the heart of our plans for a greener and more sustainable London for everyone.'

For more information on the DVS scheme, visit the webpage at [tfl.gov.uk/direct-vision-standard](https://tfl.gov.uk/direct-vision-standard)

## Carry water in hot weather

WITH the temperature forecast to rise this week, TfL is reminding customers to carry water with them when travelling on London's public transport during hot weather, to help ensure everyone stays hydrated and travels safely, especially on the Tube.

If you're feeling unwell, it is advised that you contact a staff member at the next station or speak to the bus driver. Make sure to look out for other passengers, and help people off the train if they are feeling unwell.

To check your travel, including downloading the real-time TfL Go app, visit [tfl.gov.uk/travel-tools](https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-tools)



**Stay cool:** Carry water with you when travelling during hot weather

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\*Service and network charges apply. See [tfl.gov.uk/terms](https://tfl.gov.uk/terms) for details.

**London Travelwatch**  
London's transport watchdog  
call 020 3176 2999, or visit  
[www.londontravelwatch.org.uk](https://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk)

 Newspapers left on the Tube can jam doors and cause delays to your journey. Take your newspaper with you or put it in a recycling bin.

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