



# AVRO News

Issue 51

December 2017

Association of Vehicle Recovery Operators

## Christmas closure

AVRO Head Office will be closed from 5 pm on Friday 22nd December 2017, reopening at 9 am on Tuesday 2nd January 2017. The telephones will be diverted during the break, so phone calls and e-mails will be answered.

### Inside this issue:

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## Make sure a party popper is the only thing you are invited to blow into over the next couple of weeks

With the festive season almost upon us and most within our industry working sometime over Christmas and the New Year the IVR is once again asking you to be mindful of the risk of driving while over the limit the morning after.

With this in mind, the 2017 'Morning After' festive drink drive campaign urges drivers to make sure the only thing they are invited to blow into over the next couple of weeks is a party popper.

'Morning After' was founded in 2009 and last year its website received over 800,000 visits, with the 'Morning After' calculator app receiving more than 23,000 installations on iPhone alone.

Simon Rawlings, 'Morning After' campaign manager, said:

"It takes much longer than most people think for alcohol to pass through the body, which means there is often a danger of people unwittingly driving while still over the legal limit the morning after drinking. The penalties for being caught drink driving the morning after are exactly the same as at any other time - it's no excuse to say you thought you were fine to drive because of the length of time since your last drink.

What the app aims to do is enable you to calculate *roughly* when it will be safe for you to drive the morning after drinking alcohol. And it can help you calculate when to stop drinking alcohol if you have to drive the following morning."

Ultimately it is the responsibility of the individual and although the IVR supports any initiative that encourages sensible behaviour it does not take responsibility for the use and guidance given by the 'Morning After' app. Prior use of the calculator will not help if you are arrested for drink driving.

For more information regarding the campaign go to [www.morning-after.org.uk](http://www.morning-after.org.uk)



## IGA advice: is it possible to postpone parental leave?

Where do you stand as an employer when you cannot accommodate a parental leave request?

### IGA member asks...

*“One of our staff is the partner of a pregnant woman who is due to give birth in late December, he is not the biological father of the baby but has taken on parental responsibility.*

*“He has now put in a request for parental leave for three weeks over Christmas and New Year.*



*“Our holiday policy is that holiday is granted on a first come, first served basis.*

*“Several people in the same department have already submitted and been granted holiday over the same period and no further request would be granted.*

*“If we give our employee his parental leave, we will have to turn work away as we won't have enough staff to carry it out, none of those people who have already been granted holiday are prepared to cancel it.*

*“Can we turn down the request for parental leave on the dates he has requested and/or grant it for a couple of weeks later?”*

### The IGA responds...

In this situation, we have to advise that parental leave can't be postponed (delayed) if:

- The employer doesn't have a “significant reason” e.g. it would cause serious disruption to the business.
- It is being taken by the father or partner immediately after the birth or adoption of a child.
- It means an employee would no longer qualify for parental leave, e.g. postponing it until after the child turns 18.

If it is postponed, the employer:

- Must write explaining why within seven days of the request.
- Suggest a new start date, this must be within six months of the requested start date.
- Can't change the amount of leave being requested.

Employers must therefore be very careful when dealing with requests for parental leave and expert advice should always be sought if there is uncertainty about whether it is safe to postpone or not.

Article courtesy of Garage Wire  
[www.garagewire.co.uk](http://www.garagewire.co.uk)



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Celebrates 40 years service**



Welcome to our new members:  
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## Applying for an IVA test: updated forms and guidance

On 15 December 2017, some IVA (Individual Vehicle Approval) forms have been updated due to recent changes to the Road Vehicles (Plating and Testing) Regulations 1988.

You'll need to download new forms if you're applying for a:

- lorry or goods vehicle test (IVA 1H form)

- trailer test (IVA 1T form)

The forms to apply for other types of IVA tests haven't changed.

Download the latest forms at <https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-approval/individual-vehicle-approval-application-forms>



## Free guide to safe, stress free driving over Christmas

Winter weather could hit at any point, so make sure you are prepared. Pack your vehicle with winter essentials in case you get stuck in the cold - warm clothes, blankets, some food and water, a torch, mobile phone and charger, and a travel snow shovel are all useful in wintry conditions.

The day before you travel, check the weather forecast to see if there is a risk of heavy rain, freezing temperatures or snow, and leave extra time if there is so you can take it easy and drive carefully without needing to rush.

For more great tips and advice, the free Christmas guide is the latest in the series of helpful advice guides from The Fuelcard People, our preferred fuel card supplier. And as it is Christmas, although the tips will be useful to you, the main aim is to put a smile on your face in time for your Christmas break. Download for free today at [www.discountfuelcards.co.uk/driving-home-christmas/](http://www.discountfuelcards.co.uk/driving-home-christmas/)



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## Vehicle safety recalls

DVSA reference number	Make and model	Issue
R/2017/232	Mercedes-Benz: Sprinter, Vito	Vehicle control unit may not have been correctly updated
R/2017/232	Toyota: Land Cruiser, Lexus IS200	Driver and/or front passenger airbag may fail to deploy as intended
R/2017/266	Mercedes-Benz: Econic 956	Electronic braking system parameters may be incorrect affecting brake performance and vehicle stability
R/2017/275	Mitsubishi: Shogun	Propellant in the driver and passenger side airbag inflators may have deteriorated
R/2017/280	Kia: Sorento	Rubber diesel fuel feed pipe may harden or crack
R/2017/283	Fiat: Ducato	EGR pipe could fracture due to a potential non-conformity
R/2017/284	TESLA: Model X	Seat may not correctly latch
R/2017/285	DAF: LF, CF, XF	Propeller shaft may detach which may cause loss of drive
R/2017/286	Toyota: CH-R, Prius	Inverter capacitor may not be secure and may be damaged by normal vehicle use which may affect speed and energy usage.
R/2017/287	MAN Truck: TGS, TGX	Steering may become restricted
R/2017/292	Porsche: Cayenne	Vehicle may not meet required safety standards
R/2017/294	VW: Passat, Arteon, Golf	Rear wheel bearing housings may be incorrectly manufactured and could fail prematurely
R/2017/295	Nissan: Qashqai	Rear right wheel arch protector may deform and rub against and damage brake hose
R/2017/300	Citroen: DS3	Suspension and steering fixings may not be tightened to the correct torque
R/2017/302	Peugeot: 208	Suspension and steering fixings may not be tightened to the correct torque
R/2017/303	Volvo Bus: B5LH, B5LH(3), B5TL(3) & B8RLE(3)	Loss of power assistance to steering
R/2017/304	SEAT: Ateca	Rear wheel bearing housings may fail
R/2017/306	Citroen: C Zero	A fault in an internal component could affect deployment of the passenger airbag
R/2017/307	Peugeot: iON	A fault in an internal component could affect deployment of the passenger airbag
R/2017/308	Scania: P, G, R & S Series	Deviation in Engine Control Unit software which may affect power and emissions out-





## Early benefits for earned recognition operators

From 31 January 2018, DVSA examiners will no longer routinely stop vehicles of operators taking part in the earned recognition pilot - saving the operators time and money.

DVSA examiners will also be less likely to visit their sites.




At the same time, DVSA will publish a list of operators taking part in the earned recognition pilot on GOV.UK to recognise their commitment to meeting driver and vehicle standards.

### Apply to join the pilot

You can still apply to join the earned recognition pilot. Applications for the pilot must be sent by 28 February 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dvsa-earned-recognition-for-vehicle-operators-join-the-pilot>

 Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency



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**Supporting The Vehicle Recovery Industry**





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Head Office staff wish all our  
members a very Merry Christmas  
and a happy and safe New Year



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