

FACT SHEET FLEET



Summertime: Road safety.

Specific risks

Every season brings different weather. Changing conditions influence the safety of your employees on the road.

Employers have an obligation to inform their employees of the existence of potential risks and, more importantly, how to minimize or even prevent them.

Summer weather in the Netherlands is unpredictable. Sun and heat are common in Dutch summers, but so are hail storms, gusts and rain. Frequent changes in the weather result in sudden changed circumstances on the road.

Rainfall

Did you know? When it rains the risk of an accident doubles! In a sudden burst of rain the road surface becomes slippery, visibility reduces and other drivers can suddenly brake in front of you. At night you can add up temporary blindness from oncoming headlights.

When it rains more distance should be kept to the vehicle in front due to the longer braking distance. Assure yourself of optimal view by keeping the windows and mirrors clean. Gusts can cause sudden lane departures by the driver and/or other vehicles on the road. Especially on bridges and flyovers but also changes in the scenery like exiting forests or buildings on the side of the road. Drivers need to be aware of these risks.

Nice weather

Surprisingly nice weather can also present weather adverse risks:

- Due to the additional sunlight on sunny days, sight might be better, but the risk of glare increases. Make sure sunglasses are within reach, if necessary prescription sunglasses.
- In warm weather, concentration problems can occur at a time when extra alertness is needed. On pleasant, sunny days, more cyclists and pedestrians will join you on the road, so extra caution is required.
- On and around weekends more (often inexperienced) recreational traffic will join the roads. Just look at all the caravans that are on the road.
- The windscreen deserves additional cleaning to get rid of the vast number of insect remains, pollen, etc.
- Heat causes more fatigue and irritability in traffic. In addition, insufficient drinking can cause dehydration. For hot days, take a bottle of (fresh) water with you on your journey.
- Never drive in flip flops! When abrupt braking is needed your feet will slide off the pedal easily. There is also a chance the flip flops get caught underneath one of the pedals which can have devastating consequences.



Harvest time

At the end of the summer the fields have done their job. Farmers need to bring in their crops and also the sugar beet campaign starts. From August/September more agricultural vehicles will join traffic at low speed, especially on the backroads in rural areas. If your employees will drive a lot in such areas, warn them about the risks of sand and mud on these roads. Also bear in mind that farmers need to clean the road and may be present on foot on these roads. Due to these risks and the lower maximum speed of agricultural vehicles, it's definitely recommended adjusting your speed. This enables a quicker and better response to dangerous situations.



Last but not least

Not just the driver can reduce the risks on the road during the summer. The employer can also play an important role in reducing summertime road risks. Important things are:

- Give temporary employees that are covering the vacation period during the summer months just and correct information before they start.
- When acquiring new material take a good look at the seasonal risks. You can think of sun-resistant glass, air-conditioning, parking heater, but also the use of summer and winter tires and systems like ESC (Electronic Stability Control).
- Organize periodic and thorough vehicle and tire checks. Don't forget the windscreen wipers to include in the check.

Contact

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