

# DVSA calls for vital safety checks this winter with a simple vehicle walk around check

Make it part of every driver's daily routine...

**T**HE Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) has recently been urging drivers and fleets to do their essential walk around checks regularly as more wintry weather sets in bringing more challenging conditions for all operators.

Statistics show that last December, there was a dramatic spike in the numbers killed on Britain's roads from 153 in November to 171 in December. There are any number of possible explanations for this. It could be poor weather conditions, shorter daylight hours, or an increase in road traffic.

As a result DVSA is warning operators to make sure their vehicles are safe and are encouraging drivers to perform walk around checks before every journey they take.

Zoe Murray-Ross, DVSA Head of Enforcement, said: "DVSA is committed to protecting you from unsafe drivers and vehicles. Late November and December are the busiest times for Britain's roads, and also the most dangerous. With icy roads, cold weather, high winds, and short daylight hours, it's vital that lorry and van drivers make sure that their vehicles are safe to drive."

Utility Fleet magazine fully supports the DVSA's message to drivers and operators and has put together this handy guide. The driver walk around check is an absolutely critical part of every maintenance regime. Operators need to be satisfied the checks are being done properly and thoroughly, that defects are being rectified and that commercial decisions never override safety issues.

## 1 BATTERY

- Battery is secure and cables are connected correctly.
- Battery is not leaking.

## 2 LIGHTS

- All internal and external lights, indicators and dashboard lights work correctly.
- All lenses are clean and the right colour.
- Brake lights work when the brake is applied and off when released.
- Registration plate lights are clean and working properly.
- Headlights are adjusted to aim light correctly.

## 3 FLUIDS, WASHERS AND WIPERS

- Wipers operate when switched on.
- Wiper blades are undamaged and clear windscreen effectively.

- Washer fluid is topped up and sprays correctly onto the windows.
- All fluid levels are correct, including brake fluid, engine coolant, engine oil, power steering and water.
- There are no leaks under the vehicle when the engine is running.

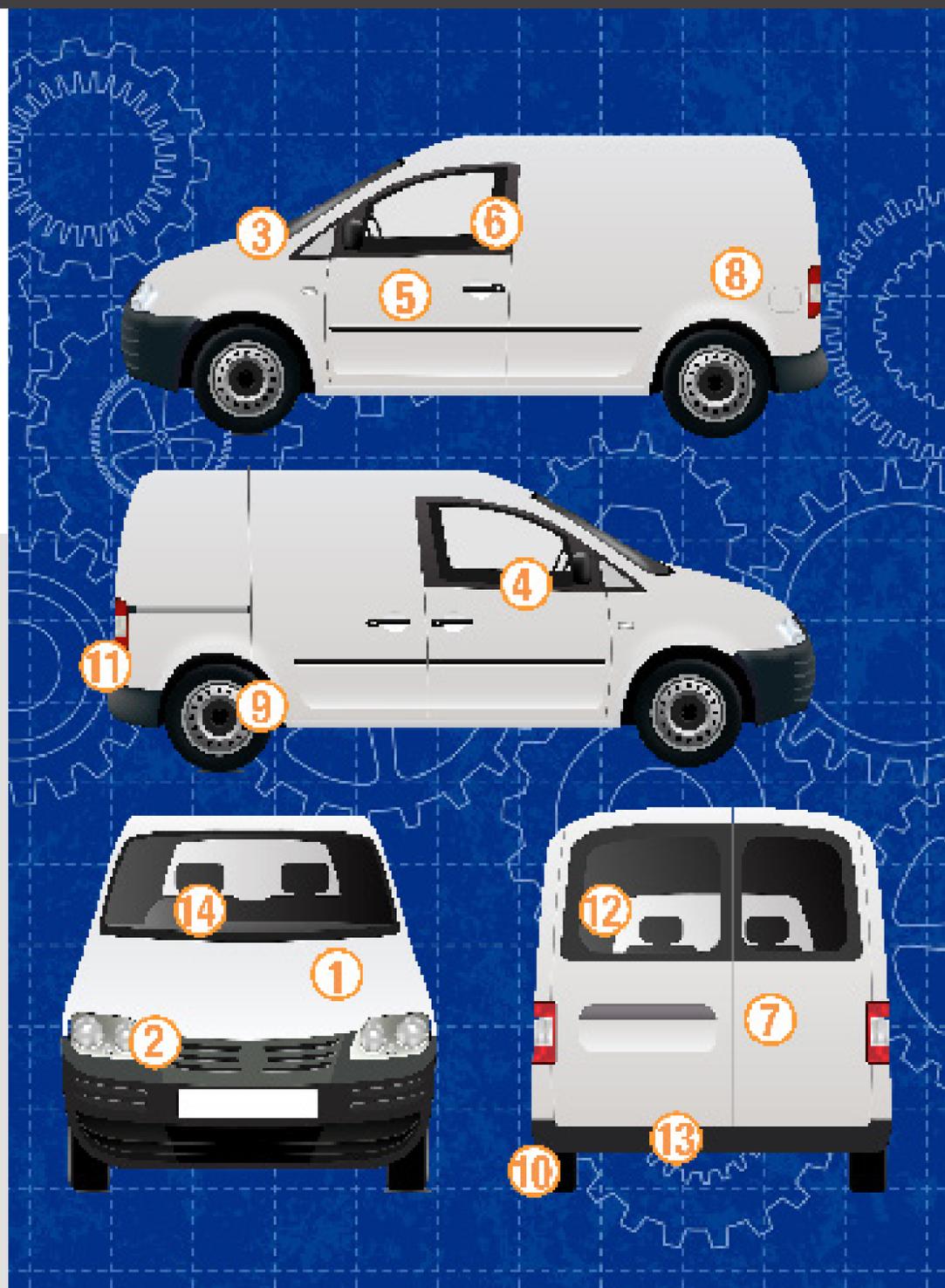
## 4 MIRRORS AND GLASS

- All mirrors are secure, aligned and undamaged.
- All windows and mirrors are clean.
- Your view of the road is not obscured by discoloured glass, stickers or load.

## 5 BODYWORK AND DOORS

- All doors open and close correctly.
- All doors are secure, with functioning locks.
- No body panels are seriously damaged or loose.

Remember, whatever size your fleet, you have a Duty of Care to protect your drivers and the people they come into contact with.



## 6 SEATS AND SEATBELTS

- Your seat is secure and positioned properly for comfort.
- You can reach and operate all controls properly.
- Seatbelts are undamaged and fully operational.

## 7 LOAD

- All loads are secure and not over the legal limit for the vehicle.
- Van doors are secure and locked.

## 8 FUEL

- There is a full tank of fuel or enough to complete the journey.
- Check the fuel cap seal for signs of fuel leakage.
- Fuel cap is securely fitted.

## 9 BRAKES

- Brakes work correctly and do not have any excessive pedal travel.
- Handbrake works properly.

## 10 TYRES AND WHEELS

- All tyres are legal (with a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm) and are correctly inflated.
- There are no deep cuts or damage to the tyre walls.
- No cord is visible on the tyres.
- All wheel nuts are secure and tightened properly.
- The spare tyre or inflation kit is present.
- There is no irregular wear and tear on the tyres.

## 11 TOWING AND TAIL LIFTS

- All lights are working.
- Trailer and tow bar are secure.
- Tail lift is undamaged and works correctly.

## 12 EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

- Your mobile phone is charged, in case of emergencies.
- You have emergency breakdown numbers in the vehicle.
- You have an emergency sign/triangle.
- You carry water, particularly during hot weather.
- You have high visibility clothing available at all times.

## 13 EXHAUST

- The exhaust has no visible blockages.
- The exhaust doesn't emit excessive amounts of smoke.

## 14 HORN AND STEERING

- Horn works and has a continuous tone.
- Steering works correctly and has no excess play.

All checked and ready to go...