IAM FLEET

Fact Sheet

06/001 - MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones and driving are both an essential part of everyday life for many people but the two activities must always be kept separate. Driving and talking on the phone at the same time can divert or split your concentration and compromise your ability to control your vehicle properly, which can affect your safety and that of others. The most important task is to drive safely.

Follow these simple IAM guidelines on using mobile phones in vehicles:-

- Never make or answer calls on a hand held mobile phone when you are driving, you won't be in full control of your vehicle and your concentration and attention will be diverted from your driving. You can be prosecuted if you use a hand held mobile phone when you are driving. Even if your vehicle is fitted with a hands free system, try to avoid using the phone when you are driving.

- Don't instigate a call when you are driving, even if your car is fitted with hands free equipment. All phone calls should be made and taken when the vehicle is stationary in a safe, legal and convenient location. If you have to make an urgent 999 emergency call when you are driving, use one key dialling or voice recognition dialling.

- If you have a hands free system, pre-record a message saying that you will call back when you are not driving. If you do answer a call on a hands free system, don't get into conversation with the caller. Your safety and that of others can be compromised. Tell the caller that you are driving and will call them back.

- Hands free equipment should be installed so that your normal driving position and effective all round observation can be maintained at all times.

- Never allow your concentration and attention to be diverted or split between driving and a phone call whilst the vehicle is in motion.

- Set ringing tone on your mobile phone to a tone and volume that will not startle you if it rings while you are driving.

- Always ensure that your mobile phone is switched off in the immediate vicinity of petrol stations.