



NEXUS'
GLOVEBOX GUIDE
AVOIDING
FINES

NEXUS
Vehicle Rental

AVOIDING FINES

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DRIVING DOWN COSTS

Nexus is the UK's leading tech-driven business mobility provider. Working with companies and fleets of all sizes, we combine unrivalled vehicle choice and service with a keen value for money focus.

Our award-winning IRIS software provides access to more than 550,000 vehicles across more than 2,000 locations across the UK, enabling customers to make bookings within 30 seconds at the click of a mouse or via smartphone.

Our Glovebox Guides are inspired by the old saying, 'Forewarned is forearmed'. They're part of our always-on drive to ensure you and your team are up-to-date with regulation, and that your business mobility costs are kept to a minimum.

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HOW OUR TECHNOLOGY HELPS

Nexus' world-leading IRIS platform automatically settles any fines your drivers incur promptly, preventing late payment penalties. It also pinpoints 'repeat offenders' so you can tackle them.

But why not also actively brief your people on the rules and regulations that could be taking thousands of pounds off your bottom line each year?



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DON'T BE CAUGHT OUT

Ever-rising numbers of CCTV cameras catch out many drivers and they are even used by some organisations to issue automatic fines.

Although some motoring breaches listed can also lead to court appearances for staff, they are either at the lowest end of the criminal scale or civil, administrative alternatives to prosecution.

We have not included major criminal offences that can even result in imprisonment - such as drink/drug driving, dangerous driving or road rage - and which should be covered in contracts of employment.



In every case, clear, unobscured, well maintained road markings and visible signage must warn drivers of prohibitions. Any employee who feels this was not so when triggering a fine should inform you immediately - and try to secure photographic evidence for an appeal.

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LOADING AND UNLOADING

A core activity for many business drivers, loading/unloading is permitted on single/double yellow lines for up to 40 minutes.

Remember - delivery vehicles must be moved as soon as the process – picking up/dropping off goods, paperwork signed – is completed. Drivers cannot linger or wander off to buy a snack if they are under the 40 minutes. Vehicles may not cause an obstruction or stop anywhere loading is banned.

Many town centres have designated loading bays. They usually have a 20-minute rule, but limits vary so always check. Commercial vehicles cannot be parked in these bays for any other reason and must not have one or more wheel on the pavement.

Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) will be issued to vehicles that do not appear to be using loading bays appropriately.

Business drivers can also load/unload in **public parking bays** for **20 minutes only**. They can stay longer if the vehicle is not causing an obstruction **and** they pay any parking charges. Note, 20-free-minutes rules **do not** apply to private parking areas and private land without prior agreement (see parking, page 9).

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BUS LANES

PCNs are issued by the million to drivers who enter bus lanes illegally every year.

Remember these rules to make sure you're in the right lane: Blue signs tell drivers when only buses can use the lanes. Outside those hours, cars, trucks and lorries may do so too. If no times are given, then a 24-hour ban is in place.

Drivers may enter a bus lane to avoid an accident/ obstruction or to allow an emergency vehicle through - but extreme care must be taken and they should leave as soon as it is safe to do so.



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RED ROUTES

Easing congestion in London and the West Midlands, red routes are major roads and urban freeways where vehicles are not allowed to stop.

They should always be clearly signed, but the single and double red lines are often not marked on affected roads.

Red routes are rigorously enforced, leading to many thousands of PCNs being issued annually.

Did you know:

4.71 million DVLA vehicle-keeper records were accessed by parking management firms over the course of 2016/17?

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CONGESTION CHARGES

The Congestion Charge applies across London's central zone, Mon-Fri, 07.00-18.00, for every eligible vehicle that enters – apart from bank holidays, including Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

The current daily rate is £11.50, although this can be reduced to £10 if you register for the easiest payment method – Congestion Charge Auto Pay. You can also pay on Transport for London's website and you should check if your vehicle is affected by the emissions surcharge, T-Charge. For a £10 annual fee, a number of vehicles are exempt. Meanwhile, certain vehicles are exempt altogether, without having to register.

If the Congestion Charge is not paid by midnight the day after travel, a PCN will be issued, **with fines up to £165 per vehicle**, per infringement.

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ROAD TOLLS

Although known collectively as 'road tolls' only one of the 13 pay-for-access points up and down England and Wales is actually for highway travel – the M6 Toll in the West Midlands. The rest are tunnels, water crossings and smaller bridges.



There is no viable way of avoiding tolls if they are on your driver's quickest route - lengthy diversions can cost more in fuel and time than the charge. Check tolls ahead of travel as some have peak time rates, while most operate variable fees per vehicle.

Most operate toll booths, so drivers must have payments they will accept – cash, card, fintech - but some, such as East London's Dartford Crossing operate number plate recognition.

Penalties for those who deliberately avoid payment are issued PCNs.

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PARKING

There are two types of parking offences – on street/public and private.

Both boil down to either i) parking in a prohibited area or non-payment in a charge zone or ii) leaving a vehicle longer than a free period allows or time paid for. Liability **always** falls to the **registered keeper** of the vehicle, **not the driver**.

Local authorities and the police issue **Penalty Charge Notices** for breaches on highways, by-ways, pavements or public land. They demand payment of a fine, or an appeal, to a deadline. If this is missed, the sum rises – and if ignored, enforcement action can take place.

As with all penalty notices, we always react promptly to save you money, so your drivers must tell you quickly if they think you should appeal. It is much harder to retrieve payments made.

Appeals are worth considering:

44% of councils' fines and a whopping 60% of parking notices are overturned

Figures illustrating the number of parking penalties processed by Nexus in 2017.

Parking Offence	14,329
PROCESSED	14,211
REJECTED	118

Last year, we saved our customers £426,330* in extra charges by paying promptly

*There were 14,211 fines last year, averaging £30 per fine

Parking Charge Notices are for violations on private property – issued either by the landowner or private parking companies acting for them. They cannot enforce parking laws but pursue a breach of contract law. For more on this, take a look at our Private Parking Fines Glovebox Guide.



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WHEN ARE YOUR DRIVERS LIABLE?

Lots of 'lower end' offences are largely the **driver's liability**, but still waste time for many employers.

CCTV cameras catch many offenders, with the registered keeper contacted - so identifying who was behind the wheel when the breach happened can be an onerous task.

Speeding

It is a good idea to instruct your drivers always to stay well within the speed limit, which is just that - a limit - **not a target**. Driving at or just under can catch people out if it changes without them noticing. Slower driving allows more time to react to this and other hazards, reducing the likelihood of trouble.

The **minimum** penalty for speeding is a **£100** fine and three penalty points added to a licence.

The same approach to careful and considerate driving is also wise in a number of other areas where road users needlessly attract fines and penalty points. Investing in refresher sessions or even Advanced Driving Courses for your people could well reduce long-term fleet costs.

Careless Driving

There is a fixed penalty for careless driving of £100 with three penalty points on the driver's licence. Serious offences will go to court, where drivers may face higher penalties.

Mobile Phone Use

Drivers who hold a device when their vehicle is moving or stationary with the engine running can receive **six penalty points** and a **£200** fine. Those who passed their test within the last two years will lose their licence.



Littering

In a recent crackdown, the maximum litter fine for drivers has doubled to **£150** and can be imposed **on the spot** by local authorities. Interestingly, they can **also** apply these penalties to vehicle owners even if the litter was discarded by somebody else.

Yellow Box Junction

Drivers must not stop in a yellow box junction (unless turning right and prevented by oncoming traffic or other vehicles turning right). Breaches prompt **fixed penalty notices** of up to **£130** within London and up to **£70** outside.

Red Light Offence

The maximum punishment for running a red light is a **£1,000** fine, **six penalty points** and **disqualification**. A fixed penalty notice of **£60** and **three penalty points** is more usual.

Seat Belt Breach

Drivers must wear a seatbelt when their vehicle is moving or when stationary if the engine is running, with fines of up to **£500** for failure to do so.

To find out more about how Nexus can help
protect your fleet and drivers, get in touch:

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