

From mountain to sea

USE OF MOBILE PHONES AND TWO-WAY RADIOS

Using mobile phones when driving

The majority of Road Safety experts agree that when drivers are in the process of driving their vehicles the use of mobile phones has the potential to distract the driver. It's illegal to use a mobile phone whilst:

- driving a vehicle or riding a motorcycle
- when supervising a learner driver or rider

It is also illegal to:

- hold a hand-held device to speak
- send or receive texts while driving

These laws also apply if you're stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic.

In other words, if you are behind the wheel of a car with the engine on, in a public highway you are breaking the law.

Hands-Free Mobile Phones/ Bluetooth systems

Employees who use hands free mobile phones may receive brief incoming calls only or use them in an emergency. No other use is acceptable while driving.

In addition, the following conditions must also be observed; Drivers must:

- Limit the use of "hands-free" equipment to answering brief or emergency incoming calls only.
- Make the decision to answer an incoming call dependent on the road and traffic conditions at the time.
- Upon answering a call, immediately establish whether it is an emergency or likely to be brief.
- Make it clear to the caller that he/she is driving and that it may be necessary to terminate the call at any moment.
- Ask a passenger to take the call if another person is in the vehicle.

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Drivers must not:

- Initiate a call or send/read text messages while driving.
- Answer a call at a time when road or traffic conditions could present increased/immediate danger or risk e.g. very busy traffic, high pedestrian presence
- Engage in lengthy conversations. If the call is not going to be brief and is not an emergency it must be terminated and returned when pulled over in a safe parking area.

Please note that although this procedure refers to the use of hands-free mobile phones, the use of hand-held interactive devices is also prohibited whilst in charge of a motor vehicle. Mobile Data Terminals (tablets/IPads etc.) are to be treated in the same way as hand-held devices and are not to be used whilst driving.

Two-Way Radios

Although the use of two-way radios does not come under the same regulations as hand-held devices, they should be used with the same consideration and care as hands-free mobiles phones. Their use is specifically allowed by Law, but you would be committing an offence if you are not deemed to be in full control of the vehicle whilst doing so.

Therefore, the following guidelines are to be adhered to regarding the use of a two-way radio by council employees whilst driving:

Drivers must:

- Make the decision to initiate or answer a radio call based on the road and traffic conditions at the time.
- Keep the radio communication brief and to the point, conveying essential information only.
- Ask a passenger to operate the radio if another person is in the vehicle.

Drivers must not:

- Initiate or answer a radio call at a time when road or traffic conditions could present increased/immediate danger or risk e.g. very busy traffic, high pedestrian presence.
- Engage in lengthy conversations. If the radio call is not going to be brief and is not an emergency, it must be terminated and returned when pulled over in a safe parking area.



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Managers/Supervisors calling vehicles on the radio should be aware that they may be driving and therefore keep all conversations short and to the point.

SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEMS

Satellite navigation should be regarded as similar to mobile phones in that it should not become a distraction to the driver.

Drivers must set the destination on the sat-nav before starting the vehicle and not allow themselves to be distracted by watching the screen.

Revision Date	Previous Revision Date	Summary of Changes
22-04-2010	-	Creation of all documents
11/01/2018	08/08/2016	Update to procedure
11/11/20	11/01/2018	Format update