

SAFETY ALERT

The BDA is committed to Improving Standards in Health & Safety, Quality of Workmanship and Technical Proficiency for the Drilling Industry and its Clients.



Eye Sight Standards for Driving in the UK

Have you had your eyes tested recently?

The recommendation is that you take an eye test every 2 years for driving.

You must be able to read (with glasses or contact lenses, if necessary) a car number plate made after 1 September 2001 from 20 metres.

If a person normally wears glasses or contact lenses, it is perfectly acceptable to use these for reading the number plate. However, it must be remembered that, should glasses or contact lenses be needed to meet the eyesight standard, these must be worn at all times when driving.

Section 96 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 creates the offence of driving with 'uncorrected defective eyesight'

People with existing licences must notify the DVLA if their eyesight deteriorates to a level that prevents them from meeting the driving standards. It is not only eyesight that must be reported. Certain conditions that reduce the peripheral or visual field must also be reported.

Conditions such as glaucoma may result in a reduced visual field, so it is worth seeking professional advice before notifying the authority.

Failure to inform the DVLA of a sight issue and any other medical condition that might affect your ability to drive safely can be classed as a criminal offence.

You can be fined up to £1,000 if you do not tell DVLA about a medical condition that affects your driving.

Keep your eye on any sight deterioration you may experience.