PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Vision and Heavy Vehicles Part 1

Indirect Vision and Points of View

Mirrors and Visual Display Units (VDUs) are great tools that help Heavy Vehicle drivers; however we should be aware of their potential risks in order to have the safest experience.

Empathy with other road users helps us understand different points of view and what others are thinking, helping us to be more considerate on the road.

Cognitive Load

It's hard to think about many things at once.

Mirrors and VDUs can increase cognitive load, affecting driving performance.



Mirrors

Advantages

Shows what is not directly visible

Disadvantages

Recognition compromised · closer to edges

Can distort objects

View interfered by elements (e.g. rain, dirt)

Incorrect setting up may provide inadequate vision



Advantages

Extends Heavy Vehicle drivers' visual field

Aids decision making

Disadvantages

Increases off-road glancing and time taken when returning gaze to the road

Image resolution affected by environmental conditions and colour range







Points of View: What are they thinking?

All three road users agree that eye contact makes the road situation safer.



Heavy Vehicle Drivers

Mirrors and VDUs provide sufficient view for me

VDUs have more advantages than disadvantages

Sometimes it's hard to recognise cyclists in my mirror

I'm not too high up to see VRUs

Bigger windows would help avoid incidents with VRUs



Cyclists

Heavy Vehicle drivers may not see me through mirrors and VDUs

They would see me more easily if lower to the ground

They would see me more easily with larger windows

Eye-contact with Heavy Vehicle drivers makes me safer



Pedestrians

Heavy Vehicle drivers may not see me through mirrors and VDUs

Lower cab height and larger windows would make safer trucks

