



Winter Driving

As we head towards winter, we see a change in the weather, with temperatures dropping below zero and reports of snow on the way. We want to make sure all our drivers are prepared for driving in these conditions and are safe to do so. Logistics UK has provided some useful safety tips for snow and ice. Please read the guidance below carefully. Here's some advice for driving in snow and icy conditions.

- Allow more time for your journey.
- Obtain weather information before you set off and keep up to date with changing conditions and closed routes via the radio or by regularly checking in with base.
- In snowy or freezing conditions, carry in the cab: a shovel; a couple of strong sacks (to place under the drive wheels if the vehicle becomes stuck); warm clothes and a blanket; a torch; food and a warm drink in a flask; a road atlas; a mobile phone and charger; and sunglasses (the glare from snow can be dazzling).
- Ensure the whole of your vehicle (especially the windscreen and mirrors) is cleared of ice and snow before attempting to move off.
- Lower your speed and keep a good distance from other vehicles. Allow up to ten times the normal stopping distance on icy roads.
- Allow for the fact that other drivers may get into difficulties.
- All braking must be gentle and carried out over much longer distances, especially when driving articulated vehicles or those with a trailer attached.
- Avoid any sudden braking, steering or acceleration.
- Falling snow can reduce visibility dramatically. Use dipped headlights and reduce your speed.
- Road markings and traffic signs can be obscured by snow. Take extra care at junctions.

- In prolonged periods of snow, fitting snow chains or snow socks to driven wheels can prove to be of value.
- Do not attempt to overtake a snowplough or a vehicle spreading salt unless you are sure the road is clear and conditions allow it to be done safely.
- When driving at night, be alert for a drop in temperature. If the steering feels light, you may be driving on ice, so ease your speed as soon as it is safe to do so.
- If your vehicle becomes stuck in deep snow, engage the diff-lock (if fitted) to regain forward traction. Remember to switch it off as soon as the vehicle is moving and before attempting a turn. Alternatively, use the highest gear possible to improve traction. You can also try alternating between reverse and forward gears until movement is regained. Avoid continual revving in a low gear, as this can cause drive wheels to dig into a deeper rut.
- When operating independent retarders, take care when going downhill in snow. Retarders can cause the rear wheels to lock, although some systems are managed by ABS to help avoid this problem.
- During periods of cold weather, all drivers are asked to take night-out gear on shift as an extra precaution. In the event that snow occurs while you are out on shift and it becomes unsafe to drive, this ensures you have some essential provision with you.