

## ADVANCED MOTORISTS BACK NEW MIRROR MOVE TO HALT "SIDESWIPES"

A move by MEPs to eliminate blind-spots on trucks that cause dozens of crashes per year has today (10 May 2007) been backed by the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists), the UK's leading advanced driving organisation.

We believe that it is not good enough to just address the visibility of new trucks, where mirrors give all round vision including the offside, said Peter Rodger, IAM Chief Examiner.

Europe has thousands of older trucks, which is why the IAM is pleased to hear that the proposed new law would oblige owners of lorries up to seven years old to retro-fit wide-angle and close-proximity mirrors.

Drivers on the M25 in particular have reported the worrying sensation of overseas trucks joining lane one from the slip road, clearly oblivious to the vehicles already there. The benefits would be felt near ports, where lorries land from countries that drive on the right, said Mr Rodger.

It's particularly good that MEPs are supporting the move, which is not unique to the UK, but a particular problem here. The cost of the mirrors is small compared to the road safety benefit, and I believe the move will be backed by Road Safety Minister Dr Stephen Ladyman, he said.

If the mirrors can save a single sideswipe, they immediately look like good value, he said.

Meanwhile, our advice to drivers is to stay back to give the lorry room to manoeuvre until there is enough space in front of you to fully get past the lorry. Drivers should avoid travelling alongside the truck if possible, and not loiter in its blind spot."

Mr Rodger said that as well as benefiting motorists negotiating motorway trucks, the improved visibility could also have a beneficial effect on minor and urban roads for cyclists.

ENDS

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Further details from the IAM Press Office 020 8996 9625, out of hours 020 8996 9600.

We have an ISDN line for interviews.