



'FLOWERS' is an acronym to help us remember what we should be checking on our vehicles before we start a journey. Always remember to complete your company Daily Vehicle Check Sheet.

F is for Fuel. Do you have enough fuel for the journey? Petrol or Diesel, Gas? If not, where will we buy some? How will you pay? Can you carry spare in 'Jerry' or Fuel cans? Company Rules? Which side of the vehicle is the fuel filler cap? Is it tight/locked?

L is for License. Are you authorized by the country local government or 'ministry' to drive this type of vehicle? Do you need a permission letter from your sponsor? Have you passed your defensive driving Course? Has your company given you permission to drive this type of vehicle? You are not carrying anything that requires permission from either the Ministries or your company? Explosives? Fuel? Bullion?

O is for Oil. Have you checked the levels of the Engine Oil, Gearbox Oil, Power Assisted Steering Oil, Brake and Clutch oil? Above the Minimum level, but below the Maximum level. There are no leaks underneath the vehicle?

W is for Water. Have you checked the windscreen wash lever, the battery water level and the level of the Engine Coolant system? All above the Minimum level, but below the Maximum level. Remember only check when the engine is cold, and has not been ran. For yourself, have you enough drinking water for the journey? 1 liter per person per hour to prevent dehydration. There are no leaks underneath the vehicle?

E is for Electrics. Do ALL of the lights work? Side, Lo, Hi beam. Indicators. Brakes. Reverse, or back lights. Hi intensity rear lights. Washer and Wipers. The Radio and CD player (to help combat fatigue, the CD for when there is poor or no radio reception), the Horn? Air Conditioning? All the 'check' lights extinguish before starting a journey.

R is for Rubber. Is there any damage to the tyres? Cuts and Bulges? Is the tread sufficient? Look at the Tread Wear Indicator (TWI) located on the tyre or use a tread depth gauge. Usual Legal Minimum tread wear is 1.6mm but what is your company policy and Country Law? Are the tyres in date? Look for the date code, 4 years maximum. Stopping distances are greatly reduced with tread of 3mm or more. Remember that the tread must cover 75% of the breath of the tyre and both entire outer circumferences. This allows water to escape from the tyre and helps prevent Aquaplaning. Have you checked the tyre pressures? Where is the tyre label placed? Check the tyres on a morning when the



tyres are cold for greater accuracy and use a reliable tyre pressure gauge. Are the windscreen wipers in good condition? Under the bonnet of the vehicle, the radiator hoses and fan belts?

S is for Self and Safety. Are all of the correct tools and safety devices fitted/supplied with the vehicle? Jack and Wheel brace; Spare tyre(s), Full Tool Kit, Fire extinguisher, First Aid Kit, Sand Plate, Shovel, Tow Strops, Hazard Warning Triangle (147ft, or 45m) Wheel chock's, Hi Viz Vests, Communication devices (Two way radio, Mobile telephone, GPS) All of the seat belts work, retract, self-locking works, not cut, torn or damaged? Warning Beacon on top of vehicle? Dune Flag?

How do you feel? Not tired after a good night's sleep? If taking medication, it is affecting you? Are you alert and fit to drive? Not 'hungover' from alcohol. Remember this can affect you for several hours after the last drink.

Daily Vehicle checks are vital for you and your company. You do not want to find yourself broken down and stranded, unable to call for assistance without water and a first aid kit. It can be extremely hot in the desert.

Better to be late in this world than Early in the next.....

Self-preservation – Survive – Do not accept or drive a vehicle that is not road worthy. Why put your life at risk?

Preventative Maintenance – Less down time, less inconvenience, less repair cost. More time on the road with the vehicle doing its job.

For your company, repairing small faults is less expensive and less time consuming than larger faults. Also, the vehicle is available for use more often, increasing its working time and reducing your inconvenience.

Be Cautious!

Remember that Oils and Fluids from a motor vehicle can cause skin irritations, rashes and soreness. Always wear hand protection, gloves, when carrying out daily vehicle checks, use rags and tissues to clean containers before removing filler caps, or cleaning dip sticks. If you do get any oil or fluids onto your skin, thoroughly wash the affected area. If irritations, rashes or soreness develop, seek medical attention immediately.

Please remember that this list is only intended as a guide. Please ensure you follow your vehicle manufacturers' guidelines and your company procedures.