

2020 EDITION

The Complete Guide to Earned Recognition



**EARNED
RECOGNITION**



online service network



Driver & Vehicle
Standards
Agency

Everything you need to know about Earned Recognition, including the benefits of taking part, KPIs you'll need to achieve and the future of digital compliance.

Prepared by r2c Online in conjunction with the DVSA

WHY IS CHANGE NECESSARY?

As part of the government's ongoing investment in technology and innovation, DVSA are committed to moving towards digital operations for a more efficient, connected industry. Changing the way compliance is enforced will make it easier for DVSA to filter the compliant from the non-compliant, creating a fair and efficient system for all.

Between 2016-17, DVSA compliance enforcement co-ordinated 223,000 roadside checks, 4 million tachograph checks and 189,000 compliance checks. Out of these checks, 23,000 vehicle safety defects were detected.

Whilst these statistics show that there are still a lot of non-compliant operators and potentially unsafe vehicles on the road, it means 389,000 operators were disrupted unnecessarily, costing them time and money. In an effort to reduce the amount of checks for compliant operators, DVSA have introduced Earned Recognition.

WHAT IS EARNED RECOGNITION?

The Earned Recognition Scheme is a voluntary and free scheme for holders of an HGV or PSV operator's licence who can demonstrate a strong track record of compliance.

Launched by DVSA, the scheme gives haulage and bus companies an opportunity to be monitored in a different way and pro-actively demonstrate their compliance. Successful applicants must have approved electronic management systems in place, to measure an operator's performance against a specific set of key performance indicators (KPIs) for both maintenance and driver compliance.

DVSA will only be made aware if KPI tolerances are not being met. This will free up valuable DVSA resource to target the willfully and serially non-compliant operators, leave the compliant ones alone and improve road safety.

HOW WILL IT BENEFIT ME?

- 'Light touch' approach to enforcement
- Vehicles with Earned Recognition will not be challenged at roadside checks unless there is something obviously wrong
- Ability to market yourself publicly as an 'exemplar operator'
- Use of best practice technology for an efficient fleet
- Improved levels of provable compliance

MYTH BUSTER

By [Melanie York](#)
[Earned Recognition Product Specialist](#)
[DVSA](#)



Driver & Vehicle
Standards
Agency

DVSA will not have direct access to an operator's data

DVSA would like to stress that they won't have direct access to any operator's data or systems. Operators must have a DVSA approved electronic management system in place to monitor the Earned Recognition KPIs and help the operator manage compliance. The system will also automatically report if KPIs are not being met and flag this trigger to DVSA.

Operators must be using a DVSA approved electronic management system

These systems must be able to measure an operator's performance against a specific set of KPIs for both maintenance and driver compliance, and automatically notify DVSA if these KPIs are not being met.

Exemplar operators won't be part of DVSA's normal roadside checks

Operators who successfully join the Earned Recognition scheme won't be part of DVSA's normal targeted roadside enforcement regime or operator visits. This will also be the same for weight checks. There are a couple of exceptions. If a vehicle is seen to be in an obvious dangerous condition then DVSA will stop it. Also, the Department for Transport (DfT) National Fleet Compliance Survey requires a relatively small sample of vehicles to be randomly checked. This falls outside of normal enforcement checks and has a minimal impact on operators.

This is not 'Big Brother'!

Any trigger received by DVSA will always be at least 4 weeks in arrears, so the operator may have addressed the cause before DVSA are notified. When DVSA are made aware of the trigger, they'll contact the operator to discuss the reason and look at fixing the problem. DVSA want to work with operators to address any issues, rather than take enforcement action.

Earned Recognition or OCRS?

OCRS is a targeting tool which measures the risk of non-compliance. It uses historical information taken from annual tests, roadside inspections and inspections at operators' premises. DVSA uses OCRS to target operators at the roadside. But, operators who successfully take part in the Earned Recognition scheme will not be part of the normal targeted enforcement checks and site visits. This means they won't use OCRS to target your drivers and vehicles at the roadside.