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RAC and optical industry remind drivers of visual needs

Motorists are being urged to carry a spare pair of up-to-date glasses when driving, especially when abroad, as the demands of unfamiliar road signs put heavy demands on vision.

The RAC and Federation of Manufacturing Opticians have joined forces to encourage all those who get behind the wheel to ensure the ten point check:

1. Ensure you have the correct prescription glasses or contact lenses

2. Carry a spare pair of glasses in case of accidents
3. Ensure the lenses are clean
4. Consider polarised or polarised photochromics to reduce glare
5. Discuss reflection-free lenses with your optician
6. Explore prescription Vista-Mesh lenses to reduce glare from headlights at night
7. Never wear tinted or sunglasses at night, or in poor visibility
8. Be aware that UK Police can carry out roadside eye tests
9. Consider a UK licence revoke can be immediate if Police find poor vision
10. Book an MOT of your driving vision every year

A total of 609 UK motorists have had their driving licences revoked after failing a roadside eye test since the introduction of Cassie's Law in 2013, which gave the Police new powers, according to Optometry Today.

In 2011, 16 year-old Cassie McCord died from injuries sustained when a motorist lost control of his car in Colchester. It later emerged that the driver, 87 year old Colin Horsfall, had been advised by the Police three days before not to drive following a minor collision. At this time he failed a sight test, but the Police had no powers to suspend his licence immediately. The subsequent campaign resulted in a change to the law which allowed licences to be revoked, in urgent cases, immediately by the Police.

RAC European breakdown Operations Manager David Huggon commented:

“As a precaution the RAC advises all motorists who wear prescription glasses or contact lenses to take a spare pair of glasses with them when driving, both at home and especially abroad, as finding a replacement pair in a foreign country could prove difficult.

“Ultimately, if your vision isn't up to scratch you are putting other road users' lives at risk. We therefore advise motorists to have regular eye examinations at least every two years, or sooner if their sight changes.”

Notes to Editors

About the RAC

With more than eight million members, the RAC is one of the UK's most progressive motoring organisations, providing services for both private and business motorists. Whether it's roadside assistance, insurance, buying a used car, vehicle inspections and checks, legal services or up-to-the-minute traffic and travel information – the RAC offers a solution for all motoring needs. The RAC is committed to making motoring easier, safer, more affordable and more enjoyable for drivers and road users.

The RAC is the motorist's champion and campaigns to support the interests of its members and UK motorists at a national level, including advancing levels of road safety, supporting the needs of young drivers and voicing concerns about the increasing cost of motoring. The RAC's annual [Report on Motoring](#) – first published in 1989 – provides a clear insight into the concerns and issues facing today's motorists.

For the very latest news on UK fuel prices, check [RAC Fuel Watch](#) or follow [#racfuelwatch on Twitter](#). This is a comprehensive guide to the latest UK unleaded petrol and diesel prices – both at the wholesale level and at the pump. RAC Fuel Watch analyses how prices changed through the previous month and compares the most recent prices with those from three, six and 12 months before.

The RAC supports and is a founding member of [FairFuelUK](#) which campaigns for fairer taxes on petrol and diesel.

Key facts:

- RAC patrols fix four out of five vehicles at the roadside and on average within 34 minutes
- RAC vans carry more than 500 parts and tools to get members' vehicles going again
- 98% of members would recommend RAC Rescue to their friends and family

Contacts



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