



Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme Guidance on demonstrating the requirements of the FORS Standard Version 4.0 07 October 2016

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I Introduction

I.I How to use this guide

This guide has been produced to help explain how you can demonstrate that your company or organisation meets the requirements of the FORS Standard at Bronze, Silver or Gold level. This guide should be read in conjunction with FORS Standard version 4.0.

The Standard is applicable to all types of vehicles, although the following requirements are specific to:



Trucks and Van – V5 and O2

Passenger carrying vehicles (PCV) – V6

Look out for these symbols in this guidance to remind you that there are requirements specific to these vehicles.

If you are considered to be a small operator (please refer to section 1.2 Terminology) then certain exemptions under Health and Safety law will apply, so you will need to explain verbally how you meet some of the requirements. However, you will still be expected to present any licences, qualifications, maintenance plans or performance data (where relevant) in order to gain accreditation.

Please note, however, that we encourage all operators to produce and maintain documented evidence and to operate to the Standard set by FORS.

I.2 Terminology

Some of the FORS requirements are mandatory, while others are desirable. As such it's important that we highlight the differences within each demonstration, therefore the following terms are used:

Shall – to indicate something which is mandatory as part of the requirement or in order to achieve the requirement Use of the word 'shall' indicates a mandatory requirement. In other words failure to put in place the measures required will result in a failure of that particular requirement.

Should – to indicate something which is recommended as emerging practice

Use of the word 'should' indicates a recommendation to help meet that particular requirement. It is important to implement these recommendations because it will help the auditor or evaluator when assessing your evidence.

May – to indicate permission or an emerging best practice option

Use of the word 'may' indicates something that could be demonstrated in order to help explain how the requirement has been met, or something that could be introduced as good practice.

Other important terms are:

Truck – commercial vehicle over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight

Van – commercial vehicle of 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight or under

Passenger carrying vehicle (PCV) – any vehicle fitted with 8 or more passenger seats

Small Operator - a company or organisation that operates a fleet of up to 5 vehicles and / or has less than 5 employees

A full glossary of the terms used in the FORS Standard and supporting documents is provided in Annex 1.

Annex 2 provides a checklist of all the requirements in the Standard. You can use this checklist in advance of your audit to carry out a self assessment of your operation against the Standard.

Note: All definitions are specific to the FORS Standard, and may not match the definitions contained within other publications.

2 Bronze accreditation

2.1 Management

MI FORS policies and procedures manual

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall have evidence which either contains, or makes reference to, all mandatory requirements of the FORS Standard.

Where policies and procedures are held within other documents or manuals these shall be referred to and shall be easily accessible and retrievable. Senior managers shall review and / or update these documents at least annually.

Gather together any transport policies and health and safety policies, as well as procedures, risk assessments or safe systems of work that match the requirements of the Standard. Evidence of review by a senior manager shall be recorded.

M2 Organisational structure and responsibilities

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall have documentary evidence of the organisation structure and individual responsibilities, e.g. an organisational chart. The chart shall include the name of the person who has continuous and effective responsibility for transport operations.

This can be described verbally within small operators where the roles of senior management and daily operations personnel are understood by all.

Present a document (in hard copy or electronic format) that shows the relevant people in the transport operation, their job title and how they are linked or connected. Remember that the document shall show the names of the people as well as the job title or role.

The person with continuous and effective responsibility might be a Transport Manager, Site Supervisor or Owner, depending on the sector and the business type.

M3 Responsible person/s

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall evidence the responsible person's formal appointment (through job title, letter of appointment or naming on the organisational chart), their responsibilities (through job description, duty list and procedures) and their competency (through relevant qualifications and training).

Fleet operators shall ensure there is sufficiently competent staff in place to cover the daily running of the operation.

Bring together the qualifications and certificates of the person or persons responsible for managing the vehicles and daily transport activity. You will also need to present a letter of appointment OR detailed job description if it demonstrates that the person is responsible for managing the fleet.

Those who hold a Standard National or International Operator Licence shall present the qualifications of their nominated Transport Manager. For those who operate a Restricted Licence you shall demonstrate the individuals' experience and skills by producing their CV or their job description.

Fleet operators with a minibus fleet (under 16 seats) may need to apply for a minibus licence; see www.gov.uk/driving-a-minibus for more information.

Van operators shall demonstrate that the appointed person is experienced in running a van fleet and that they have daily responsibility for transport activities.

M4 Regulatory licensing

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall demonstrate this requirement by displaying the appropriate licence for the type of operation, which the auditor will use to check items such as the fleet type and size. This shall include any vehicles under the control of the operating centre (such as vehicles hired, leased or loaned). Operators shall demonstrate evidence of regular internal compliance reviews according to the licence requirements, and that any such changes have been notified to the awarding authority.

Note that licensing differences may exist in the different countries of the United Kingdom and EU.

Present a copy of any licence that the company holds that relates to the transport operation. This might include the operator licence, a waste carriers' licence, section 19 or 22 permits (not-for-profit passenger transport) or private hire licence. Ensure that the licence is valid and has a sufficient margin for the number of vehicles currently in operation. Be aware of any licence review dates and ensure that the information on the licence is correct and up to date.

M5 Communication

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall create and manage documented policies and procedures which are distributed through company or driver handbooks. Additionally toolbox talks, risk assessments, memos and / or policies shall be provided to staff in order to support the handbook content. Evidence of this shall be recorded.

Information should be distributed to staff in a manner and form which makes it clear to them (such as a verbal briefing, letter, toolbox talk or notice), and made readily available whenever necessary. Communication shall also cover new policies and procedures and updates to existing policies and procedures.

If you're a small operator it is acceptable to demonstrate how you verbally communicate updates and information.

Make sure you can demonstrate effective management of communication across the team. It is important to consider how you provide not just the day to day information, but also updates to company policies and working practices.

M6 Document review

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall ensure that documents forming part of the FORS Standard are reviewed annually or sooner if a situation requires it.

This includes the FORS policy and procedures manual, risk assessments, training plans and other related documents.

Dated minutes from review meetings should be used as evidence of this requirement.

Transport-specific policies and procedures should be reviewed at least once every year (or sooner if there's a change to working practices). Remember that it's important to document this review process, and to use version control to ensure that only the latest policies are issued to and used by staff.

A senior person at the company must authorise and sign any updates, and they should be actively involved in the transport side of the business.

M7 Complaints

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall keep a record of all customer or public complaints made against them or their drivers. These records shall be kept together with records from the review process (as detailed in M6).

Evidence of the actions taken following these complaints shall be recorded, together with evidence that they have been appropriately managed to limit recurrence. A complaints system should follow the procedures detailed in any existing robust quality management system.

Examples of complaints include those made by members of the public, customers, stakeholders or the FORS Community Partnership.

It's important to keep and maintain any complaints made against the company or your drivers, and to ensure that you maintain a central database or record which can be easily retrieved.

Remember that complaints also include any notice of Public Inquiry, HSE notice of action or County Court Judgments.

M8 Transport fines and charges

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall maintain a record of all transport related fines and non-payment of charges. This includes:

- Roadworthiness Prohibition PG9
- Fines relating to traffic related summons
- Graduated Fixed Penalty Notice
- Fixed Penalty Notice
- Penalty Charge Notice

- Congestion Charge
- Low Emission Zone
- Safer Lorry Scheme
- London Lorry Control Scheme

For instances where no fines have been recorded, the system and procedure for recording fines and charges shall be demonstrated at audit.

Drivers shall be instructed to report the details of all transport related fines, which should include Penalty Charge Notices and Fixed Penalties. This instruction shall be clearly communicated within the driver handbook.

The authority and compentency should be outlined of any person investigating the circumstances that led to a fine or charge. A record of the investigation outcomes shall be maintained, which shall include recommendations and remedial actions for drivers and the fleet operator.

Measures such as driver training shall be considered to reduce trends.

You shall demonstrate that drivers have been asked to report details of any fines incurred, and that this information is documented. Evidence will also include a database or spreadsheet that is used to record information about fines and charges, and you shall demonstrate what measures you've taken to reduce the amount of fines received.

M9 Transport update

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall demonstrate this requirement by evidencing a way of keeping up with regulatory change and industry best practice.

Updates shall be specific to the fleet operation and should include information relating to the car fleet, commercial vehicles or road-going plant and / or the drivers. Information received through membership of a relevant trade body may also be used as evidence.

Remember that updates need to be specific to the fleet and must be issued to the drivers and transport staff where relevant. It's also important to keep a copy of any information for future reference.

MI0 Information management

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall maintain a system that retains documents or electronic data in an accessible format which is both legible and easily retrieved.

When records are kept centrally they shall be available and accessible to satellite sites either in hard copy or through an IT-based system / intranet portal.

The system shall contain all documents required by this FORS Standard for the necessary duration. The control of documents should be managed through the use of version numbering or referencing so that superseded versions are not used again.

If you have more than one operational site the auditor will need to understand how the documents are issued to those sites and how the information is managed at each location.

MII Tyre and fuel management

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall have a robust tyre and fuel management policy and programme that records tyre condition and use, and fuel consumption by driver or vehicle.

Evidence of a review of this information shall be demonstrated, as well as the steps taken to reduce, monitor and record tyre wear and fuel consumption.

This should consist of a range of measures including:

- Training drivers in fuel efficient driving techniques
- Training drivers to identify tyre wear
- Changing vehicles used or operating practices
- Setting targets for monitoring various KPIs
- Using data to minimise empty running, maximising vehicle fill and highlighting wasted mileage

Tyres shall be maintained and records kept in order to demonstrate that there are effective procedures in place to maintain correct pressures. The pressures should be stated on the vehicle.

A documented system for tyre disposal and recycling should be in place, which may involve disposal and recycling via an appropriate third party.

Remember to document any training given to drivers and to ensure that tyre checks form part of a vehicle check (as in V2). It is also important to document fuel consumption in order to identify trends.

Operators who use a tyre contractor to manage tyre supply and replacement should explain the procedure for replacing tyres to the auditor.

2.2 Vehicles

VI Inspection and maintenance plan

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall have in place a vehicle and specialist equipment maintenance plan relating to the statutory legal check requirements (such as MOT test), safety inspections and manufacturer's maintenance plans (or any other justification) which can be used to demonstrate compliance with this requirement. This plan shall detail scheduled maintenance activity at least six months in advance, and highlight vehicles and equipment which are serviced, inspected or tested in accordance with the plan. The plan shall be reviewed regularly, and always when vehicles are changed.

Where maintenance is undertaken inhouse, evidence of suitable resources to undertake this shall be demonstrated. Where maintenance is undertaken by a third party, evidence of a formal agreement shall be in place.

Operators shall keep maintenance records for at least 15 months.

Specialist equipment includes speed limiters, tachographs, tanks and lifting equipment or any equipment related to the operation of the service or contract, which may include cranes, hoppers, fork-lifts, tail-lifts or any other equipment subject to the LOLER regulations.

Specialist equipment shall be inspected, calibrated, serviced and recalibrated according to legal and / or manufacturer's requirements.

For O licence holders the maintenance plan shall show that vehicle maintenance is carried out as per the service intervals / requirements that are stipulated on your licence (for vehicles in scope).

If you outsource your vehicle maintenance to a third party you shall to keep a copy of all inspections and repair work undertaken.

Van operators shall provide evidence of MOT certificates.

If the vehicles are rented or leased and there is a repair and maintenance contract in place, you shall retain a copy of all work carried out on the vehicle.

V2 Defect checks

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall demonstrate a system of walk around checks for each vehicle using a checklist and a vehicle defect form (which also records nil defects). Auditors may witness such inspections being undertaken by drivers selected at random.

Drivers who use more than one vehicle in a shift shall complete a defect report for each vehicle driven.

Identified issues shall be rectified before the vehicle is permitted to be used. Unroadworthy vehicles shall be removed from service until the defect has been rectified and the vehicle deemed roadworthy.

Vision-related safety parts of vehicles shall be cleaned and securely fixed in place as necessary.

All drivers and repairers shall be competent in undertaking these tasks.

Records shall be retained for 15 months in a legible condition for inspection by the auditors, except for nil defect reports which shall be kept until the next safety inspection.

This requirement is relevant to all types of vehicle, therefore if you are a van operator or run a mixed fleet which includes vans, minibus etc. then the drivers of those vehicles shall be required to complete a defect sheet, and record and raise any issues identified.

V3 Insurance

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall have insurance documents to cover the use of fleet vehicles by company drivers, or evidence of selfinsurance for contractors.

Employer Liability, Public Liability and Goods-in-Transit insurance shall also be in place where mandatory or relevant to the transport activity. A review system shall also be in place for making sure the insurance is in date, and that all vehicles, drivers and conditions of use are covered.

Regular claims review meetings should be held with the appropriate broker and insurer, complete with an improvement plan to demonstrate a review of insurance incidents.

It is important to make arrangements to review your insurance requirements with your broker or insurer on an annual basis, in order to meet the needs of the business and to ensure that you're getting the best value.

V4 Vehicle excise duty and SORN

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall provide evidence of supporting information such as a register of vehicle taxation requirements. There shall also be a system of regular review to ensure ongoing payment of duty.

Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) is required for untaxed vehicles. Any vehicle that has been declared SORN shall be detailed on a database or register.

Operators should not rely on letters from DVLA as a reminder to pay VED.VED expiry dates for each vehicle shall be marked up on the inspection and maintenance plan (see VI) or recorded on active transport management software. A person shall also be responsible for checking VED due dates for renewal and ensuring that the renewal process is duly completed.

Evidence that you meet this requirement shall include the recording of due dates on a maintenance chart / wall planner or maintaining a database for all vehicles. Remember that vehicles declared SORN shall also be recorded.

V5 Safe loading and load restraints



Demonstration

Fleet operators shall demonstrate this by providing evidence of a risk assessment for the type of load carried by each vehicle (dimensions, weight and movement), through the provision of proper equipment and personnel training, and by enforcing vehicle loading practices through a regularly reviewed policy so that loads can be carried safely and securely.

A system of ascertaining and recording the dimensions and weights of laden vehicles before their use on the road shall be in place (where size and weight would likely be an issue).

Drivers shall be informed if their vehicle or load exceeds 3 meters in height through the fitment of in-cab height warning notices.

Fleet operators should have arrangements in place to make sure that the right type of vehicle is used for the load, and instructions should be provided for drivers and loading staff for vehicle loading and the use of appropriate load restraints.

Trailers used to carry a load shall be securely fastened to the towing vehicle, and the load shall be suitably secured to limit movement.

Evidence should also include management of load distribution and security, and information about the location and use of weighbridges.

You shall make sure that the load is suitably restrained within the load bay area and (where carried) on the roof, through the use of straps, ropes or lashings (depending on the size and weight of the load). Where fitted, racking should be used to secure items in the load bay.

V6 PCV safe loading and load security

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall provide evidence of a risk assessment for loading and unloading luggage and other items, through the provision of suitable equipment, through evidencing driver training records and by enforcing loading practices through a regularly reviewed policy so that loads continue to be evenly distributed and securely stowed.

A system of assessing the weight of the vehicle shall be used, which may be based on passenger numbers and estimated luggage weights.

Instructions shall be provided for drivers on the use of appropriate load restraints.

This should include load distribution and security, and information about the location and use of weighbridges.

Passenger vehicle operators shall ensure that seatbelts are used where fitted, and that passengers are informed of the need to use the seatbelts. The driver shall make sure that any on-board luggage is securely stowed and that it does not obstruct emergency exits.

V7 Vulnerable road user safety

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall ensure that all vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight are fitted with safety equipment that is designed to reduce the risk of close-proximity incidents involving vulnerable road users.

Fleet operators shall ensure that all safety equipment is included within the first use check.

Fleet operators shall take steps to ensure that drivers recognise the use of indirect vision systems as an integral part of their job. Fleet operators shall provide evidence that all vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight are fitted with side under-run protection, and that it is fitted on both sides of the vehicle unless this is proved to be impractical or impossible. Side under-run protection can be demonstrated by the fitment of sideguards, vehicle design and / or ancillary devices (fuel tank, locker box etc) which achieve the same objective.

Fleet operators shall ensure that all forward control vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight are fitted with Class V and VI mirrors.

Forward control vehicles are defined as having the steering wheel in the first quarter of the vehicles length (vehicle only, not vehicle and trailer) and having 50% or more of the engine located rearward of the furthest reaching part of the windscreen.

Vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight shall display, on the rear of the vehicle signage to warn vulnerable road users about getting too close to the vehicle. Signage shall warn the vulnerable road user of the potential danger, advising people to take appropriate action, and shall not be offensive or give instructional advice to the vulnerable road user.

Warning signage shall be prominent, clean and clearly visible to the road user.

Warning signage shall be A4 or equivalent size unless this is not practical in which case an appropriately sized warning sign may be used instead. Signage of A4 210mm x 297mm and also landscape 420mm x 148mm dimensions can be ordered via the FORS website. Artwork can also be downloaded and given to a printer of your choice.

Where it is impractical to display this signage on the rear of the vehicle (i.e – obstruction caused by beaver-tail or similar) the sign should be placed in a prominent position clearly visible to cyclists and other road users.

Vehicles of 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight and under (such as vans) do not need to be equipped with warning signage and markings unless the operator is contractually obliged to do so. However, if the vans already display the warning signage and markings then there is no need to remove them.

V8 Personal safety in or around vehicles

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall have written risk assessments for working or travelling in, on and around the vehicles. Evidence of action to prevent such risks (such as training) will also demonstrate an adherence to this requirement.

A risk assessment shall form the basis of an access to vehicles policy with a safe system of working, and this shall be regularly reviewed as necessary. For truck and van operators this shall be a working at height risk assessment, and for PCV operators this will be a passenger safety risk assessment.

Advice is available from the HSE for suitable, practicable and effective measures to prevent falls likely to cause personal injury.

It is also important to evidence how these risk assessments and policies are issued to the drivers, so you shall maintain a basic record of all documents issued. Evidence of toolbox talks or formal training can also be used.

V9 Vehicle manoeuvring

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall undertake risk assessments (in conjunction with incident and near miss data) and create, disseminate and review a documented policy on vehicle movements. This includes risks from vehicle manoeuvring such as forward motion, turning, reversing, towing, uncoupling and parking movements both on and off site (including at the roadside). Any collisions (minor or major) shall be reacted to immediately and form part of the fleet management policies and procedures review.

Suitably effective measures to prevent collisions shall be identified through a vehicle manoeuvring risk assessment and in the use of a reversing assistant where possible.

It is also important to demonstrate how these risk assessments and policies are issued to the drivers, so you should maintain a basic record of all documents issued. Evidence of toolbox talks or formal training can also be used.

Remember that this section also applies to vans.

2.3 Drivers

DI Licensing and qualifications

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall maintain a log of all drivers against licence / certificate type and licence / certificate expiry, with (photocopy) records of driving licenses and equipment certificates.

Endorsements and disqualifications shall be verified using a system that directly accesses current Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) data and shall be recorded on a matrix or database.

Frequency of licence checks shall be determined against a risk scale, and licenses shall be checked as a minimum every six months.

The persons undertaking licence checks shall understand the driving requirements and how to interpret the licence (including foreignissued licenses where required) and the competent person shall check that the driver is entitled to drive the group(s) of vehicle for which they are employed. Drivers shall also immediately report endorsements and disqualifications (of both driving and vocational licenses), which shall be recorded.

The risk scale should be based on the number of points on the licence. For example, if a driver has 9 points on their licence then the frequency of checks must be increased compared with a driver who has 3 points.

Driving licenses can be checked free of charge at <u>www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence</u>.

D2 Driving standards

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall demonstrate this with a written policy on driving standards at work which has been created by competent persons. The policy shall include sharing the roads, with particular emphasis on vulnerable road users. The policy shall be subject to a management meeting review to ensure that emerging issues in driving standards are addressed.

The policy shall cover: driver responsibilities; safety; speed limits; vulnerable road users; actions following breakdowns and collisions; safety equipment (where applicable); mobile phones and other in-cab technology (satellite navigation units and communication devices); and drink; drugs and fatigue.

Documentation covering these points shall be given to drivers alongside documented induction training (also see D3) and evidence of periodic toolbox talks. This documentation should be clearly displayed in the workplace.

Drivers shall be required to sign a declaration stating they have been issued with, read and understood the company policy on driving standards. Drivers shall also be re-briefed following any update or on an annual basis.

Operators shall provide the drivers with a copy of the most recent version of the Highway Code, and refer to page numbers for information relevant to commercial vehicle drivers.

More information can be found at <u>gov.uk/</u> <u>guidance/the-highway-code</u>

D3 Induction training

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall ensure that training needs for new staff are addressed during induction.

The training shall focus on the safety of vulnerable road users as well as anyone who may work or operate around the vehicle, shall be relevant to the working environment and be delivered by an experienced member of staff.

This training shall be recorded for future reference and form part of the ongoing development of the driver.

Training content shall include:

- Driving assessment prior to employment
- Induction to the company
- Introduction to company policies and procedures
- Routes, vehicle types and sites
- Awareness of other road users
- Defensive driving techniques

The training based on the working environment should also be relevant to the vehicle being driven i.e – if you are a van operator then you need to focus on vehicle manoeuvring and hazard perception around the van, but if you operate LGV, coach or bus you should also focus on blind spots, turning circles and the use of direct and indirect vision aids.

D4 Professional development

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall identify training needs and a development plan for all staff, not just drivers. The plan should be used to ensure that sufficient numbers of staff with the required skills are available now and in the future.

The development plan shall outline the type of training needed and when it needs to be delivered. This shall be updated as and when individual roles or vehicle / equipment changes.

At the time of Bronze application or reapplication at least 90% of all drivers are required to have completed or been booked to complete the required approved training within 90 days from the date of application.

Training content shall include:

- Operational compliance and the safety of vulnerable road users
- Remedial training to rectify any deficiencies identified through reported collisions or previous training

Refresher training shall be undertaken to ensure learning objectives and skills are fully embedded.

Remember to structure your plan to include drivers, dispatchers, warehouse workers, vehicle technicians, managers, etc. If you carry out appraisals or reviews already then that information should form the basis of your development plan. Toolbox talks and Driver CPC training (if in scope) shall also be used as evidence of ongoing professional development.

D5 In-cab technology

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall provide evidence that mobile phones and any other in-cab technology (including hands-free equipment) is considered and managed (see D2).

This should involve a short report on the vehicle technology fitted to the vehicle fleet and its anticipated impact on driver concentration while driving.

Under particular circumstances where the use of hands-free equipment is permitted, the terms of use shall be covered by a strict policy. This shall also be evidenced through a procedure, risk assessment or method statement.

Please refer to Rules 149 and 150 of the 2016 Highway Code.

Examples of in-cab technology can include mobile phones, sat nav systems, factory or retrofit monitors, PDA's, radios or head-up display units.

D6 Health and safety

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall demonstrate this through a written health and safety policy which has been created by competent persons with practical knowledge of the work activities. This shall be subject to review (and alteration if required) at management meetings to identify the cause of issues.

Evidence for the consideration of risk and risk prevention methods in management meetings should be made available, and the policy shall be signed by senior management. This should also include staff meetings, surveys and employee feedback systems.

There shall be a person within the company appointed to have responsibility for this policy.

Drivers may be asked to demonstrate their knowledge of the health and safety policy. The written policy should be clearly displayed in the workplace, and should specifically detail what any employee can do to report incidents, near misses and safety concerns.

A written risk-assessment of each type of transport-related health and safety issue shall be provided as evidence. This may include:

- Exposure to noise
- Lone working
- Driving position
- Passenger safety
- Moving loads by hand or machinery
- The effects of vibration

A safety guide issued to drivers may also be used as evidence for this requirement.

If you operate 5 or less vehicles or have less than 5 staff then you do not need to have a written health and safety policy. However, you will need to demonstrate how you effectively manage worker and driver health and safety.

D7 Driver fitness and health

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall check drivers' eyesight (such as reading a new style number plate at a distance of 20 metres) prior to employment or the start of a contract and then at least once every six months. Driver eyesight should be tested by an optician following an eyesight check failure, incident or near-miss.

The fleet operator shall also ensure that drivers meet driver licence / medical requirements and are not impaired through drink, drugs or fatigue. This should be done through evidence of on-the-spot checks or driver declaration.

A procedure shall be in place to require drivers to notify the fleet operator of any

fitness issues that may affect their entitlement and ability to drive, including physical and mental impairment and the use of prescribed medicine. Any suspected ailments should be referred to a trained medical professional such as the driver's GP.

The eyesight check shall to be conducted by a member of the transport team or person responsible for health and safety. As a minimum these checks shall include the drivers' name, the date of the check, the name of the person carrying out the check, the number plate used, 'pass' or 'fail' and details of any follow on actions.

Remember that the findings need to be recorded for future reference.

D8 Drivers' hours and working time

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall provide evidence of planning shifts or general work to ensure that drivers' hours and working time regulations for applicable vehicles are not compromised or exceeded (including where drivers work for more than one employer). Operators should give due consideration to these rules when planning journeys and scheduling drivers' work.

In all cases (including those drivers who do not require use of a tachograph or log book) the total working time (including driving activities) shall be considered.

Operators shall also provide evidence of recording and examining driver hours (via tachographs for relevant operations, but other means for non-tachograph operations), and evidence of addressing incidents where driver hours are exceeded.

Where relevant, analogue tachograph charts, digital printouts and log books shall be kept for at least 12 months for drivers' hours rules and for 24 months for Working Time Directive purposes, with a suitable system for keeping these records. Operators shall demonstrate how they provide or issue spare tachograph charts, tally rolls and logbooks to drivers.

Van operators and those who are out of scope of EU Drivers' Hours should be aware that there are legal limits on the hours of work undertaken by mobile workers.

For more information please refer to www.gov.uk/government/publications/ working-time-regulations-for-mobile-workers

D9 Driver infractions

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall provide evidence that all driving infractions (such as any incident which would result in endorsed points to the driver's licence) are recorded (also see D1) and reviewed in the short and long term and that action is taken against such drivers. This shall require a regularly reviewed and documented system which covers the procedures for action following each event. Action should include remedial training or disciplinary action for persistent offenders in accordance with company disciplinary procedures.

Driving infractions resulting in penalty points which occur privately shall also be recorded (as an excess of points will invalidate a driving licence).

Please refer to the FORS Terms and Conditions with regard to offences which must be notified to FORS in writing as soon as practicable, and in any event within five working days.

Numbers and trends should be monitored at fleet management policies and procedures reviews.

Remember that there needs to be evidence of investigation into the cause of driver infractions. These infractions include (but are not limited to) speeding, bus lane driving, dangerous or careless driving or failure to observe traffic directions or signs.

2.4 **Operations**

OI Routing and scheduling

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall include evidence of effective vehicle routing. This shall include a written policy or procedure which demonstrates that routes have been selected to minimise the potential for interaction with vulnerable road users.

The routing and scheduling shall also take into account drivers' hours' regulations, permits, prior approval, fees / tolls and weight / height limits. Any written policy or procedure should describe the type of operation and the level / type of risk identified, with the aim of ensuring that the chosen route is subject to careful planning.

Evidence should also demonstrate that drivers have been provided with information relating to parking restrictions and charges, a method of paying tolls and any special routing and access requirements issued by clients. Fleet operators shall communicate any routing and access requirements provided by clients to all drivers accessing sites.

Fleet operators should ensure that all staff, especially drivers and planning / scheduling personnel have the necessary instructions and information to hand.

Fleet operators should provide driver training, briefings or pre-programmed navigation systems to ensure the driver is aware of the specified route. Drivers should also be made aware of the possible consequences of route deviation, and there should be evidence that any deviation from the route (as notified by the client or public authority) is addressed accordingly with the driver. The driver may be required to sign in acknowledgment of the unauthorised deviation. Fleet operators may also ask drivers to sign in acknowledgment that they have received and understood any traffic routing or site access requirements.

Fleet operators should employ a no convoy policy unless the escorting of hazardous loads, wide loads etc. make a convoy necessary.

Consider the size and type of vehicle being used on specific routes, and focus on the vehicle dimensions and route restrictions before deciding on the most appropriate route. Foreign drivers should be trained to recognise the differences in UK and European height and width measurements.

Scheduled bus operators should raise any concerns over route suitability with the awarding authority.

O2Specialist goods and
abnormal loads

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall provide evidence of appropriate permissions and licensing for hazardous waste, dangerous goods and abnormal loads. A list of these processes and documents shall be created and managed, with dates for renewal and review.

A Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor shall be appointed if the goods in scope exceed the threshold for the carriage of dangerous goods. For more information on the threshold please refer to; www.osha.europa.eu/en/legislation/directives/ directive-2008-68-ec

Drivers shall be properly qualified to carry dangerous goods and be provided with the correct documentation and emergency contact details.

Operators of abnormal loads shall:

 notify the appropriate authorities as required by legislation (such as Highways England, Police, Road / Structure owners) comply with the Highways England codes of practice:

Code of Practice: Lighting and marking for Special Order, STGOVRI, STGO and C&U loads

Code of Practice: Lighting and marking for abnormal load self-escorting vehicles incorporating operating guidance

Where possible, coach operators should require passengers to complete a luggage manifest to identify any hazardous / dangerous goods.

O3 Incidents and insurance

Demonstration

Fleet Operators shall maintain a log of all incidents, collisions, near-misses and insurance claims. This log shall include all evidence required to investigate and conclude the cause and effect of incidents. The contents of this record shall be reviewed and reacted to as part of company procedure and annual review.

Review frequencies should be increased if incident numbers (or their effect) is high.

Periodic review of the fleet management policy should be undertaken and should consider:

- Driver behaviour training
- Risk assessments
- Selected routes
- Management of drivers
- Post-incident procedures

Fleet operators shall manage incidents to ensure that drivers and vehicles can get back on the road in a safe and timely manner, and that services can be restored while dealing with passenger and vehicle safety. Supporting documentation shall be in place which should outline the authority and competencies required by any person required to investigate incidents and collisions. Each incident should be thoroughly investigated by a competent person.

A record of investigation outcomes shall be reported at management meetings and maintained accordingly. This record shall include recommendations and remedial actions for both drivers and the fleet operator.

Drivers and vehicles should be properly assessed before returning to the road.

Any training provided to drivers shall also be recorded as part of their professional development (see D4).

O4 Engine idling

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall develop and maintain an anti-idling policy and procedure which will be issued to drivers.

The policy and procedure shall identify examples of situations where idling can occur.

Measures to reduce the effects of engine idling shall be identified and implemented, and may include:

- Toolbox talks
- Driver training
- Vehicle procurement planning
- Retrofitting anti-idling devices
- Route planning
- Scheduling

Idling should be considered during the route planning process, and the person responsible for routing shall minimise the vehicle waiting times through customer and driver communication and information. Use of telematics may be used to determine instances of engine-idling. Coach operators should instruct their drivers to turn off the engine when loading luggage or waiting for passengers to board, while truck operators need to instruct their drivers to turn off the engine while waiting for access to site and during loading / unloading activity.

Activity that requires the engine to be running while stationery i.e – use of truckmounted cranes) should be completed without any undue delay.

O5 Vehicle / equipment theft and unauthorised access

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall create and issue a written policy and procedure for the security and safety of vehicles and equipment.

Evidence of planned safety and security measures for drivers, employees, contractors and visitors shall also be demonstrated.

Vehicles that require the engine to be running while stationery (e.g. during the operation of Hiab cranes) should be positioned to minimise the risk of unlawful access.

Vehicle keys shall be stored away safely when not in use, and access to these keys shall be effectively managed.

The policy needs to include the process for sealing or securing any vehicle access points. Sufficient training should be provided to the driver for the use of any devices, cords or bolts that are used to secure a vehicle. Evidence of lone worker training should also be considered to ensure the safety of the driver.

3 Silver and gold progression

3.1 Silver progression

SI Maintain FORS Bronze

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall provide their current accreditation certificate and an audit date if Bronze accreditation is due within 30 calendar days from the date of Silver application.

Remember that there shall be a minimum of 30 days left on your Bronze accreditation when submitting evidence for a Silver application.

S2 Operational improvement

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall show evidence of effective management to develop the business, not just running the day to day operation. This may be through indicating review recommendations that have been actioned or other evidence of strategic decision making from senior management and monitoring of actions. This may follow procedures in any existing robust quality management system.

Evidence of decisions made to improve the business may include the provision of more efficient equipment or vehicles, increasing operational safety through the introduction of better working practices, developing a strategy for targeted training etc.

S3 Audible warning systems

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall ensure that vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight are fitted with equipment to audibly warn vulnerable road users when the vehicle is about to make a left turn and for when the vehicle is reversing.

Turning and reversing devices should be fitted with a manual on / off switch for circumstances, such as working at night, where it may be appropriate or necessary to deactivate the device.

For left-hand drive vehicles the blind-spot is on the right side and will affect the vehicle when turning right. Audible warnings shall therefore be activated when the vehicle is about to make a right turn.

Please note that this requirement applies to all types of vehicle over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight as part of a reversing manoeuvre.

S4 Blind-spot minimisation

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall ensure that appropriate vision aids and driver audible alerts are fitted to the front left of vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight. For left-hand drive vehicles these vision aids and audible alerts shall be fitted to the front right of vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight.

In addition, appropriate indirect vision aids shall also be fitted to the rear of rigid vehicles over 7.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight.

All indirect vision systems and driver audible alerts shall be fully operational where fitted, and the defect check process (see V2) shall include blind spot minimisation devices.

Fleet operators shall take steps to ensure that drivers recognise the use of indirect vision systems as an integral part of their job.

Vision aids can be mirrors, cameras or monitors. It's also important to make sure the drivers routinely check the working condition of the equipment as part of their walk around check.

S5 Vulnerable road user safety training

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall ensure that continuing FORS approved training includes on cycle hazard awareness and uses an appropriate mix of theoretical, eLearning, practical and on the job training.

FORS approved eLearning shall be undertaken on an annual basis and can be delivered as an eLearning module or classroom-based session. (You can deliver classroom-based eLearning modules to groups of drivers avoiding the need for individual driver log-ins).

On-cycle hazard awareness training shall be undertaken every five years.

Drivers shall complete or be booked on to a course to complete the on-cycle training in year one, and then complete the eLearning module or classroom training in years two, three and four. In year five they will need to complete the on-cycle training once again.

At the time of silver application or reapplication at least 90% of all drivers are required to have completed or been booked to complete the required training within 90 days from the date of application.

A record shall be maintained which shows the driver's name, the title of the course they received and the date that it was delivered.

Progressive training shall also include the use and limitations of supplementary vehicle safety equipment.

Where applicable this training may be aligned to Driver Certificate of Professional Competence.

Training content should include but not be limited to:

• Induction to new contracts covering familiarisation with new routes, vehicle

types and sites

- Refresher training to ensure knowledge and skills are fully embedded
- Remedial training to rectify any deficiencies identified through reported collisions or previous training

Remember that any driver training to meet this requirement shall be FORS approved in the first instance. Van drivers should be subject to Van Smart (or equivalent) training while truck and passenger drivers should be subject to Safe Urban Driver (or equivalent) training.

The auditor will require evidence that the drivers have been booked to complete the necessary training.

S6 Performance data

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall provide a baseline data report which shall cover the entire fleet registered with FORS and also the required performance indicators.

Organisations accredited under MOCA may elect to progress to silver at individual operating centres and in this case shall provide baseline data for the relevant operating centre(s).

Current bronze members shall supply data for a period of 3 consecutive months, and a summary of the system or procedure being used to collate the information.

Current silver members shall supply data that covers a consecutive 12 month period.

Active monitoring should be demonstrated using a range of data capture methods. This may be through the use of fleet performance tools, spreadsheets or benchmarking systems either offered commercially or promoted through FORS and other organisations.

Other data monitoring tools include vehicle telematics, insurance reports and fuel card reports. The method of data capture should be agreed with your certification body. A data report template can be found within the Rules and Procedures document.

Operators shall provide evidence of working towards reducing regulated emissions including NO_x and particulate matter.

Remember that the system used to collate this data needs to be reliable and consistent because it will be used to benchmark your data year on year.

A data report template can be found in Annex 3.

S7 Fuel and emissions

Demonstration

Fleet Operators shall evidence the monitoring of fuel and emissions, which shall be demonstrated by producing information from an existing fleet performance management system or database, or through a record of activities or initiatives that are planned or undertaken.

The appointed individual should also attend the FORS Practitioner Workshop, 'Reducing Fuel Use and Minimising Environmental Impact' or a FORS approved fuel emissions / performance management workshop. Alternatively a FORS approved, relevant eLearning course should be undertaken.

Fleet operators can find information on managing fuel and CO_2 by accessing the FORS website and utilising the Fuel, CO_2 / Emissions toolkits.

A list of FORS approved training and workshops can be found on the website; www.fors-online.org.uk

S8 Road Risk

Demonstration

Fleet Operators shall appoint an individual/s who is responsible for the management of road risk within the business.

Evidence of assessing and monitoring risk of an incident on the road shall be demonstrated by the production of health and safety policies, procedures, safe systems of working and training records.

The appointed individual should also attend the FORS Practitioner Workshop, 'Managing Work Related Road Safety' or a FORS approved road risk workshop. Alternatively a FORS approved, relevant eLearning course should be undertaken.

Fleet operators can find details of the FORS approved workshops and eLearning modules by accessing the FORS website.

A list of FORS approved training and workshops can be found on the website; <u>www.fors-online.org.uk</u>

3.2 Gold progression

GI Maintain FORS Bronze and FORS Silver

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall have a current accreditation of FORS Bronze and a portfolio of evidence to support the maintenance of silver requirements.

Remember there must be a minimum of 30 days left on your bronze accreditation when submitting evidence for a gold application.

Evidence of maintaining your silver accreditation includes the presentation of ongoing emissions data monitoring, incidents and collisions data, a fines and charges database and driver training records.

G2 Promoting the FORS Standard

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall provide documented evidence which demonstrates how promoting the FORS Standard across the supply chain has been successfully actioned. The supply chain can include the wider spectrum of related businesses including contracted fleets, vehicle leasing companies and driver agencies, and evidence can include either FORS accreditation (or supplier or supporter) or adherence to relevant FORS requirements.

Larger companies / organisations should request that their suppliers or subcontractors either become FORS accredited or commit to meeting the requirements of the FORS Standard. For smaller companies any documented evidence that shows you have promoted FORS to your peers or suppliers can be used to demonstrate this requirement.

G3 Published and updated case study

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall produce a new or updated case study on an annual basis and provide evidence of its creation, development and distribution / advertisement to relevant parties. This case study shall be in electronic format (a template can be obtained on the FORS website). The case study shall include the following:

- An introduction to your company and what you do
- How you heard about FORS and what prompted you to join
- Your experience of the process from bronze and silver to gold
- An image showing FORS compliant company vehicles
- The use of FORS benefits such as the performance management tool, Driver CPC training, practitioner workshops etc.
- The benefits and improvements that have been achieved since joining FORS
- The use of figures such as performance

KPI's as supporting evidence

• What ongoing gold accreditation means to your company

Remember that to make the most out of the case study you should focus on why FORS has been valuable to your business in terms of sector and vehicle type. Think about how FORS has helped to develop safety standards or improve operational efficiency, perhaps through better monitoring of data.

G4 Performance data

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall prepare a data report for a 12 month period (including baseline data from silver accreditation) which covers the entire fleet registered with FORS and also the required performance indicators.

Organisations accredited under MOCA may elect to progress to gold at individual operating centres and in this case shall provide baseline data for the relevant operating centre(s).

The report should be supported by reports and statistics from data monitoring and fleet performance tools, benchmarking systems, vehicle telematics and other reports either offered commercially or promoted through other organisations, including insurance claims and fuel card usage.

A data report template can be found with the Rules and Procedures document.

Remember that the system used to collate this data needs to be reliable and consistent because it will be used to benchmark your data year on year, and remember that at gold level you need to be actively improving emissions, reducing incident rates and managing data (whereas at silver you are simply recording the data).

A data report template can be found in Annex 3.

G5 Driver health and fitness review

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall introduce a comprehensive driver fitness and health checklist. This checklist is in addition to the requirements of D7 and shall be completed before the driver operates a vehicle for the first time, and then once every five years thereafter.

The checklist shall list any ailments or conditions that could affect a drivers' ability to control or operate a vehicle, and should include a declaration that requires the driver to make known any problems that may affect his or her ability to drive.

A periodic review of the information shall take place, which should also be recorded.

Fleet operators shall also actively promote company initiatives for improving driver health and fitness, which should form part of any driver review or assessment.

The evaluator will want to see evidence to show that all drivers have completed the fitness and health checklist, and that any ailments or conditions have been identified and followed up.

G6 Professional development

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall demonstrate this requirement through training and development records relating to continuing professional development and improvements made against the FORS key performance indicators detailed in G4.

Data gathered from S6 and from the engagement of all operational staff can be used to improve or develop training matrices in order to maximise individual performance. Appointed Managers should undertake a CPC refresher course, or obtain a FORS Practitioner certificate or be part of an industry accredited training or development scheme:

- CILT Continuous Professional Development Programme
- CPT Manager Accreditation
- RTITB Driver Assessment Accreditation
- RHA HGV In-Cab Driver Assessor Instructor Course
- IRTEC Independent Technician Accreditation
- FTA Commercial Vehicle Fleet Management Qualification
- Institute of Couriers 'Trailblazer' or 'Degree' Programme
- BVRLA Professional Fleet Consultant
 Programme
- RoSPA Fleet Management Programme
- FORS approved management training

The focus here is to demonstrate that you have a targeted training programme for all staff, and that you are aware of training needs as a result of individual performance. Any training based on the FORS KPI subjects shown in G4 should be presented as evidence.

G7 Strategy for recruiting new drivers

Demonstration

Operators shall develop a strategy and implement a plan for the recruitment of drivers and development of people in the industry.

This should be demonstrated as a written commitment to industry-led initiatives for recruitment, through evidencing an internal apprenticeship plan or active recruitment programme within schools, colleges or the armed forces, or through joining an existing industry scheme.

This requirement is in addition to any obligation as part of the Apprenticeship Levy introduced in April 2017.

This requirement can be evidenced by way of an internal or external recruitment programme, or through evidence of developing workers to become drivers for the company.

Fleet operators shall have a strategy and plan in place to engage in industry initiatives to encourage new drivers into the industry.

G8 Noise assessment

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall produce a documented assessment that details the noise produced by company vehicles, processes, vehicle equipment and drivers. Evidence of communicating this information to all relevant employees is required.

Measures shall also be in place to regularly evaluate the options available for reducing overall noise levels, particularly when specifying equipment to be fitted to a new vehicle.

Site evaluation reports should include regular customer locations and long-term operational sites, and details of potential and predicted noise pollution.

The company should explore the options for timed deliveries to take place outside of night-time or early hours.

Examples of what to consider include the silencing of radios and refrigeration units, limiting the use of the horn, the use of quiet flooring and the fitment of white noise alarms.

The assessment should be done on your own premises as well as others, and needs to include the noise that's produced by vehicles, equipment, staff / drivers and the general site (gates, bays, shutters etc.) with the objective being to reduce as much as possible the noise pollution from operational activity.

G9 Modal shift and alternative vehicles

Demonstration

Fleet operators shall undertake an assessment which investigates the opportunity to move part or all of their consignment / load from road transport to an alternative transport mode (fulfilled either in-house or by a third party).

This assessment shall be documented and should include a review of the environmental aspects of modal shift, including efficiency, emissions, calculated savings by volume or distance, and predicted operational impact.

The assessment should also demonstrate a review into the use of electric or alternatively-fuelled or powered vehicles, and should include some analysis of the potential emission and pollution savings made versus standard diesel or petrol engines.

Evidence of investigation into modal shift should consider the practicalities depending on the size, volume and type of load, the size and sector of the company and any geographical or customer limitations, and the evaluator will duly consider the evidence based on those points. The investigation into the use of alternative vehicles must include cost analysis and the potential benefits in terms of fuel and emissions.

Annex I Glossary

This glossary has been created in order to explain the terminology used throughout the FORS Standard and its supporting documents. It is important to note that these definitions are specific to FORS and may not match the definitions or interpretations used in other publications.

FORS Term	Meaning
Accredited	FORS members become Bronze, Silver or Gold accredited once they have met the criteria set out within the relevant section of the Standard
Action Points	Actions points are written recommendations made by FORS auditors during the Bronze audit which need to be put in place in order to meet part or all of the requirement that it relates to
AECOM	Part of the FORS Community Partnership, the AECOM team are responsible for managing and administering the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme
Appeal	Companies can appeal a decision made by the FORS team through a structured appeals process
Approved Training	Any training submitted as part of an application or reapplication must be FORS approved to be accepted as evidence. FORS approved training can be identified on the website
Audit Services	Services in relation to the auditing of FORS members or FORS Suppliers and Supporters
Auditor	A suitably qualified, experienced FORS auditor will conduct an audit of your presented or submitted evidence to check that it meets with the criteria in the Standard
Benchmarking	A standard or point of reference against which things may be compared Benchmark data can be used as evidence as part of a Silver or Gold application

Bronze	The first level of FORS membership Fleet operators achieve Bronze membership through providing evidence which meets the requirement in the FORS Standard. It is awarded following an audit process delivered on site by a FORS approved auditor
Case Study	FORS encourages members to produce a case study to highlight the benefits of FORS membership. Production and publication of a case study is part of the requirement for Gold membership
Certificate	Companies that achieve the requirements of the FORS Standard will receive a certificate detailing the level attained (Bronze, Silver or Gold) which will remain valid for the duration of accreditation
Certification	Companies that achieve the requirements of the FORS Standard will be certified for the duration of their FORS accreditation
Certification scheme document	Any document which describes how the scheme is operated (i.e. any scheme related document which is not the FORS requirements)
Certification Body	Organisations approved by the scheme administrator to undertake audits to the FORS Standard
Champion	A FORS Champion represents an organisation that includes FORS as a contractual or procurement requirement within their supply chain, or who promotes FORS but does not provide a product or service through the scheme eg a charity or public sector organisation. See also 'Specifier'
CILT	Part of the FORS Community Partnership, the CILT (Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport) team are responsible for the governance of the FORS Standard
Class V and Class VI	This refers to the type of mirrors that are required on vehicles over 3.5 tonnes in order to meet part of the FORS Bronze requirement in section V6 On forward control vehicles with right-hand drive, a Class V mirror is positioned on the vehicle's' nearside just above the passenger door, while a Class VI mirror is positioned above the cab windscreen towards the nearside The mirrors must be fitted to the offside (right-hand side) for left-hand drive vehicles

CLOCS	CLOCS (Construction Logistics and Cyclist Safety programme) brings together the construction logistics industry to revolutionise the management of work related road risk and embed a road safety culture across the industry as the UK's population and economy grows. Vehicles that meet the requirement of FORS Silver are automatically compliant with the CLOCS Standard
CLOCS Standard	The Standard for construction logistics; Managing Work Related Road Risk (WRRR). The Standard aims to ensure that construction companies follow effective practice in the management of their operations, vehicles, drivers and construction sites. Each requirement has been developed to reduce the risk of a collision between heavy goods vehicles in the construction sector and vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians.
Convoy	As part of OI – Routing and Scheduling, operators must implement a no-convoy policy, unless it is necessary for the transport of hazardous goods or wide loads, or under the instruction of an enforcement body
Declaration	As a member of FORS you are required to declare that the information you provide is true and accurate Falsification of evidence / information may result in loss of accreditation and removal from the scheme
Demonstration	During the audit and evaluation process you are required to demonstrate that you meet the FORS requirement This must be demonstrated to the auditor during a Bronze audit. This must be demonstrated by supplying information and evidence as part of the Silver or Gold application process
Direct Vision	Direct vision Direct vision is what the driver can see through windows rather than using mirrors or cameras. (Indirect vision is what the driver can see through mirrors and cameras) As part of the bronze accreditation requirement (V6) operators are required to fit Class V and Class VI mirrors to vehicles over 3.5 tonnes GVW

Dormant	Your company will become dormant on the FORS database if there is a failure to gain Bronze accreditation within 90 days from the date of registration
Downgrade	Your company will be subject to a downgrade if any of the following applies: a)The current certificate has expired b) A re-approval audit has been subject to a failure and the follow-up audit has not been delivered before the current expiry date c) An application for Silver or Gold has not been submitted prior to your expiry date d) Breaching the FORS terms and conditions
Driver CPC	The Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC) is a qualification for professional bus, coach and lorry drivers. It has been introduced across Europe with the professed aim of improving road safety and helping to maintain high standards of driving Driver CPC records are a key part of demonstrating the requirement for professional development as part of D4
DVSA	DVSA (Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency) is an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Transport. It sets the standards for driving and motorcycling, and making sure that drivers, vehicle operators and MOT garages follow roadworthiness standards DVSA is a member of the FORS Governance and Standard Advisory Group (GSAG)
Evidencing System	The Evidencing System is a portal on the FORS website which you use to upload your evidence when applying or re-applying for Silver or Gold membership
eLearning	It is a requirement of Silver accreditation (S5) that drivers undergo FORS eLearning refresher training on an annual basis. FORS eLearning can be accessed through the website
First Use Checks	First Use Checks (formerly known as daily walk around check) are a key requirement for Bronze accreditation. It requires the driver to carry out a vehicle defect check for every vehicle used in a shift. Documented evidence of these checks are required

Fleet Operator	A FORS fleet operator is any individual or organisation that operate one or more hired, leased or owned vehicles as part of their business or working activity
Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme	The Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) is an industry-led accreditation scheme that aims to promote road freight as a safe and sustainable mode of transportation in a way that supports economic growth and environmental targets whilst helping to improve our quality of life.
FORS Approved Driver	A FORS approved driver is someone who has completed FORS approved training as part of the requirement for accreditation
FORS Approved Training Provider	Training providers are encouraged to offer courses that meet the Work Related Road Risk (WRRR) training objectives, in order to fulfill the increasing demand for WRRR driver training across the UK and to cater for different driving environments. Courses can be submitted for approval to Transport for London and once approved the course provider is considered to be a FORS ap- proved training provider. Approved courses will be recognised by FORS, CLOCS and other contracting organizations such as TfL
Fleet Source	Part of the FORS Community Partnership, the Fleet Source team are responsible for managing and delivering the bronze audits, evaluating the silver and gold applications and delivering FORS Practitioner Workshops
FORS Standard	The FORS Standard details the requirements that fleet operators must meet in order to gain and maintain FORS accreditation
Follow up audit	Those that fail to meet the necessary criteria during the initial or re-approval bronze audit can apply for a follow up audit which must be delivered within 30 days from receiving the initial or re-approval audit report from the FORS team. The follow up audit can be done remotely or on-site (the decision is made by the FORS team) and will identify the measures that the operator has put in place as detailed within the recommendations in the report

Gold	The highest level of FORS membership
	Fleet operators achieve Gold membership through providing evidence which meets the requirement in the FORS Standard. It is awarded following a successful evaluation of the evidence submitted by the operator on the evidencing system
GSAG	Governance and Standard Advisory Group
	GSAG is a group established by FCP to ensure that FORS Standard is subject to continuous improvement, remains relevant to industry's needs and is compatible with all relevant legislation. It recommends changes, improvements and additions to the scheme and seeks to ensure the integrity of the scheme and the brand
	GSAG has four standing member organisations, AECOM, CILT, Fleet Source and Transport for London. Additional appointees from a range of businesses and other interested parties to provide a broad spectrum of expertise and knowledge. These include FORS members, operators, specifiers, industry bodies and regulators
Indirect Vision Aids	Indirect vision aids are required as part of Silver accreditation, and refers to the fitment of equipment to the nearside and rear of the vehicle that alerts the driver to an object in close proximity to the vehicle
Initial Audit	An initial audit is the first Bronze audit process for newly registered individuals or organisations
Infractions	Managing driver infractions is a key part of the Bronze requirement. It refers to any driving offence that may result in an endorsement to a driver's licence, such as speeding, drink or drug driving, dangerous driving and the miscarriage of abnormal loads or hazardous goods
JAUPT	Joint Approvals Unit for Periodic Training
	JAUPT oversees the approval of Driver CPC courses and training centres.
KPI	A KPI can be used to demonstrate meeting part of the requirements for Silver and Gold accreditation

'May'	The term 'may' is used throughout the FORS Standard and in supporting documentation to indicate permission or an emerging best practice option
Major Action Point	A major action point is a term used in the bronze audit process. If the auditor considers that an operator has failed to meet any of the requirements being assessed, then they will mark it as a major action point Operators who receive a major action point will be required to put in place measures that address the issues identified and will be subject to a follow up audit
Member	Once an operator meets the FORS Bronze requirements then they become a FORS member until such time that their accreditation expires
Minibus	A motor vehicle which is constructed or adapted to carry more than 8 but not more than 16 seated passengers in addition to the driver
Minor Action Point	A minor action point is a term used in the Bronze audit process. If the auditor considers that an operator has met some of the requirement being assessed then they will mark it as a minor action point. Operators will be expected to address any minor action point within their 12 month membership period
MOCA	Multi-operating centre accreditations
	MOCA is for those companies / organisations that have several operating sites or depots across the UK or Europe and require company-wide FORS accreditation. The process for MOCA means that less audits are required in order to achieve Bronze accreditation
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen, especially as atmospheric pollutants As part of the requirement for Silver accreditation, members are required to demonstrate that they are monitoring the levels of NO_x produced by their fleet.
	As part of the requirement for Gold accreditation, members are required to demonstrate that they are proactively managing and reducing the levels of NO_x produced by their fleet

Observation	An observation is a recommendation made by a FORS auditor which can be considered good practice. An observation does not have a direct effect on the audit process or the judgment made by the auditor against the Standard
Operating Centre	An operational site or depot where commercial vehicles are kept and used An operating centre is a site or depot where commercial vehicles operate from, and where at least one site supervisor or manager is permanently based Note that the definition of a FORS operating centre is not the same as the definition according to Operator Licensing laws
Particulate Matter (PM)	As part of the requirement for Silver accreditation, members are required to demonstrate that they are monitoring the levels of particulate matter produced by their fleet As part of the requirement for Gold accreditation, members are required to demonstrate that they are proactively managing and reducing the levels of particulate matter produced by their fleet
PCV	Passenger Carrying Vehicle Any vehicle fitted with 8 or more seats used primarily for the transportation of people
Purpose	The FORS Standard explains the purpose behind each requirement that an operator is expected to meet
QA	Quality Assurance Every FORS Bronze audit is subject to a quality assurance process in order to ensure that the auditor has applied an accurate interpretation of the Standard. This process is carried out by a senior FORS auditor
Registered	To start the process towards FORS membership it is a requirement to register the organisation through the FORS website. Once registered, there is a period of 90 days from the date of registration in which Bronze accreditation must be achieved

Requirement	The FORS standard defines basic requirements for operators to follow
	The FORS Supplementary Guide explains each requirement that an operator is expected to meet
Re-approval audit	A re-approval audit is a Bronze audit for existing FORS members, and must be undertaken before the expiry date of the current accreditation to ensure continued membership
Scheme Administrator	The current FORS scheme administrator is AECOM, who are part of the FORS Community Partnership
Senior Auditor	A senior auditor is a person responsible for ensuring that the quality of audits remains high and consistent
	They also deliver audits as part of Whole Fleet Accreditation and evaluate Silver and Gold applications
'Shall'	The term used in the FORS Standard and supporting documentation that indicates something which is mandatory as part of the FORS requirement or in order to achieve the requirement
'Should'	The term used in the FORS Standard and supporting documentation that indicates something which is recommended as emerging practice
Silver	The second level of FORS membership
	Fleet operators achieve Silver membership through providing evidence which meets the requirement in the FORS Standard It is awarded following a successful evaluation of the evidence submitted by the operator on the evidencing system
Small Operator	A small operator is defined as a company or organisation that operates a fleet of up to 5 vehicles and / or that has less than 5 employees

SOCA	Single Operating Centre Accreditation SOCA is the type of accreditation used by operators who only require one site to be FORS accredited
SORN	Statutory Off Road Notification Part of the Bronze requirement is to ensure that any vehicle not in use on public roads is declared SORN, and that the relevant documentation is presented to the auditor
Specifier	A FORS specifier is an individual or organisation that requires their contractors to achieve FORS accreditation in order to meet a contractual obligation or site requirement
Supplier and Supporter	An organisation that specifies FORS in its supply chain or that promotes FORS (Champion) or are suppliers who sell products to FORS members through an exclusive offer or discount (Associate or Affinity Partner)
Suspension	In accordance with the FORS Terms and Conditions FORS and upon written notification membership may be suspended in which case there is no entitlement to use the FORS benefits or the FORS logo. Re-entry into the scheme can only be following the satisfactory completion of an action plan and an enhanced audit
SUD	 Safe Urban Driving As part of the Silver requirement, drivers are required to undergo practical SUD training once every five years Van drivers are required to undergo Van Smart driver training once every five years SUD /Van Smart is a one day course running from 08.00 to 16.30. The course consists of two 3.5 hour modules, one classroom based and one practical module where drivers can get on bikes and get a cyclists view of the road. The two modules are taught on the same day with up to twenty drivers participating in 2 groups of ten

Terms and Conditions	Operators who wish to join FORS must read the terms and conditions of the scheme so that they fully understand the requirements of membership
Termination	In accordance with the FORS Terms and Conditions and upon written notification membership may be terminated, in which case there is no entitlement to use the FORS benefits or the FORS logo. Termination is for a minimum of 6 months and re-entry into the scheme can only be following the satisfactory completion of an action plan and an enhanced audit
Trucks	Trucks are defined as commercial vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight
Vans	Vans are defined as commercial vehicles of 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight or under
VED	Vehicle Excise Duty As part of the bronze requirement operators must demonstrate that they have a system in place to monitor VED and ensure that no active / operational vehicle is without appropriate tax at any one time
Vulnerable Road User	The term 'vulnerable road user' applies to cyclists, pedestrians, motorbike / scooter riders, horse riders, pedal taxi drivers and car drivers Operators are expected to have policies, procedures and safe systems of working that limits the risk of incident involving a vulnerable road user, as well as vehicle equipment (varies depending on level of accreditation) to help the driver maintain awareness of vulnerable road users
Witnessed Audit	A witnessed audit is an audit which is witnessed by a representative of the scheme administrator. It usually applies to those who are going through the Whole Fleet Accreditation process

Witnessed Audit	A witnessed audit is an audit which is witnessed by a representative of the scheme administrator. It usually applies to those who are going through the Whole Fleet Accreditation process
WFA	Whole Fleet Accreditation Whole Fleet Accreditation is a type of FORS accreditation which is available to those who have their own internal audit team, and that are able to demonstrate that their auditing is matched to the requirements of the FORS Standard
WRRR	There is no legal definition of 'work related road safety', but it relates to the management of the risks which employees and the self employed face and create when they are driving, riding or walking on the road in order to do their job. It is often referred to as Managing Occupational Road Risk, at-work road safety or driving for work

Annex 2 Audit checklists

AI Bronze checklist

'Audit notes' should record where evidence of meeting the requirement was found (such as a named document) and explain its level of adherence to the requirements. The 'outcome' shall be expressed as either a pass, major action point, minor action point, or an observation.

Code	Requirement	Audit notes	Outcome
	FORS policies and procedures manual		
Σ	Fleet operators shall document all policies and processes covering all the mandatory requirements of the FORS Standard.		
	Organisational structure and responsibilities		
Δ2	Fleet operators shall have a description of the responsibilities of, and links between, senior management and daily operations personnel		
	Responsible person(s)		
ε	Fleet operators shall have a formally appointed, qualified (where necessary), trained and experienced person or team in place to run the transport operation and to maintain continuous and effective control.		
	Regulatory licensing		
Δ4	Fleet operators shall hold all regulatory licences necessary for their operation (where applicable).		

Code	Requirement	Audit notes C	Outcome
	Communication		
M5	Fleet operators shall demonstrate that company policies and procedures are communicated to all staff.		
	Document review		
Ж6	Fleet operators shall have their policies and procedures for the transport operation reviewed by senior management at least every 12 months. This shall include the FORS Standard requirements.		
	Complaints		
Μ7	Fleet operators shall have a fully functioning complaints system that feeds into decision making and shall ensure that any complaint made against the company is reviewed and acted upon appropriately in order to prevent recurrence.		
	Transport fines and charges		
M8	Fleet operators shall have a policy in place to investigate and analyse all transport related fines and charges received.		
	Transport updates		
6ω	Fleet operators shall have a process for keeping up to date with developments in the fleet and road transport industry.		

Code	Requirement	Audit notes Out	Outcome
	Vehicle manoeuvring		
67	Fleet operators shall risk-assess, mitigate and control (where appropriate) risks from vehicle manoeuvring including driving forward, turning, reversing, towing, uncoupling and parking.		
ā	Licensing and qualifications Fleet operators shall ensure that licenses and qualifications of all drivers (including agency drivers) are checked using a risk-based verification system that direct accesses the DVLA database. This shall be done prior to driving and then at least once every six months.		
D2	Driving standards Fleet operators shall require that anyone driving on business shall drive within the rules of the Highway Code (with the exception of when under specific direction of the relevant police) and the company policy at all times, and pay		
D3	Induction training Fleet operators shall, as part of the induction process, ensure that drivers and line managers complete appropriate training on all aspects of the business, focusing particularly on the health and safety of employees and vulnerable road users.		

Code	Requirement	Audit notes Ou	Outcome
	Professional development		
D4	Fleet operators shall ensure that drivers and line managers undergo approved progressive training and continued professional development with particular attention to the safety of vulnerable road users.		
	In-cab technology		
D5	Fleet operators shall not cause or permit a driver to use a handheld mobile phone while driving, and where possible they shall restrict the use of any distractive in-cab technology while driving.		
	Health and safety		
D6	Fleet operators shall ensure that driving risks and workplace transport safety are controlled via a working health and safety policy and that vehicle-specific health and safety advice is given to drivers.		
	Driver fitness and health		
D7	Fleet operators shall be proactive towards managing driver fitness and health.		
	Drivers' hours and working time		
D8	Fleet operators shall have policies and procedures to manage both driver hours and total working time.		

Code	Requirement	Audit notes	Outcome
	Driver infractions		
D9	Fleet operators shall record and monitor all driving infractions and take remedial action to minimise future recurrence		
	Routing and scheduling		
ō	Fleet operators shall ensure that the most safe, efficient and appropriate vehicles are used, and that any vehicle routes to sites or premises are carefully selected and adhered to unless directed otherwise by a relevant authority.		
	Specialist goods and abnormal loads		
02	Fleet operators who transport hazardous waste, dangerous goods and / or abnormal loads shall have a written policy to ensure they are handled and transported in compliance with the appropriate regulations, and will appoint a qualified DGSA where necessary.		
	Incidents and insurance		
O3	Fleet operators shall ensure that incidents, collisions and reported near-misses are documented, investigated and analysed, and that insurance claims are monitored, reviewed and acted upon.		
	Engine idling		
04	Fleet operators shall have a written policy and procedure to reduce instances of engine-idling.		
	Vehicle / equipment theft and unauthorised access		
05	Fleet operators shall reduce the risk of vehicle and equipment theft and limit the possibility of unauthorised or illegal access to vehicles.		

A2 Silver checklist

Code	Requirement	Audit notes	Outcome
SI	Maintain FORS Bronze		
	Fleet operators shall maintain their FORS bronze accreditation. Please note that your bronze accreditation shall have at least 30 calendar days' left before the expiry date at the time of submitting evidence for silver approval.		
S2	O perational improvement		
	Fleet operators shall demonstrate that senior management reviews and decisions result in the development of the business and that such changes themselves are reviewed.		
S3	Audible warning systems		
	Fleet operators shall ensure that all vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight are equipped with an audible means to warn other road users of a vehicle's left turn manoeuvre and reversing movement.		
S4	Blindspot minimisation		
	Fleet operators shall ensure that all vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight have front, side and rear blind-spots eliminated or minimised as far as is practical / possible, through a combination of active and operational direct and indirect vision aids and driver audible alerts.		

Code	Requirement	Audit notes	Outcome
S5	Vulnerable road user safety training		
	Fleet operators shall ensure that all drivers (including those exempt or not in scope of Driver Certificate of Professional Competence) undergo continuing approved training specifically covering the safety of vulnerable road users.		
S6	Performance data		
	Fleet operators shall baseline data and undertake active monitoring of the following performance indicators:		
	 Total fuel usage and by distances travelled 		
	 Transport related CO₂ by distances travelled 		
	 Transport related NO_x and Particulate Matter by distances travelled 		
	 Total incident and collision data and costs involving personal injury, vehicle or property damage 		
	 Total transport related fines and charges 		
S7	Fuel and emissions		
	Fleet operators shall appoint individual/s who are responsible for monitoring and managing fuel consumption and the emissions output of the vehicle fleet		
S8	Road risk		
	Fleet operators shall appoint individual/s who are responsible for the management of road risk within the business		

Code	Requirement	Audit notes Ou	Outcome
	Maintain FORS Bronze and FORS Silver		
פֿו	Fleet operators shall maintain both their FORS bronze and FORS silver accreditation.		
	Promoting the FORS Standard		
G2	Fleet operators shall provide evidence of actively promoting the FORS Standard to their supply chain.		
	Published and updated case study		
	Fleet operators shall produce, publish and update		
G3	a case study that describes the progression from FORS registration to the awarding and maintaining		
	of gold level membership. The case study also needs		
	to demonstrate the improvements made against all FORS performance indicators		
	Performance data		
	Fleet operators shall baseline data and undertake active monitoring of the following performance indicators:		
	 Total fuel usage and by distances travelled 		
G4	 Transport related CO₂ by distances travelled 		
	 Transport related NO_x and Particulate Matter by distances travelled 		
	 Total incident and collision data and costs involving personal injury, vehicle or property damage 		
	 Total transport related fines and charges 		

FORS Standard

Code	Requirement	Audit notes C	Outcome
	Driver health and fitness review		
G5	Fleet operators shall ensure that all professional drivers who drive a commercial vehicle for the company are subject to a comprehensive health and fitness review		
	Professional development		
°9	Fleet operators shall ensure that all operational staff within the organisation undergo approved progressive training and continued professional development. This shall be linked with G4 and S6 in order to determine how this training has improved operations for the better, and how this training could be improved on or changed in order to achieve the desired outcomes		
	Strategy for recruiting new drivers		
G7	Fleet operators shall have in place a documented assessment that demonstrates measures taken to reduce noise pollution during driving, parking, loading or unloading, servicing or vehicle washing which is relevant to the vehicle type, load and sector		
	Noise assessment		
89	Fleet operators shall have in place a documented assessment that demonstrates measures taken to reduce noise pollution during driving, parking, loading or unloading, servicing or vehicle washing which is relevant to the vehicle type, load and sector.		
	Modal shift and alternative vehicles		
69	Fleet operators shall assess the opportunity to move part or all of their consignment from road to an alternative transport mode. Fleet operators shall also assess the opportunity to use electric or alternatively-fuelled or powered vehicles within the fleet.		

Annex 3 FORS progression data report

The following data report template can be used to submit data relating to the required silver and gold performance indicators. Data for a 12 month period is required and shall cover the entire fleet registered with FORS. Additional data can be submitted where these support evidence of efficiency and performance monitoring and might include for example, vehicle fill, empty running, fuel used per tonne delivered, volumes carried drops per trip.

	Baseline year plus I	
From		
То		

Performar	Performance indicator Unit of measurement		Data	Data	Data	Data	
Distance	Total distance recorded across	Km	ú				
travelled	the fleet	Miles					
Fuel used*	Total fuel recorded across	Litres					
Tuer used.	the fleet	Gallons					
CO ₂ output**	l litre diesel = 0.002648 Tonnes of CO ₂	Tonnes					
	HGV litre of diesel = 0.00548 kg of NO _X	Kg					
NO _x output+	LGV litre of diesel = 0.00413 kg of NO _x	Kg					
	HGV litre of diesel = 0.000 kg of PM						
PM output++	LGV I litre of diesel = 0.00034 kg of PM						
Traffic incidents and collisions	Damage only Slight injury Serious injury Fatal	Number of					
Cost of	Third party	£					
incidents and collisions	costs	Euro					
	Own damage	£					
	costs	Euro					

* Provide separate data for petrol and gas used by the fleet

** Defra, 2011 Guidelines to Defra / DECC's GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting, 2011

+ NO_x is calculated based on Euro emissions standards and a weighted average based on the national fleet profile according to DfT HGV and LGV statistics. For HGVs, standard conversion from grams per KWh to grams per litre of diesel is used at a rate of 10.64 KWh per litre of basic biofuel blend diesel from Defra GHG conversion factors. For LGVs grams per KM is converted to grams per litre using an MPG of 25.5 and KM/L of 9.027 based on average MPG data from the FORS performance management system.

++ See methodology above to convert PM values. For both NO_x and PM, all vehicles are assumed to be diesel fueled.

