

CONDITIONS

SAFE DRIVING COMPETITION for DRIVERS OF VEHICLES (OTHER THAN OWNER DRIVERS)

1 Period

The Period of the competition is from 1 January to 31 December each year.

2 Eligibility

The Competition is open to all drivers (other than owner drivers) of any class of road vehicle (except road rollers, and other road engineering plant, and pedestrian-controlled vehicles) who are continuously employed during the period of twelve months from 1 January in each year by employers (whether Local Authorities or Commercial or other undertakings or by individuals) who pay the appropriate subscription.

3 Method of Entry

A driver can only be entered by the employer by whom he/she is employed on 1 January. If the driver has been entered in previous years, and changes his/her employer before being entered for the year in question he/she can be entered by the new employer provided a certificate of freedom from accident has been obtained from the old employer for the portion of the year the driver was driving with that employer. Drivers who wish to compete must notify their employers of their desire to enter.

4 Time of Entry

Employers are required to send, as soon as possible after 1 January, a list of entrants for the current year. In case of employers entering their drivers for the first time, entries can be accepted at any time during the year (at the discretion of the Council) but the period for which the entry is made will be treated as commencing on 1 January of that year. No award will be made unless competitors are formally entered as above.

5 Certificate by Employers

At the commencement of each year the entry form for the previous year will be returned to the employer. (This should be returned with the signed Certificate, indicating the awards claimed for individual drivers and also those who have not qualified.) At the same time an entry form for the current year will be forwarded.

6 Period of Driving required for an Award

To qualify for an award the driver must have been regularly driving for at least 40 weeks, including annual leave and Public Holidays, out of the 52, but the certificate, as regards safe driving, must cover the whole period of the 12 months. Regular driving signifies that driving is the primary duty of the entrant, and not a duty either secondary or carried out occasionally. A driver whose primary duty is not driving but who in order to carry out his/her duty drives regularly for at least 40 weeks out of the 52, is eligible to be entered.

7 Exemption

A driver duly entered who has been prevented by sickness, maternity leave, paternity leave, unemployment, industrial disputes or other cause (for which he/she cannot be held responsible) from completing the period of regular driving mentioned in Condition 6, cannot receive an award for the year, but the Council may grant a certificate of exemption for that year so that it does not break the continuity of Consecutive awards required for a 5-year Badge, 25 year, 30 year, 35 year and 40 year Brooch.

8 Method of claiming Exemption

Each case of exemption claimed under Condition 7 must be specially submitted and certified by the employer, and this can be done either (a) by a separate application which will be required to state that the driver has complied with the Conditions as regards Safe Driving over that portion of the year during which he/she has been driving or (b) by making a suitable mark on the claim form, which will be regarded as a similar certificate to that mentioned in (a) above.

9 Questions regarding awards

Should employers or drivers have any questions to raise with regard to awards granted them, or exemption to Condition 7, such questions must be brought to the notice of the Council during the twelve months from the date on which the letter accompanying the awards was despatched, as after that time no such cases can be considered, for example, any question connected with awards despatched on 1 April must be brought to notice not later than 31 March the following year.

10 Amendment of Conditions

The Council reserves the right to amend these conditions during the course of a Competition year, should it be thought expedient, in order to cover any new legislation or any regulations affecting drivers introduced by the Minister of Transport.

11 Acceptance of Conditions

Employers and Drivers entered for this Competition will be held to have accepted all the above Conditions.

12 Decisions of ROSCO final

The decision of the Council on all matters affecting the competition is final and binding, and no correspondence arising out of such decision can be entered into with individual drivers.

13 Qualification for Awards

To qualify for an Award, each driver must be certified by the employer to have completed the 12 months from 1 January (see Condition 1).

- a. Without being involved in an accident to person or property however slight when driving or in charge of a vehicle on the public highway or elsewhere, for which he/she was in any way responsible.
- b. Without being convicted for an offence under the following sections of the Road Traffic Act 1991 or whichever Road Traffic Act shall from time to time be in force:
 - i. Section 1, causing death by dangerous driving and dangerous driving respectively;
 - ii. Section 2, careless and inconsiderate driving;
 - iii. Section 3, causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs;
 - iv. Section 4, driving under the influence of drink or drugs;
 - v. Section 6, causing danger to road users;or under
 - vi. Section 35, Road Traffic Act 1988. Drivers to comply with traffic directions;
 - vii. Pedestrian Crossing Regulations as amended;
 - viii. Regulation 110 Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (Use of Mobile Phone whilst driving);
 - ix. Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations 1993;or
 - x. Any other offence prejudicial to Public Safety whilst driving or in charge of a vehicle: if there is any doubt as to whether such other offence is one prejudicial to Public Safety, particulars of the conviction may be submitted to the Council for guidance.

14 Awards

The following awards are made annually:

1 to 4 years Diploma (until qualifying for a 5-year Badge) to each driver certified by the employer to have qualified in accordance with Condition 13.

5-year Badge to each driver who, having gained four consecutive diplomas, qualifies the following year, thus completing a period of five consecutive years Safe Driving (as defined in Condition 13).

On completion of the 6th and successive years of Safe Driving (as defined in condition 13) a further badge denoting the number of years Safe Driving will be issued.

A driver who completes 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 CONSECUTIVE years Safe Driving (as defined in Condition 13) will receive in addition to the badge a 25-year, 30-year, 35-year, 40-year and 45-year Brooch respectively.

15 Entrant's Badge

A stick pin badge denoting that a driver is an entrant for the Competition can be purchased from the Council through the employer.

For further clarification, please contact the Secretary of ROSCO.

As at 31/12/2009

GUIDANCE NOTE REGARDING FIXED PENALTY NOTICES AND ROSCO SAFE DRIVING AWARDS

One of the requirements for drivers to qualify for a ROSCO Safe Driving Award is that they are certified by the employer to have completed the 12 months:

“Without being convicted for an offence under specified sections of the Road Traffic Acts or any other offence prejudicial to public safety” (Rule 13b ix of ROSCO Conditions).

Since the ROSCO Conditions were originally drafted, there has been increasing use of fixed penalty notices for driving offences rather than court convictions. These cover such matters as speeding penalty notices, parking offences, using a handheld mobile phone whilst driving, failure to wear seatbelt, etc.

As a general rule, fixed penalty notices which involve any failure to observe all safety requirements, will result in disqualification of a driver from a ROSCO Safe Driving Award that year. This guidance note is issued to all operators entering drivers for ROSCO Safe Driving Awards, following discussions at ROSCO Council meetings.

Speeding penalty notices

Speeding penalty notices, whether arising from fixed roadside cameras or police handheld cameras, normally attract a fine and three penalty points endorsed on a driver's licence. As these amount to endorsement of the conviction on the driver's licence, these should normally be treated as disqualifying a driver from a ROSCO Safe Driving Award that year.

A ROSCO member company has raised the question of whether a driver should be disqualified from a ROSCO Award where the driver has been issued with a notice, but where the police have offered the option to the driver of attending a Speed Awareness Course, as an alternative to payment of a fixed penalty and penalty points on licence. Speeding offences usually have a safety aspect (apart from any public image aspect for the integrity of ROSCO Awards) and speeding penalty notices will normally disqualify for an award in line with Rule 13b ix, even where a driver chooses the option to attend a Speed Awareness Course if this is offered.

Parking penalty notices

Parking penalties often do not involve any safety issues – for example a driver overstaying the time limit in a controlled parking area may deprive another driver of a parking space, but does not affect safety in any way. However, parking on a double yellow line on a bend, or parking on or near a pedestrian crossing, have important safety considerations, which have implications for eligibility for a ROSCO Safe Driving Award. ROSCO would not normally regard a parking offence as in itself “prejudicial to public safety – (RuLe 13b ix)” and meriting disqualification from a Safe Driving Award, unless it involved obstructing the highway, or near a zebra crossing, or causing public danger (in which case a driver would not be eligible for an award that year).

Handheld mobile phones

Drivers will in future be liable to a fixed penalty notice and endorsement of their licence under recently introduced regulations. This is a category of offence which will normally disqualify for a ROSCO Safe Driving Award. The offence is committed under Regulation 110 of the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986.

Seatbelts

Where there is a requirement for a seatbelt to be worn, a fixed penalty notice for failure to wear one will result in disqualification of a driver from a ROSCO Safe Driving Award that year. The offence is committed under the Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations 1993.

ROSCO Conditions

ROSCO Council trusts that this advice note will be helpful to employers and drivers when considering eligibility for annual ROSCO Safe Driving Awards. It should be read in conjunction with the current issue of the ROSCO Conditions leaflet. Operators are reminded that Rule 13, Qualification for Awards, applies to any offences, whether driving in the course of duty, or private motoring at other times.