

Continuous Insurance Enforcement (CIE)

Seasonal Vehicle User Fact Sheet

Important: This is an information notice for registered keepers who only use their vehicles for part of the year, e.g. motorcycles, vintage and classic vehicles, motor homes, etc.

Since 4th February 2011, it has been a legal requirement for a vehicle to be insured at all times unless a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) has been made. It is now an offence to be the registered keeper of an uninsured vehicle and you could face a penalty. Uninsured vehicles are identified by comparing the Motor Insurance Database (MID) with DVLA vehicle records.

From June 2011 Insurance Advisory Letters (IAL) will be issued to the registered keepers of uninsured vehicles advising them to:

- Insure the vehicle immediately
- Contact their insurance provider if they believe that the vehicle is insured in order for them to update the MID
- Make a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) (see 'How to make a SORN?' below) if the vehicle is not being used and kept off the road, or
- Notify DVLA if they are no longer the keeper of the vehicle

You can check if your vehicle is recorded as 'insured' by visiting the free MID check service at www.askMID.com or by contacting your insurance provider.

There are some points that are particularly important for seasonal vehicle users:

- **Pre-SORN vehicles** - vehicles which have not been used and kept off-road before SORN came into force on 31st January 1998 will be exempt from CIE unless they are taxed in the future.
- **Vehicles manufactured before 1st January 1973** – though a registered and taxed vehicle may have a 'nil value' tax disc, it is still classed as being 'taxed' and a SORN should be made if uninsured and not in use (unless the pre-SORN exemption applies – see above). The tax disc needs to be returned on a V14 and SORN declared at the same time. You can get a V14 from www.direct.gov.uk/motoringforms and Post Office® branches that issue tax discs.

Further information on CIE can be found at www.direct.gov.uk/stayinsured

Penalties for not insuring a registered vehicle

Failure to insure a vehicle under CIE will result in the following unless the vehicle is kept off-road and SORN is made:

- If the vehicle remains uninsured, or a SORN not made, then DVLA will issue a £100 fixed penalty notice (reduced to £50 pounds if paid within 21 days of the issuing of the fixed penalty)
- The vehicle can also be clamped, impounded or destroyed if found on the road, and
- If the fixed penalty is not paid, the vehicle keeper could be taken to court and a maximum fine of up to £1,000 could be levied

Please note that payment of a penalty does not replace the need for motor insurance.

How do I make a SORN?

If the vehicle still has a valid tax disc it should be returned using a V14 refund application form, SORN can be declared at the same time. You can get a V14 from www.direct.gov.uk/motoringforms and Post Office® branches that issue tax discs. If the vehicle tax has expired you can make a SORN online or by phone using the reference number shown on the V5C registration certificate. Please visit www.direct.gov.uk/sorn.

When the vehicle is ready to go back on the road, you will need to tax your vehicle. You can use your Vehicle Registration Certificate (V5C) to tax your vehicle in the following ways.

- Online at www.direct.gov.uk/taxdisc or by phoning 0300 123 4321 using the document reference number shown on your V5C.
- In person/by post to a Post Office® branch that issues tax discs. You will need to include a filled-in 'Application for a tax disc' (V10) if you apply by post. However, if you wish to tax a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV), the application will need to be submitted in person/by post to a DVLA Local Office using an Application to tax a Heavy Goods Vehicle (V85). You can find details of your nearest Post Office® branch that issues tax discs by phoning 0845 722 3344, or nearest Local Office at www.direct.gov.uk.