

Traffic and Work-Related Accidents

Agustín Galdón
 Instituto MAPFRE de Seguridad Vial*

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Occupational accidents are a major social concern, and Spain has one of the highest road-accident rates in the EU countries; while the European average is 90 serious accidents per 100,000 workers, the figure in Spain is 115. Only two coun-

Although there has been a slight decrease over the last year, the accident rate in Spain is still cause for considerable alarm.

Roughly one in every three people killed in a work-related accident dies in a road accident.

| Fatal work-related accidents | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| 1999 | 2000 | % 99/00 | 2001 | % 00/01 |
| 1,572 | 1,575 | + 0.2% | 1,468 | - 6.8% |

| Fatal work-related accidents «en route» | | | | |
|---|------|---------|------|---------|
| 1999 | 2000 | % 99/00 | 2001 | % 00/01 |
| 462 | 445 | - 3.6 % | 447 | + 0.4% |

tries have a worse rate than this: Belgium (116) and Denmark (121).

The human and economic cost that this represents has led the Instituto MAPFRE de Seguri-



* MAPFRE Road Safety Institute.



dad Vial to act by taking preventive measures within the working environment, to build the awareness of both employers and employees about the need to prevent these tragedies.

In order to have a more accurate idea of the problem of fatal work-related road accidents, we need to include what are known "on mission" accidents. These are accidents that occur during the normal working day but are not clearly highlighted by the official statistics. It is no exaggeration to estimate that if we add "on mission" to those "en route", 1 in 4 of all occupational accidents turns out to be traffic-related.

Awareness-building efforts targeted at employers and employees are often ineffective because negative attitudes go unsupervised and their monitoring lies beyond the control of safety-at-work specialists.

Preventive action is largely focused on training. Road-safety courses are targeted at both car users and professional drivers. According to the number of employees in each firm, training will be targeted directly at the workers, department managers or risk-prevention managers. In the latter case, the risk-prevention specialists then pass on the training received to the rest of their colleagues.

There are three points of reference for this type of campaign: the driver, the vehicle and the road—three parameters on which as much information as possible is compiled so as to maximise the effectiveness of the action.

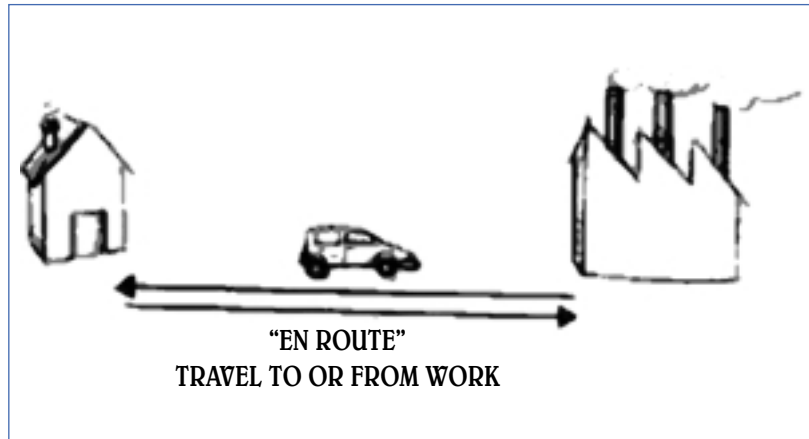
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One of the key parts of the campaign is the distribution of a "Road Safety Training Programme for Businesses". This programme, issued in CD-ROM format, is a basic training tool for both risk-prevention managers and

the workers themselves, who can assess their knowledge of the subject in a simple, customised way.

This CD-ROM enables one or various users to access a knowledge-assessment program that analyses their driving skills.

blem of road accidents in a work-related context and their socioeconomic repercussions. From here, users go to the "Contents", divided into three sections: "Human Factor", "Vehicle Factor" and "Road Factor".



The participants each enter a password to enable them to perform the assessment on their own whenever they please. This system enables employees to take

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however long may be necessary to complete the programme, but not necessarily all at one sitting.

The presentation of this programme consists of a first part, which introduces the Instituto MAPFRE de Seguridad Vial, and a second part providing an overview of the Traffic Institute of the University of Valencia (a partner in the project).

The structure is based on the presentation of the current pro-

The first covers such key issues as attention, fatigue, alcohol consumption, etc. All these factors are related directly to driving, with young people clearly being identified as the group most at risk of a road accident.

The "Road Factor" section explains the role of roads themselves in the causes of accidents and how their functionality is affected by changes in weather conditions. Road signs (both vertical and horizontal) are also covered.

The Instituto MAPFRE de Seguridad Vial wishes to support any organisation that is concerned about work-related risk prevention, particularly insofar as road accidents are concerned. The actions taken by the Instituto MAPFRE de Seguridad Vial are fully foundational and non-profit in nature.

A copy of the CD-ROM *Programa de formación en seguridad vial para empresas* (Road Safety Training Programme for Businesses) can be ordered directly from the following address:

MAPFRE RE
Paseo de Recoletos, 25
28004 MADRID - SPAIN ■