**Electric Vehicle Familiarisation Toolbox Talk**

There is a degree of adjustment and familiarisation required before you will feel confident in driving an electric or hybrid vehicle safely for work purposes.

**Familiarisation prior to driving for work**

You will need an induction and education on EVs before you drive for work in your new electric vehicle to ensure:

* your familiarity with the controls and dashboard layout
* you know the feel of the vehicle and how it handles on the road
* you can follow the charging procedures
* awareness of other safety elements
* confident in knowing your way around the vehicle and can complete maintenance checks
* you are briefed on the breakdown procedure

**Acceleration rates and driving skill**

Electric vehicles handle differently compared to fuel powered vehicles because:

* they are heavier than conventional vehicles due to their lead-acid batteries
* they have two pedals: the brake and accelerator
* they can be driven with one pedal, only the accelerator pedal, due to their Regenerative braking system
* the motor is attached to the vehicle wheels enabling instant fast acceleration that many drivers will not be used to
* there is no lag time from acceleration to the vehicle moving forward
* EVs do not have gear change delays, they keep powering on
* many EVs can travel from 0 - 60 mph in between 8 - 3 seconds, brands such as Tesla are even quicker
* the brake pedal puts the motor into reverse to slow the wheels down
* they use Regenerative Braking where the motor converts the lost energy during deceleration back into stored energy in the battery, which can assist vehicle range
* their quiet engines cannot notify pedestrians, cyclists and other drivers of their presence causing a potential danger to other road users
* in an emergency you should override the one pedal driving method and apply the brake pedal

Consider other road users in high risk locations including in car parks and at pedestrian crossings and keep in mind your vehicle is noiseless so cannot alert other to your presence.

**EV Storage and Charging Procedure**

Your employer will provide policies and procedures for charging your electric vehicle both at work or whilst travelling for a work meeting. To ensure the electrical safety and protection of electrical equipment for your EVs you should:

* always follow the manufacturer’s instructions on charging
* follow your employer’s procedure on charging
* follow the strict safety procedures when using both the fixed and portable charging equipment and when storing it away
* follow the manufacturers guidance on parking your vehicle on company premises, whilst on business and when parked at your home and when charging up

Refer to the Toolbox Talk on Charging your Electric Vehicle for detailed information to ensure your safety and that of others.

# Key Points to Remember

* Electric vehicles require you to be familiar and feel confident with driving, handling, checking and charging them before you drive one for work
* There are many differences between conventional vehicles and EVs and you should understand these differences to make you a safe EV driver
* Always follow company and manufacturer procedures when parking and charging an EV

# Driver’s discussion questions

# Were you aware that EVs have instantaneous acceleration and no gear change delays?

# Have you heard of one pedal driving and that it can be overridden in emergency situations?

# Are you aware that EVs are very quiet and that other road users have no prior warning of an EV being close by?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Meeting Conducted By | Date | Comments |
|  |  |  |

**Attendees**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Signature** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |