

# ROAD RULES



## Using Mobile Phones and Visual Display Units

**On 30 November 2009, there will be some changes to the road rules about using mobile phones and visual display units.**

From 1 February 2010, the monetary penalty for illegally using a mobile phone while driving will increase from \$110 to \$300. This is in addition to the increase in the demerit point penalty, from 2 to 3 points that came into effect in November 2009.

### Mobile phones

Using a mobile phone while driving is banned except to make or receive a phone call provided the phone:

- is secured in a commercially designed holder fixed to the vehicle; or
- can be operated by the driver without touching any part of the phone.

All other functions (including video calls, texting and emailing) are prohibited.

Holding the phone (whether or not engaged in a phone call) is also prohibited. *'Holding'* includes resting the mobile on the driver's lap, or between the chin and shoulder or passing the phone to a passenger.

### Penalty

The demerit point penalty for using a mobile phone whilst driving will increase from 2 to 3 demerit points on 30 November 2009. From 1 February 2010, the monetary penalty for illegally using a mobile phone while driving will increase from \$110 to \$300.

### Visual display units (VDUs)

A driver must not drive a vehicle that has a television receiver or a visual display unit (VDU) operating if any part of the screen is visible to the driver or is likely to distract another driver.

# Using Mobile Phones and Visual Display Units

A driver can use a driver's aid such as a navigation device but it must be an integrated part of the vehicle design, or secured in a commercially designed holder, which is fixed to the vehicle.

## Exemptions

The rule relating to securing visual display units does not apply to motorcycles, if the VDU is a driver's aid.

## Road safety reasons

Using a mobile phone or a visual display unit as you drive is distracting and creates dangerous situations that could be fatal.

The risk of being involved in a crash increases by as much as four times, when using a mobile phone as you drive, and if you are texting the risk of crashing increases to 23 times.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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