

# EMERGENCY SERVICES DRIVING STANDARD



## **Announcement by RSA to abolish fees for ESDS Assessments and Certification**

At a recent RSA Management Team meeting, it was decided that the ESDS Certification and Assessment Fees (but not ESDS Theory Test) be waived for ESDS Customers.

***We are therefore setting out that any ESDS certifications or assessments applied for from 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016 onwards are now not payable. Theory test fees continue to be payable. This applies to all ESDS customers (ADI's, ESDS Panel Organisations, and ESDS Phase 2 organisations).***

As an organisation the Road Safety Authority regards the education and training of Emergency Service Drivers as a vitally important part of road safety and considers the ESDS initiative as a significant and extremely worthwhile contribution to Road Safety in line with commitments to the Government Road Safety Strategy 2013-2020.

The move is also designed to strengthen the already strong support that ESDS is gaining among Emergency Services organisations.

The fees as existed were identified by a minority of Emergency Service organisations as a pervasive obstacle to actively participating and to this end we look forward to their engagement in the initiative shortly.

This Emergency Services Driving Standard aims to develop and sustain a spirit of cooperation, caution and courtesy in emergency service drivers. Through this standard Emergency Service drivers should aim to achieve an excellent standard of driving that acts as an example to other road users.

This was also identified as a key action point for delivery under the Government Road Safety Strategy 2013-2020.



**Action  
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- Develop an Emergency Services Driving Standard and Syllabus for front line personnel required to drive emergency vehicles.

**Action  
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- Develop, introduce and oversee the implementation of a driving standard, training syllabus and assessment process for emergency service drivers, and maintain a register of qualified drivers.

The Road Safety Authority note that participating Emergency Service organisations are taking responsibility to improve road safety, it makes sound sense to engage with and implement ESDS and this holistic approach may bring benefits also in other areas, as safety is closely linked to quality, customer service, efficiency, environmental programmes and becoming more efficient.