

New call for fleets to make ESC compulsory



ESC is now standard on many fleet cars, including the Mondeo

Arval is making electronic stability control (ESC) standard on all vehicles within its company car choice list.

It says that all fleets should follow suit.

"Around 40% of fatal road accidents are a result of skidding and studies show that ESC could dramatically reduce this," said Arval fleet manager, Tracey Young.

"The benefits are broad as ESC does not just make drivers safer, it also helps fleets to meet their ongoing duty-of-care responsibilities and reduce their accident costs.

"With this in mind, we believe that fleets should be making the technology a standard requirement when selecting vehicles."

David Fulker, head of UK and Ireland marketing at Bosch Auto-

motive, also believes that every company car should be fitted with the technology.

"If more fleets ensured that car choice is restricted to vehicles with ESC, we would see an immediate improvement to the safety of company car drivers and other road users and our roads would be less dangerous," he said.

"Arval ought to be congratulated for taking this step."

Motability addition



Ssangyong's latest range of cars has been approved for sale under the Motability Scheme.

Paul Williams, managing director of Ssangyong distributor Koelliker UK, said: "Ssangyong has been approved on the scheme before but it really wasn't given the focus it deserved.

"Our cars - particularly the Rodius - are potentially very attractive to Motability Scheme buyers, and our new pricing means that sensible deposit levels can be offered.

"Motability accounts for a

Leasedrive Velo in £80m buyout

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Leasedrive Velo, which sits at number 20 in the FN50 list of the UK's top leasing companies, has been bought by its senior management team in an £80m deal.

A new company has been formed, Leasedrive Velo Group, which will manage the 17,800 vehicles currently on its books.

The senior management team remains the same, with Roger

became the majority stakeholder following the merger of Lease-drive with Velo at the beginning of 2007, has been keen to sell its interest for some time.

"The merger between Lease-drive and Velo demonstrated the strength of combining two high-quality mid-sized players to create a market leader," said Lyceum partner Dan Adler. "Now the company has consolidated and established its market position, it is time to move to the next stage

John Lewis Partnership and Eli Lilly among its clients, said its focus would be on "driving further growth in the contract hire and fleet management services division of the company, as well as continuing the expansion of the significant short and mid-term rental business".

It plans for the company's current £62m turnover to increase by more than a third during the next two years.

Kevan Leggett, managing

IN BRIEF

Audi A4 tops

Comparecontracthire.com has revealed the top five most popular cars with small fleets that have visited its site and bought a car over the past two months. Audi was the most popular, with the A4 2.0D. Second was BMW and its 320D, while the Mazda6 appeared at number three.

Volkswagen up

The Volkswagen Group now holds third place in global vehicle sales ranking. Rival Ford had to settle for fourth position. "We are delighted," said Dr Martin Winterkorn, chairman of the board of management. "This shows we are on the right track with our ever-stronger international presence and, above all, our product program."

Doctors' orders

A doctors' surgery in central London is using a pay-as-you-go car club instead of private cars. All 15 doctors at the James Wigg Practice in Camden no longer use their private