

Driverless cars

The DfT approach to regulations

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Connected & Autonomous Vehicles

The Government's aim is to encourage testing of autonomous vehicles in UK – to become the place to test.

At a CAV workshop the presenter from the CCAV (A DfT funded organisation) said:

“We are in a non-regulatory regime for driverless vehicles”

What does that mean?

Pathway to Driverless Cars

Feb 2015 Review by DfT concluded:

“Real-world testing of automated technologies is possible in the UK today, providing a test driver is present and takes responsibility for the safe operation of the vehicle; and that the vehicle can be used compatibly with road traffic law.”

A Code of Practice to promote safety during testing phase was published in 2015

Code of Practice

- Non-Statutory, to promote responsible testing
- Guidelines and recommendations for measures to maintain safety during testing phase
- Applies to
 - testing on public roads or places
 - all types of automated vehicles

Definitions of automation

Highly automated vehicle is one in which a driver is required to be present and can take manual control at any time. However in certain situations, the vehicle can offer an automated mode which allows the driver to 'disengage' from the driving task and undertake other tasks.

Fully automated vehicle is one in which a driver is not necessary. The vehicle is designed to be capable of safely completing journeys without the need for a driver in all traffic, road and weather conditions that can be managed by a competent human driver.

A non-regulatory regime ?

What does it mean?

Compliance with existing regulations and legislation:

- Construction and use regulations 1986 as amended
- Obedience to all traffic laws – Highway Code
- Appropriate Training Driving Licence, Insurance, MOT

Other aspects in Code of Practice

- Conduct risk analysis of proposed tests
- Data recording device installed (to record various data)
- Data protection of personal information
- Cyber security
- Process for transition between modes
- Failure warning
- Engage with LAs on any infrastructure requirements
- Public engagement – PR & media strategy