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Our Ref: V4/19

To: All Branches

Dear Colleagues,

Electric Vehicle - (Acoustic Vehicle Alert Systems (AVAS) Safety Systems) – Update to LTB532/19:

Further to the issue of LTB532/19 there appears to be some confusion over AVAS system fitting requirements for new electric vehicle models and new electric vehicles based on existing models. Having spoken further to Royal Mail Senior Fleet Engineers this is to clarify the position as it's understood.

The AVAS legal requirement for 'New Electric Vehicle Models', that being models of a new design which are type approved from July this year will require AVAS fitted from new when they come off the production line and before they are registered and go on the road so to speak.

As for 'Existing Models' that is vehicles which are already type approved and are in production - for example models on the road with different power plants - e.g., with a petrol or diesel engine - are not subject to this requirement as they have type approval for electric propulsion prior to July this year.

Therefore existing models which are in current production (e.g., the Peugeot Partner and Mercedes Vito) do not have to be fitted with an AVAS system from new.

This changes from July 2021 when all new Electric Vehicle Registrations (new and existing models and designs) will all need AVAS to be fitted before going on the road and into service.

There is currently no requirement within the EU directive to retrofit AVAS systems but following discussions between Royal Mail Fleet, the Royal Mail National Road Safety Manager and the CWU Health, Safety and Environment Department, plus the fitting, joint testing and evaluation of an AVAS system, fitted to an existing Royal Mail electric vehicle, Royal Mail Fleet are proposing to retro-fit the AVAS system to all of its in service Royal Mail electric vehicles at the earliest opportunity as part of a national programme.

Yours sincerely



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