

RTG SCOOPS BTW AWARD FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

Radio Taxis Group has been announced as the winner of the Business Travel World's prestigious Business Road Service award for the second year in succession. The Group received the prize for the launch of its BioFuel.

This is the third award that Radio Taxis has received since the launch of the fuel in August 2007, following its acceptance of the ITM Icarus Environmental Award and the Green Awards' Best PR Campaign (Under £100,000) last year. Radio Taxis was also commended for its entry in the 'Private Sector Innovation' category at the Green Fleet Awards in 2007.

Commenting on the news, Chairman Geoffrey Riesel said: "This award reiterates the reputation we have built as an environmental pioneer. Radio Taxis Group was the first taxi company to make the decision to become CarbonNeutral and the first to invest in a bio-fuel. It is extremely pleasing to be recognised for all of our hard work and demonstrates that being green really does pay dividends."

"Radio Taxis are proud of what we have achieved and are committed to continuing to find ways to manage our impact on the environment. These initiatives are just the start, in the future we will be looking to introduce to make our business even greener and even cleaner."

Betty Low, Editor of Business Travel World and the panel judges said: "Radio Taxis Group reflect the best in the industry, a credit to the high standards these awards meet year after year. The Business Travel World Awards team would like to congratulate them and all other winners on their victory."



WHAT DID THE ROMANS EVER DO FOR US?

by Jim Rainbird



Not just a quote from Monty Python's classic film 'The Life of Brian'. Do you know what they really did during the formative years of this great city?

Why is London here?

How has it developed over its 2000 year history? How did our capital city evolve from the Roman port of Londinium into the world's most important financial centre and one of its greatest tourist attractions?

Once you've got the answers to these and many more questions, why not tell others – and actually get paid to do it!

The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, Spring Cabguide Course starts on Monday 25th February. It will equip you with sufficient knowledge to conduct an informative and entertaining guided taxi tour of all the major places of interest (and some lesser known ones!) in central London.

Topics covered include:-

- * History and development of the City of London and Westminster.
- * Architectural London
- * London's 'oddities'.
- * The story of the River Thames, its docks, and their joint impact on London as a trading giant.
- * Palaces, Royalty & Pageantry.
- * Prisons, Asylums & Hospitals. How they helped shape London.
- * Cab Trade history.
- * Customer care and ideas for a tour.

The course is fully accredited by City University and co-ordinated by Graham Woodhouse – a licensed London taxi driver and a Qualified City of London Guide Lecturer. All successful candidates receive the Qualified Taxi Guide badge (pictured) along with the City University Accreditation Statement.

I did the course some years ago and loved it. It can be beneficial in various ways – as a possible source of extra income and by waking up the sleeping 'grey matter' by expanding upon your K.O.L. and supplying you with new skills.

For enrolment or further details please contact the course co-ordinator:-
Graham Woodhouse - Tel: 07968 791 117 email: info@cabguide.com

NEW MEASURES TO IMPROVE STRETCH LIMO SAFETY

The first part of a new package of measures to help improve the safe operation of stretched limousines and keep unlawful vehicles off the road has been unveiled by Road Safety Minister Jim Fitzpatrick. New guidance will sit alongside new stringent pre-registration checks coming into force in the summer to make sure stretched limousines with more than eight passenger seats meet GB safety and environmental standards.

Jim Fitzpatrick said: "The popularity of stretched limousines has soared in Britain and we are determined to ensure that they are used safely. We all know that limousines are great for parties, but it is important that these vehicles meet the required construction standards and are properly licensed and registered.

"This new guidance will help operators to ensure that their vehicles can lawfully be used on our roads. In the summer we will also be introducing a strict pre-registration check to help make sure unsafe stretched limos are kept off our roads."

The new guidance - developed after seeking the views of the limousine industry - details the safety, registration and licensing requirements needed to be met before passengers can lawfully be carried. The new pre-registration safety inspection will ensure that new larger limousines comply with GB construction standards. Only vehicles that meet strict requirements on weights, dimensions,

turning circle, seating, brakes, tyres, doors, lamps and reflectors and glazing will be able to pass the inspection.

The publication of the guidance comes as the Government tightens the law around Private Hire Vehicle licensing. It is now law that owners of vehicles with up to eight passenger seats - including limousines - which were previously considered exempt from PHV licensing under the "contract exemption" must be licensed as a PHV.

A limousine with more than 8 passenger seats is required to have a Certificate of Initial Fitness (COIF) if it is to be used on the road to convey paying passengers commercially. These limousines are classed as Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) and their operators require a PSV Operator's licence (O-licence) from the Traffic Commissioners. The new pre-registration check, due to come into force on 1 June 2008, will ensure vehicles with more than eight passenger seats without a COIF cannot be registered without meeting required safety and environmental standards. The check will be carried out by the Vehicle & Operator Services Agency (VOSA). At the same time the DfT will tighten the Single Vehicle Approval (SVA) scheme to withdraw the option to self-declare that a vehicle will not be used to carry more than eight seated passengers.

