

## **Health and Safety Advice Sheet Number 2**

### **Use of Mobile Phones / Communication Equipment**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2003 it will be an offence for motorists to use hand held mobile phones, and other mobile communication equipment, whilst driving.

Motorist's will be fined £30 if caught driving while using a hand held mobile phone or any other form of interactive data transfer equipment such as PDA's. The £30 fixed penalty can be increased to a maximum of £1000, (£2500 for drivers of lorries and buses) if dealt with in the magistrate's court.

The government is planning to introduce legislation during 2004 making this offence endorseable, placing 3 penalty points on a drivers license for each offence.

Employers may also be prosecuted if they require their employee to use a hand-held phone while driving.

Additionally, drivers using hands-free mobile phones, and other mobile communication equipment risk prosecution if they fail to maintain proper control of their vehicle or drive carelessly or dangerously. Several Police authorities have indicated that they intend to rigorously enforce the new law for hand-held equipment and the existing law for hands-free equipment.

SWS staff are advised to check on the policy and procedures of their parent organizations regarding this issue.