



Filming on the Move

The following applies to public roads/places only. Some locations may not be a public road but still fall under Road Traffic Act legislation because they are public places. If you are on private land which is not open to the public or a Traffic Management Order is in force, then Road Traffic legislation does not apply.

Filming should only be completed from vehicles that are made or adapted for such purposes. The Metropolitan Police do not condone filming from front platforms or with bonnet mounted cameras unless the vehicles have the appropriate certification from the Vehicle and Operator Standards Agency (VOSA). Productions should speak to the Metropolitan Police Film Unit if they have alternative ideas.

Productions can film from inside a vehicle as long as the camera person is restrained with suitable straps and to suitable load-bearing anchorage points. Equipment should be secured with different straps for the camera operator to prevent the camera from becoming a dangerous projectile. All doors, including tailgates are to be secured in the closed position. Productions could of course film from a convertible, roof mounted (remote controlled camera rig) or through open windows where equipment does not protrude further than the width of the vehicle.

All lights and original number plates must be clearly visible. All vehicles must be of a roadworthy condition and comply with legislation when driving on the road. Driving at slow speeds can in some cases be as much a danger as driving too fast. Any use of tracking, low loader or 'A' frame vehicles must be referred to the Metropolitan Police Film Unit with the identified route. The Metropolitan Police Film Unit can not make any decisions until the production identify the exact roads (start/end junction points) they wish to film. Any filming on roads over 30 mph will require a police presence. The type of road and its layout will dictate what level of police presence will be required to manage the associated risks. The maximum recommended speed when using low loaders on a roads where the public have general access, with persons standing on the rear, not within a secure area (inside another vehicle or sitting and strapped in), is about 35 mph. This also applies to tracking shots where the cameraperson is on the back of the tracking vehicle and not inside the tracking vehicle. A minimum speed is about 20 mph depending on the road being used. Any use of the Strategic Network will be with the agreement of Transport for London (TfL).

Front platforms/bonnet camera mounts and filming out of open doors/tailgates could fall under Section 40A of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (as inserted by the Road Traffic Act 1991) creating the offence of using a motor vehicle in a dangerous condition or Regulation 100 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 which provides for the maintenance and use of vehicles so that no danger is caused. Extracts from the legislation are below.

Offence: **Section 40A of the Road Traffic Act 1988.**

40A A person is guilty of an offence if he uses or causes or permits another to use, a motor vehicle or trailer on a road when:

- (a) the condition of the motor vehicle or trailer, or of its accessories or equipment, or
- (b) the purpose for which it is used, or
- (c) the number of passengers carried by it, or the manner in which they are carried, or
- (d) the weight, position or distribution of its load, or the manner in which it is secured,

is such that the use of the motor vehicle or trailer involves a danger of injury to any person.

Offence: **Regulation 100 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.**

100(2) The load carried by a motor vehicle or trailer shall at all times be so secured, if necessary by physical restraint other than its own weight, and be in such a position, that neither danger nor nuisance is likely to be caused to any person or property by reason of the load or any part thereof falling or being blown from the vehicle or by reason of any other movement of the load or any part thereof in relation to the vehicle.