

Coach firm fined over drivers' hours

A Middlesex coach company has been fined £137,500 after being found guilty of abusing drivers' hour's regulations. BM Coach and Rental was found guilty at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court of 131 drivers' hours offences after an investigation by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) in summer 2010. It was also ordered to pay £35,000 in costs. In addition, 27 of the company's drivers pleaded guilty to drivers' hours offences, receiving fines totalling £7,228 plus £2,700 costs. Acting on a tip-off, VOSA officers visited BM's premises in Hayes and seized documents including time sheets, pay records and digital tachograph data. VOSA's analysis of the documents and digital data showed that drivers were not recording all journeys. Time sheets and diary records produced by the company confirmed there had been journeys where no driver's hours were recorded. Alex Fiddes, VOSA's operations director, commented: "Drivers' hours regulations exist to make sure passengers and other road users are safe and to ensure fair competition between companies. Tired drivers are dangerous drivers and this case demonstrates that those operators who do not make sure that their drivers have had adequate rest could find themselves in court facing substantial fines."

- [VOSA news release](#). [Bus and Coach.com](#).