

## BROKERS' MONTHLY – APRIL 2009

### **Brush up your French Motoring Law**

Head of motor insurance at confused.com, Will Thomas, offers motorists a springtime reminder to brush up on the different rules and regulations in place across the Channel as many head off for a break despite the recession. "With ferry travel going through a renaissance, holidaymakers may consider packing up their car and taking it to France, but should note that in recent years, over a 1,000 hidden speed cameras have been installed and police have stepped up random breath tests. The legal alcohol limit is 50mg in every 100ml of blood compared to 80mg in the UK and if drivers are found to be over the limit, they face either having their licences confiscated or time in prison. Being caught speeding could result in a heavy on-the-spot fine.

"One of the most common ways to fall foul of the law occurs when passing through a village on a fast country road where the speed limit can drop from 90kmh to 50kmh with only the sign showing the name of the village as warning. Since July 2008, it has been illegal not to carry a high-visibility vest as well as a warning triangle. The jacket needs to be worn by the driver when they get out of the car in the event of an accident or breakdown and the triangle needs to be placed at least 30 metres from the vehicle. A failure to comply with these rules could result in an on-the-spot fine of between €90 and €135."

And what about the Green Card of yore? Is it still necessary? "Being in possession of a Green Card may no longer be a legal requirement for driving within the EU but could be useful in proving cover," concludes Will Thomas.