

## **COMFORTDELGRO DRIVING CENTRE TO INSTALL SHIELDS IN ALL TRAINING CARS**

16 June 2020 – Want to learn how to drive but worried about being in that confined space with the instructor in the middle of a global pandemic? Fear not. ComfortDelGro Driving Centre (CDC) will be installing shields in all of its training cars to provide both learners and trainers with an added level of assurance.

All 163 training cars in the fleet will be installed with the “Instructor Coaching Shield”, in anticipation of Phase 2 of reopening.

Made of a 0.8mm transparent, soft plastic material that is about 80cm wide x 80cm long, the shield is secured to the inner roofing of the vehicle by a strong velcro strip so that it hangs between the two front seats. It does not extend all the way to the front so that the driving instructor is able to reach over to the steering wheel or the handbrake when needed through the gap. The shield does not obstruct the learner’s nor the instructor’s view of the side mirrors. Even at night, visibility will be not affected.

Mr Lim Tien Hock, CEO of ComfortDelGro Driving Centre, said: “We are looking forward to resuming operations as soon as we are given the green light. Safety is one of our topmost priorities especially since practical lessons are carried out in the confined space of a training vehicle. By installing the Instructor Coaching Shield in our training cars, we hope to create a safe and conducive environment for both our instructors and learners so that they have peace of mind during training.”

Apart from the Instructor Coaching Shield, all learners will be required to don on face masks during practical lessons that last about 100 minutes each. CDC driving instructors will also be required to mask up, put on goggles and wind down the windows when they are training the learners. All training cars, including the shield, will be disinfected after each training.

Assistant Chief Instructor, Mr Andree Ezra Irwan Aaputra is more than happy to don the extra protective gear. He said: "The mask and the goggles, as well as the Instructor Coaching Shield will provide added protection for my learners and I so that we can talk freely during lessons."

Class 3 learner, Mr Justin Fong, is looking forward to resuming practical lessons with CDC soon. The 26-year-old software engineer, who had to stop lessons when the circuit breaker period began, will need to attend another six to eight practical lessons at CDC before the test.

He said: "Knowing that CDC is installing a shield in the training car gives me greater confidence as the shield will provide a physical barrier that allows me to communicate with the instructor without worrying about droplets. The goggles that the instructors wear will be good too as they come into contact with multiple learners daily. So, these additional safeguards will be helpful when lessons resume."

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## **Background**

ComfortDelGro is one of the world's largest land transport companies with a total fleet size of over 41,600 buses, taxis and rental vehicles. We also run 83km of light and heavy rail networks in Singapore. Our global operations span seven countries – Singapore, Australia, China, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Vietnam and Malaysia.

With over 250 cars and bikes as well as over 300 qualified instructors, ComfortDelGro Driving Centre helps over 40,000 learners graduate yearly. ComfortDelGro Driving Centre's comprehensive curriculum is structured to ensure that learners acquire not just technical knowledge, but sound judgement and a strong sense of social responsibility.