



VROS

Video Registration Unmarked Surveillance is a division within the traffic police of the Netherlands Police Agency. This division patrols 2200 km of motorway with 11 unmarked surveillance cars with video equipment.

TOP TEN ANNOYANCE

Offenders are stopped if they violate the rules listed among the so-called 'Top ten Annoyances' to other drivers.

This list of the top ten annoyances was developed on the basis of a questionnaire distributed at a Dutch motor show.

Tailgating, unnecessary use of the left-hand lane, and overtaking on the inside all come high on this list.

PROCEDURE

Tackling the top ten annoyances has various effects. We are seen to be serving the "customer", and at the same time this approach reduces the causes of accidents. The police officers drive at normal speed, mingling with the other traffic. The video equipment records constantly. If the officers note one or more offences, they stop the offender.

They choose a safe stopping place (such as a parking area, petrol station or motorway-exit). They will not normally stop in the hard shoulder. The offender is invited to take a seat in the front of the police car.

The driver of the police car proceeds with the interview. He shows the offender the video-footage of his/her driving, and explains why he/she will be fined. The officer who handled the first contact with the offender already has his/her driving licence, and notes the personal particulars. At the end of the interview, the offender's licence is handed back, along with the

ticket and a brochure about VROS and the Top Ten Annoyances. In some cases the police may confiscate the driving licence: driving at 50 km or more above the speed limit, deliberately endangering other drivers and alcohol abuse are all reasons for losing one's driving licence. Another possibility open to the police is to refer the offender to sit the driving test again. If the driver fails the test, his/her driving licence is no longer valid.

GOALS OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Stop the offender, confront him with the video recording of his own behaviour, and educate the offender in a personal interview.

RESULTS

An immediate stop is put to the offence(s) and the endangering of other road users, and there is better understanding of the reasons for the fine. The impact is greater than if the offender is fined without being stopped.

OVERALL GOAL

To effect a positive change in drivers' behaviour in traffic and improve road safety.

AFTER THE TALK

A video recording will be shown which demonstrates most aspects of this video surveillance, such as the way the surveillance cars drive among the normal traffic and how the offences are recorded. This video covers: tailgating, sudden change of lane without indicating, and handheld telephoning; the stopping procedure, the confrontation, the educative interview and handing over the brochure.