

A few years ago, DVN [reported](#) on the thorny, knotty problems involved with rejiggering the long-established chain of automotive liability to cater for AVs.



Now the UK Government is taking solid steps to do just that. The UK VTAB ( [Vehicle Technology and Aviation Bill](#) ) contains proposals for how insurance should work for self-driving cars. Key point: insurance for AVs will have to cover the full range of car control, from manual/human to autonomous/self-drive, and insurance companies would serve as proxies for automakers. A UK Government statement explains this would mean "innocent victims involved in a collision with an automated vehicle will have quick and easy access to compensation".

Also stipulated are situations wherein the owner will be at fault, even if the car is driving autonomously at the time of the crash. For example, if the owner has modified the vehicle's software or has failed to install crucial updates when their insurance policy directs them to, they could be liable for damages.

The VTAB also provides for bolstering the rise in popularity of EVs by increasing the number of charging stations—existing petrol stations and businesses with large car parks or parkades, like supermarkets, would be encouraged to provide charging facilities—and requiring charge station owners to make it easy to know their location, operational hours, cost, payment methods, charging availability (different automakers use different charging connectors) and, in real time, whether a charging stall is available or in use.