



## ROAD TRANSPORT FORUM



### The Second Annual Report of the Low Carbon Truck trial

Two years ago, the Department of Transport, the Office for Low Emissions and Innovate UK co-funded a new Low Carbon Truck trial in order to pump prime procurement of low emission HGV technologies. The funds were directed mainly towards dual fuel vehicles, some gas vehicles and some running on used cooking oil.

The trial was aimed at commercial vehicle operators to enable them to learn about alternative fuel vehicles and also low carbon vehicle producers to learn about new ways to develop their products.

The second annual report published in July 2015 has generated a body of data that is informing government policy and industry investment for potential emission reductions, fuel savings and operational benefits.

The trial has improvements in areas such as:

- Noise and Performance
- CO2 and Air Quality Emissions – savings of around 12-16%

However, the data has also shown that dual-fuel gas vehicles increase the percentage of unburnt hydrocarbons, namely methane.

The views on the new gas vehicles have been split with drivers as they felt these new vehicles were not as straightforward as their diesel counterparts.

Nevertheless, they acknowledged that when the teething issues are ironed out they will be "great for saving money on fuel consumption and very good for reducing carbon footprint".



## How to keep on top of driver defects reporting

Reporting driver defects effectively should be a key part of your vehicle maintenance regime. More importantly your drivers should know which defects to look for.

85% of roadworthiness infringements, such as locked emergency exits and or missing break-glass hammers, could have been avoided if the driver does a simple walkaround routine.

By simply auditing your drivers regularly, it will keep you up to date on how well they're keeping on top of this important check.

Also, a simple reminder or re-education at toolbox talks are a simple way to prevent a prohibition or any further investigation.

## New online system significantly improves licensing services

The DVSA has announced that progress has been made with the new online operator licensing system as waiting times for digital applications will be reduced by 5 working days and fewer incomplete applications will be processed.



It also allows you to:

- make new applications online
- upload documents, including financial evidence electronically
- use navigation tools to help track progress of applications
- access advice and guidance

Further improvements have been made to speed up time it takes staff working on behalf of the traffic commissioner to deal with applications

The Companies Record has been linked with the new online services. This will allow information to be cross referenced further assisting the traffic commissioner in making sure operators are treated fairly and information on the application is correct.

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