

# Freight Best Practice



## SmartWay International Conference

Richard Elviss

Freight Best Practice Programme Manager



# **‘Faber Maunsell appointed to run Freight Best Practice for DfT’**

9<sup>th</sup> June 2005

Leading transport consultancy, Faber Maunsell, have been awarded a three year contract to manage the Freight Best Practice programme. The appointment was made by the Department for Transport, which funds the Programme.....

## ‘Faber Maunsell re-appointed to run Freight Best Practice for further 3 years’

September 2008

Faber Maunsell, the internationally renowned transport, engineering and environmental consultancy, will continue to run the Department for Transport’s Freight Best Practice programme for another 3 years after successfully winning a competitive tender.

The new contract for the management and delivery of the Freight Best Practice programme is part of the Sustainable Distribution Fund (SDF). Announcing recently an increase in funding for the SDF, Transport Minister Jim Fitzpatrick said ***‘Freight Best Practice and smarter driving techniques have already helped companies make real savings. We are making these savings more widely available so that more businesses can benefit’***.

---

# Freight Best Practice History

- The programme has been in existence in one form or another for over a decade
- Main aim to promote Best Practice techniques within the UK freight industry by:
  - Reducing fuel use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - Maximise vehicle utilisation
- With the growing emphasis of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions worldwide the original aims have been refined and extended to other modes

# Programme Objectives

- Saving CO<sub>2</sub>
- Improving Operational efficiency
- Saving Fuel (approx 30% of operators' costs)
- Saving industry money
- Providing Best Practice industry information
- Improving driver safety



**Save Fuel  
Save CO<sub>2</sub>**

www.freightbestpractice.org.uk  
Hotline: 0845 877 0 877  
info@freightbestpractice.org.uk

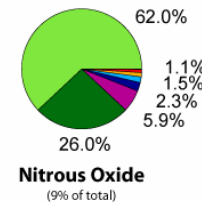
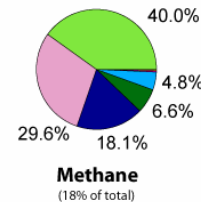
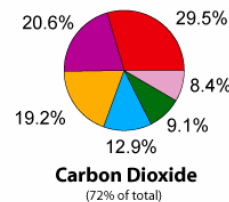
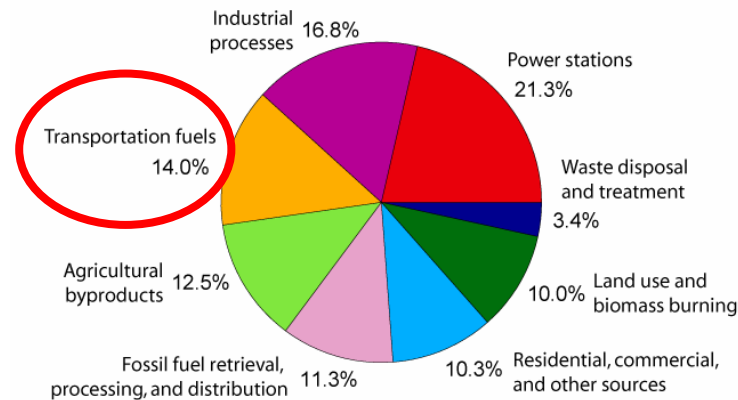
Department for  
**Transport**

Find out how to improve your fleet efficiency

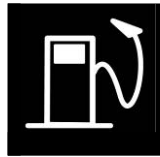
# → Freight Best Practice

- Freight Best Practice can help to investigate and realise reductions of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by saving fuel and encouraging an efficient operation
- A reduction in fuel will save money and minimise carbon footprint
- Collectively, we can reduce our industry's emissions

**Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector**



## Programme Categories



Saving Fuel



Developing Skills



Equipment & Systems



Operational Efficiency



Performance Management



Multi-modal



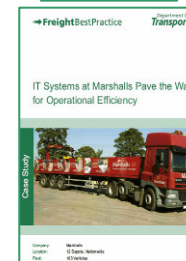
DVD



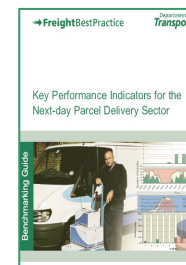
CD



Pocket Guides



Case Studies



Best Practice Guides



**How can**

→ **Freight Best Practice**

**Help?**

## Publications

Faber Maunsell developed and launched a complete new brand identity and re-positioned the programme

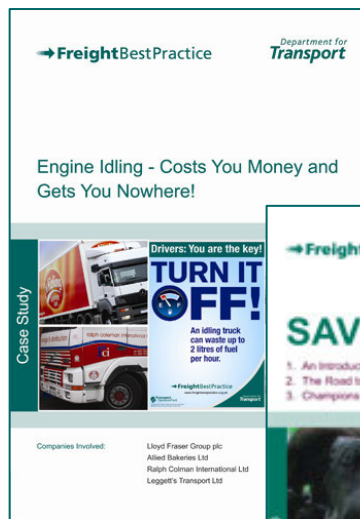


## Publications

Freight Best Practice now has a comprehensive range of Guides, Benchmarking Guides, Case Studies, Visual Aids, Reports and Interactive Tools which cover the areas of: Saving Fuel, Developing Skills, Equipment & Systems, Operational Efficiency, Performance Management and Multi-modal operations

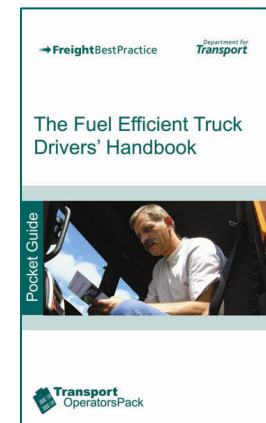
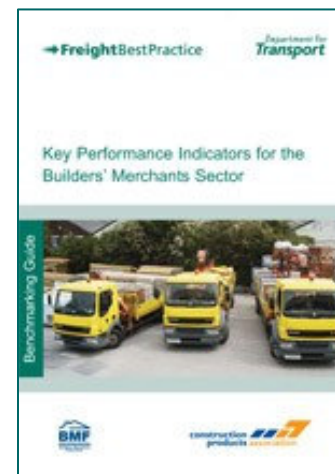
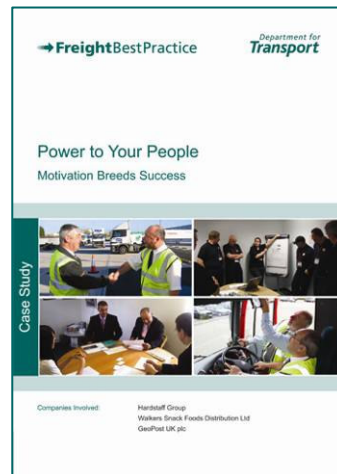
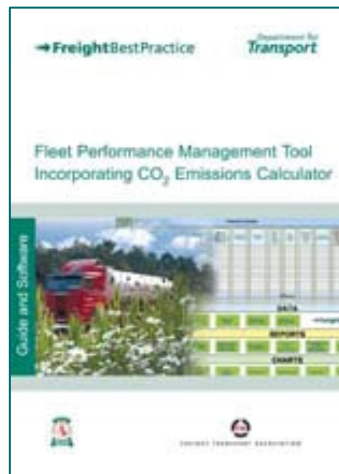
### All Are FREE!!

- Transport Operators' Pack
- 5 Saving Fuel
- 7 Developing Skills
- 8 Equipment & Systems
- 4 Operational Efficiency
- 10 Performance Management
- 2 Multi-modal
- 25 Case Studies
- 10 Interactive Tools
- 2 Visual Aids
- 8 Research Reports



## Key Useful Guides

- Fleet Performance Management Tool with CO<sub>2</sub> Calculator
- Power to Your People
- The Fuel Efficient Truck Driver's Handbook
- Introduction to Job Costing for Road Freight Operations
- In-fleet trials of Fuel Saving Interventions
- Key Performance Indicators for various road freight sectors
- Various case studies



# The Transport Operators' Pack

*The Transport Operators' Pack (TOP) provides excellent practical 'every day' support material to help fleet operators implement best practice in the workplace*





# Transport Operators Pack

- Forms
- Checklist
- TOP Tips
- Posters
- Interactive Tools

## SAFED Vehicle safety checklist

This checklist is to be used during the SAFED Assessment process. It can also be used as a template for regular vehicle safety checks.

Candidate's Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Instructor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tick if the item is in working order, add N/A if not applicable, or indicate a defect in the appropriate box.

Vehicle Registration:		
1.	On approach, look to see how the vehicle is sitting and check for obvious fluid leaks	
2.	Engine oil/water/fuel/hydraulics - levels/leaks (inc. attachments)	
3.	Cab glass and mirrors - condition and security	
4.	Cab interior lights/warning devices (audible reversing alarm etc)	
5.	Driving controls/seat/seat belt - condition and security	
6.	Windscreen wipers and washers - operation and condition	
7.	Tachograph - time displayed/calibration/inspection due date	
8.	Tachograph/speedometer/speed limiter (check on road)	
9.	VED disc/O licence disc/valid VTG 6 - check displayed	
10.	In-cab height indicator - check displayed	
11.	Exhaust - condition and security (smoke check on road when warm)	
12.	Number plates and markers - security and condition	
13.	Brakes - warning devices/pressure/leaks - operation (check in yard)	
14.	Vehicle body/wings/sideguards/underrun bars - security and condition	
15.	Wheels and wheel nuts - security and condition	
16.	Tyres - inflation/damage/tread depth - condition	
17.	Load restraints and security of load (if applicable)	
18.	Lights - head/side/marker/tail/stop/indicators/reverse - operation and condition	
19.	Fifth wheel-locking device/steps/cat walk - security and condition	
20.	Air electrical/ABS/suzies - condition and security	
21.	ADR kit and fire extinguishers - condition, security and test dates	
22.	Demount twist locks and legs - security and condition	
23.	Tail lift - security, condition and operation	

Candidate's signature (upon completion of safety check): \_\_\_\_\_  
Instructor's signature (upon completion of safety check): \_\_\_\_\_

You must not use a vehicle unless you are completely satisfied that it is safe and fit to operate on, and off, public roads

**REMEMBER: IF A SEAT BELT IS FITTED,  
IT MUST BE WORN**

## Programme Benefits

- **Support** in implementing effective fleet efficiency measures
- **Support** in implementing fuel management initiatives
- Improved **communication** with staff
- **Multimedia** – a variety of interactive and original resources to capture staff attention
- **Editable/bespoke capabilities** – ability to tailor the programme to your requirements
- Assists informed **decision making**
- Everything in **one place** – easily accessible
- **Reusable** material – can be utilised time and time again

A screenshot of a 'Driver Debrief Sheet' form. It includes fields for 'Date', 'Vehicle Registration/Reference', and 'Driver Name/Number'. There are sections for 'Start Time', 'Finish Time', 'Total Hours Worked', 'Odometer Start', 'Odometer Finish', 'Approx Empty Mileage', 'Fuel On Site (litres)', and 'Fuel Off Site (litres)'. There are also checkboxes for 'Compliance and Maintenance' (Overloads, Accident, Prohibition) and 'Day Summary' (Number of Trips, Units Carried, No. Deliveries, No. Collections, Late Deliveries, Damages, Complaints, No. Vehicle Defects). The 'Transport OperatorsPack' logo and website URL are at the bottom left, and 'April 2007, Release 1' is at the bottom right.

## Posters

To support fuel management and safety campaigns and are aimed at both drivers and office staff. These are designed to be used in all areas of the operation and can be used to emphasise key messages during a particular period



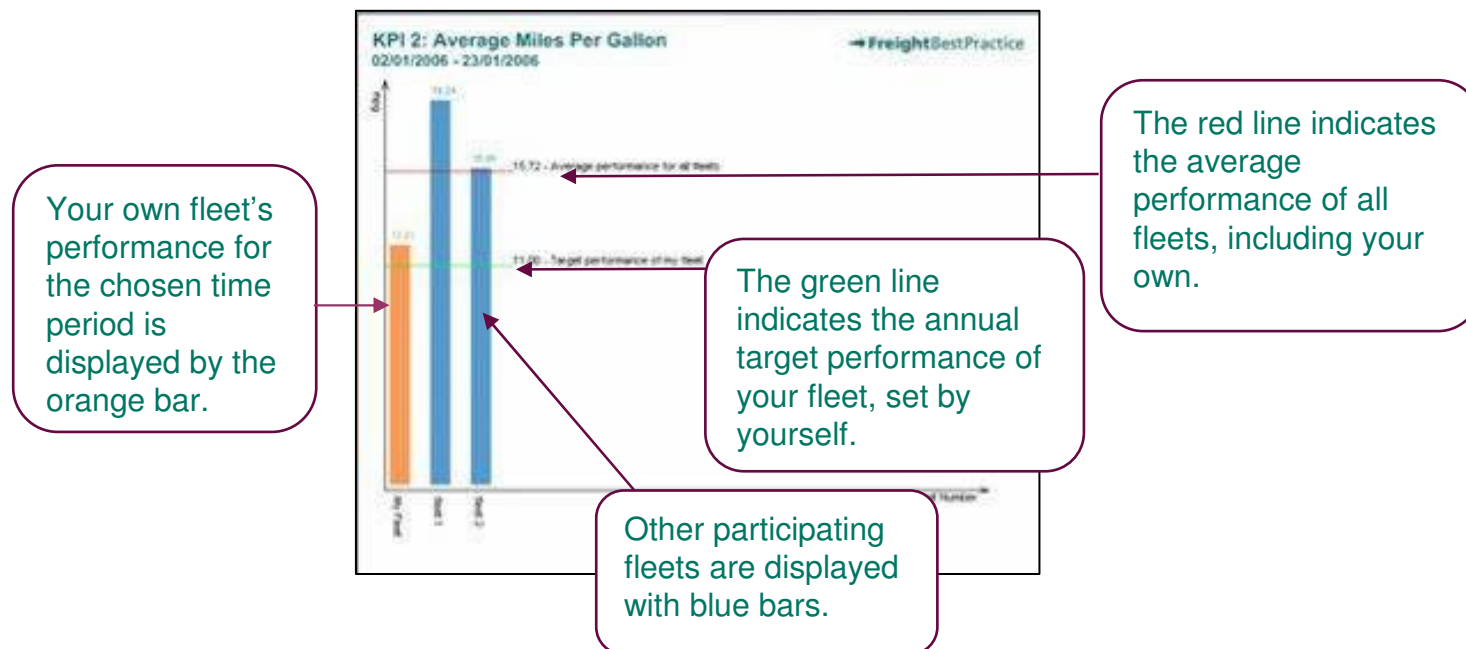
By displaying the posters on a staged roll-out basis topical themes can be supported as they are introduced through your regular driver briefing sessions

The printed posters are designed in A3. They can also easily be downloaded from the Freight Best Practice website and printed as and when required



## Interactive Tools

Development of a suite of practical tools enabling operators to monitor, manage and reduce fuel use and carbon emissions



## Fleet Performance Management Tool

The programme's **Fleet Performance Management Tool** allows operators to monitor and target their CO<sub>2</sub>. The tool has received national industry critical acclaim and widespread publicity and has been scored at **9 out of 10** by Commercial Motor

### THE BOTTOM LINE...

#### Costs:

It's free. Gratis. Yours for nothing. Take it, profit from it, and don't bitch so much about the government having it in for the haulage sector next time around, OK?

#### Training:

None offered, none needed – all you need is to be able to use Microsoft Excel.

#### Technical support:

None. How much support do you need to click on a grid and enter a few figures?

#### Minimum system requirements:

Any PC running Microsoft Windows 95 or later and Excel 97 or later.



## → FreightBestPractice

Department for  
**Transport**

**Making the News...**  
February - May 2007  
FABER MAUNSELL | AECOM

# Fuel Ready Reckoner

This online tool enables you to quickly estimate how much fuel (and therefore money) you could save for various fuel saving techniques.

The results of the Fuel Ready Reckoner will produce the annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings per year for each vehicle

[www.fuelreadyreckoner.org.uk](http://www.fuelreadyreckoner.org.uk)

The screenshot shows the website for the Fuel Ready Reckoner. At the top, it features the Freight Best Practice logo and the Department for Transport logo. The main heading is "Fuel Ready Reckoner" with a fuel gauge icon. Below the heading is a navigation menu with links for Home, Instructions, My Fleet, Results, Questionnaire, and Contact Us. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a heading "Welcome to the Fuel Ready Reckoner" and contains introductory text and instructions on how to use the tool. The right column has a heading "Quick Savings" and provides information on how to get a quick idea of fuel savings. Below this is a section for "For More Information" and "Sources of Our Calculations". At the bottom of the page, there is a green box with the text "Use the Fuel Ready Reckoner Tool to plan for best use of Interventions". The footer includes a hotline number (0845 877 0 877), an email address (info@freightbestpractice.org.uk), and links to Terms & Conditions & Copyright and Contact Us.

# Job Costing Tool & Aerodynamic Tool



English Welsh(Cymraeg)

**FreightBestPractice** Department for Transport Login Register

Home Publications Role Specific Benchmarking Resource Centre News Events Useful Contacts DfT

Search... GO Bookmark this page

**Publications**

- Saving Fuel
- Developing Skills
- Equipment & Systems
- Operational Efficiency
- Performance Management
- Public Sector
- Case Studies
- Research Reports

Freight Best Practice is funded by the Department for Transport (DfT) and managed by Faber Maunsell Ltd to promote operational efficiency within freight operations in England.

Freight Best Practice offers FREE essential information for the freight industry covering topics such as saving fuel, developing skills, equipment and systems, operational efficiency and performance management.

All FREE materials are available to download from this site or can be ordered through the **Hotline** on 0845 877 0 877

**Student of the Year Award**

In association with Faber Maunsell Ltd, Freight Best Practice is inviting university students to enter our **Student of the Year** competition. The winner will receive £500 and a trophy which will be presented at the Logistics Research Network Conference 2008. The competition is open to all UK based university students, for more information please [download the leaflet](#) or email [studentoftheyear@freightbestpractice.org.uk](mailto:studentoftheyear@freightbestpractice.org.uk)

**Best Practice Video Clips**

Over the coming weeks you will be able to view a series of video clips from industry members including the Freight Ambassadors. These provide best practice advice for various aspects of your operation.

**Vehicle Maintenance**

*'A well maintained vehicle is a fuel efficient vehicle, so make sure you are on top of your service schedules.'*

**Maintenance Performance**

Period	Failed Inspections	Defects rectified in 24
1	100	100
2	60	100
3	100	100
4	100	100
5	0	100
6	100	100
7	100	100
8	100	100
9	0	100
10	100	100
11	100	100
12	100	100

English Welsh(Cymraeg)

**FreightBestPractice** **CludoNwyddau:ArferGorau** Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Assembly Government Login Register

Hafan Cyhoeddiadau Rôl Benodol Y Ganolfan Adnoddau Newyddion Digwyddiadau Cysylltiadau Defnyddiol Grwp y Cynulliad

Cwllfair... EWCH

**Cyhoeddiadau**

- Arbed Tanwydd
- Datblym Sgiliau
- Cyfarpar a Systemau
- Effeithlonwydd Gweithredol
- Rheoli Perfformiad
- Y Sector Cyhoeddus
- Adroddiadau Ymchwil

Ariennir **Cludo Nwyddau: Arfer Gorau** yng Nghymru gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'i reoli gan Faber Maunsell Ltd i hyrwyddo effeithlonwydd gweithredol mewn gweithrediadau cludo nwyddau yng Nghymru.

Mae **Cludo Nwyddau: Arfer Gorau** yn cynnig gwbyodaeth hanfodol AM DDIM cludo i'r diwydiant nwyddau yn trafod pynciau megis arbed tanwydd, datblygu sgiliau, cyfarpar a systemau, effeithlonwydd gweithredol a rheoli perfformiad.

Mae'r holl ddeunyddiau AM DDIM ar gael i'w llwytho o'r safle hwn neu gellir eu harchebu drwy'r **Hotline** ar 0845 877 0 877

**Newyddion Diweddaraf**

Cofrestrwch i gael y newyddion a'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am sut i arbed arian o **Cludo Nwyddau: Arfer Gorau** EWCH

**Cyflwyniad i Cludo Nwyddau: Arfer Gorau**

Cliciwch ar y ddelwedd i chwarae cyflwyniad i'r rhaglen **Cludo Nwyddau: Arfer Gorau** a chael trosolwg o'r wybodaeth y mae'r rhaglen yn ei darparu i'ch helpu i gyflawni effeithlonwydd gweithredol.

**SAVE IT!**

[www.freightbestpractice.org.uk](http://www.freightbestpractice.org.uk) was launched in September 2005 and has seen the number of visitors to the site continue to rise

## Web Features

The image displays three overlapping screenshots of the FreightBestPractice website interface, illustrating various web features:

- Top Screenshot (Left):** Shows the main navigation menu with 'Home', 'Publications', and 'Role Specific'. A search bar is present with a 'GO' button. Below the navigation is a 'Publications' section listing various topics like 'Saving fuel', 'Developing Skills', and 'Equipment & Systems'.
- Middle Screenshot (Left):** Focuses on the 'Types Of Events' section, explaining that there are two types of events listed on the site. It also features an 'Industry Events' section and a 'Freight Best Practice Events' section with contact information.
- Right Screenshot:** Shows a more detailed view of the 'Role Specific' section. It includes a 'Resource Centre' with links like 'Fleet Performance Management' and 'Freight Ambassadors'. The 'Role Specific' section lists roles such as 'Transport Manager', 'Financial Controller', 'Driver', 'Fleet Engineer / Maintenance', and 'Director'. A 'Subscribe' section is also visible at the bottom.

Common elements across all screenshots include the 'FreightBestPractice' logo, the 'Department for Transport' branding, and a 'Welcome fbp' message with a 'Logout' button.

“Freight Best Practice offers FREE essential information for truck operators covering topics such as saving fuel, developing skills, equipment and systems, operational efficiency and

Hotline: 0845 877 0 877

Hotline: 0845 877 0 877

info@freightbestpractice.org.uk  
Terms & Conditions & Copyright Contact Us


## Research

Research studies including satellite navigation and online performance benchmarking


FreightBestPractice Department for Transport

Wayfinding Research  
Using Satellite Navigation to Improve  
Efficiency in the Road Freight Industry

Research Report



FABER MAUNSELL | AECOM



English Welsh/Cymraeg

FreightBestPractice Department for Transport Login Register

Home Publications Role Specific Benchmarking Resource Centre News Events Useful Contacts DfT

Search... GO

### Welcome to the Online Benchmarking Trial

**Login**

Log In Note: The password is case sensitive

User Name

Password


Remember me next time

[Problems signing in?](#)

Welcome to the Freight Best Practice Online Benchmarking Trial. Performance Management is a key part of the Freight Best Practice programme, and this system has been designed as a first step towards developing a continuous, free benchmarking initiative across the English Freight industry.

By providing us with some information about your fleet and entering KPIs on a regular basis, you will be able to use the system to generate tables and charts to help you evaluate and improve your performance. As the system is very much a test concept, your feedback will be a vital part of the project. You can also be assured that your identity will remain anonymous to other participants taking part in the trial.

To get started, enter your log in details provided by the Freight Best Practice team (you have been pre-registered and can also access the new [Data Specific](#) and [Data Specific](#) sections of the Freight Best Practice website). If you encounter any problems entering the system, or would like to register your interest in benchmarking with Freight Best Practice, please contact John Miles on 0161 927 8387 [john.miles@fabermaunsell.com](mailto:john.miles@fabermaunsell.com)

 **Hotline: 0845 877 0 877**

[info@freightbestpractice.org.uk](mailto:info@freightbestpractice.org.uk)  
Terms & Conditions & Copyright Contact Us

## Reaching Out to the Audience

The UK's Commercial Vehicle Show 2006, 2007 & 2008



- ➔ Over **30,000** attendees
- ➔ Our presence has massively increased Freight Best Practice publication uptake from **450** (pre 2006) to over **7,500**



- ➔ We have used the event to launch new products such as TOP, 'Drive IT!' fuel saving DVD, Fuel Ready Reckoner, Fuel Efficient Drivers Handbook, and CO<sub>2</sub> campaign

Fuel Ready Reckoner 





# Reaching Out to the Audience

Truckfest 2007 & 2008



Truckfest is the original road haulage and trucking series of event in the UK

In 2007 Freight Best Practice attended Truckfest North West which attracted **29,000** attendees at Haydock Park Racecourse

In 2008 the team attended Truckfest South East which populated attendee figures of **19,000** over the two days

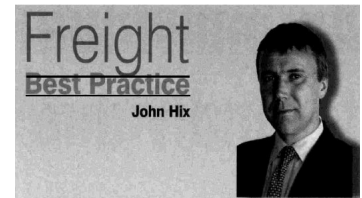
Freight Best Practice sponsored the Transport Operators' Lounge and Best Owner Driver Award at both shows

The combined total of publications distributed at these shows totalled over **9,800** and promotional items distributed totalled over **8,000**



# Freight Best Practice in the Press

Our press campaigns has lifted recognition for the programme. Faber Maunsell is credited with this success within government and industry clients



**FreightBestPractice** Department for Transport

### Top Tips from Freight Best Practice

- Saving Fuel**
  - Why not record each driver's average fuel economy figure and post the results in the form of a league table on the notice-board in your traffic office. This should help raise the profile of fuel as a precious resource in your operation and highlight the good (and not so good) performers!
  - Reduce unnecessary wasteful engine idling in your operation. A typical 420hp heavy-duty truck engine consumes fuel at the rate of around 2 litres per hour when stationary with the engine idling.
- Developing Skills**
  - If your truck is fitted with cruise control make sure your drivers know how to use it! Cruise control helps to optimise the electronic control systems' ability to deliver the appropriate amount of fuel for the given situation, improving fuel efficiency. But remember, cruise control doesn't have eyes!
  - Gear high, rev low! Keep engine speed within the green band and use the highest gear possible to optimise fuel consumption.
- Operational Efficiency**
  - Plan ahead! Before starting a journey, plan your route. The length, width, weight and height of your vehicle will often dictate the route you take. Remember - being lost wastes time, fuel and money!
  - Try to exploit the latest computer technology to run your vehicles as fuel-efficiently as possible - by switching from manual to computer assisted load planning and routing, you might be able to cut mileage significantly.
- Equipment and Systems**
  - Check all tyre pressures regularly. If pressure falls below recommended figures, rolling resistance increases and fuel is wasted. Tests on truck tyres have found that 20% under-inflation will usually cause a 10% increase in rolling resistance - this will lead to roughly a 2% deterioration in fuel consumption on average.
  - Specify the right vehicle for your operation at the outset - time spent evolving the best specification for a vehicle is time well spent. Initial capital cost is usually less than half of the vehicle's whole-life cost - to put it another way, in 2 years, a typical tractor-unit will use these costs about the same as the vehicle's purchase price.
- Performance Management**
  - Know your cost! Set a target to cut your operational fuel use by 5% in the first year - then use the Freight Best Practice Small Fleet Performance Management Tool to track how you're progressing. Download a copy from the website.
  - If you don't measure your performance, how can you manage it? Use the Small Fleet Performance Management Tool to monitor operating costs, service levels and a range of other key performance indicators (KPIs).

For further information from Freight Best Practice please contact:  
www.freightbestpractice.org.uk Hotline: 0845 877 0 877  
email: info@freightbestpractice.org.uk

**FreightBestPractice** Department for Transport

### WHAT'S NEW FOR FREIGHT BEST PRACTICE

The Freight Best Practice Programme provides FREE information to help hauliers improve efficiency, reduce emissions and save money. Freight Best Practice is a Department for Transport funded programme that provides authoritative, impartial advice to help the freight industry save money through improvements to fleet efficiency. It does this through the provision of guides, case studies, DVDs and software to help the freight industry. The areas that are pivotal to the programme are:

- Reducing fuel use
- Developing staff skills
- Selecting and using the best equipment and systems
- Monitoring, measuring and achieving targets for operational performance.

The Freight Best Practice Programme has something to offer for everyone in your business from owners, directors and managers right through to the drivers themselves.

All the information and products are available entirely FREE OF CHARGE!

AVAILABLE NOW are three ALL NEW publications from the Freight Best Practice programme:

**Parcel Sector Benchmarking Guide**  
This benchmarking survey considers efficiency in the parcel sector, focusing on next-day delivery to both home and business. Operators in the next-day parcel delivery sector can use this benchmarking guide to identify real opportunities to maximise transport efficiency, reducing both running costs and environmental impact.

Every successful organisation needs to manage its assets effectively and can benefit from benchmarking its performance against that of direct competitors and those that lead to be excellent in a sector. KPIs provide a consistent basis for measuring transport efficiency across the fleets of different operators, comparing like with like.

**The Road Ahead - Winter 2006**

The survey aimed to:

- Show participating companies how their own performance compared with that of others
- Highlight how the best operators in class are able to achieve their ratings

In total, 12 fleets from four separate parcel carriers submitted data for analysis and comparison. These were the KPIs used to measure performance across the parcel sector: vehicle fill, time utilisation, fuel consumption, empty running and detention from schedule.

The main recommendation stems from the next-day parcel delivery sector benchmarking are applicable not only to the organisations involved in the study but also to the wider parcel sector and other transport sectors as well.

- Operators have the opportunity to improve performance monitoring. By using KPIs to measure performance internally and externally, operators can set targets, monitor progress towards these targets and compare performance internally.
- Vehicle fill is a critically important KPI and it is recommended that operators adopt a simple process to record and analyse performance for this aspect of vehicle utilisation.
- The key target areas for efficiency improvements should be to reduce start mileage, reduce the overall kilometres travelled, reduce levels of empty running and reduce instances of low vehicle utilisation.
- Accurate vehicle specifications is critical to fleet efficiency - using the right vehicle for the operation helps to ensure available load space can be optimised and instances of low levels of vehicle utilisation are reduced.
- By monitoring activity each company will learn from the success or otherwise of different practices at different depots. This way, through performance management, skills and solutions used by the best depot managers and drivers can be identified and shared as best practice throughout the organisation.

continued over

**FreightBestPractice** Department for Transport

### Freight Best Practice Fleet Performance Management Tool

Check out the new FREE Freight Best Practice Fleet Performance Management Tool

The new Fleet Performance Management Tool is designed to help truck operators analyse efficiency and improve operations. The tool consists of a user-friendly spreadsheet for logging and reporting essential fleet information including:

- Costs
- Vehicle Utilisation
- Service Levels
- Legal Compliance
- Maintenance

Originally released in 2005 as the 'Small Fleet Performance Management Tool', it has helped operators implement long term improvements and cost savings.

**What's new?**

- Spreadsheet expanded from 15 to 25 vehicles
- A new facility allowing 2 year rolling records to be gathered
- Separate reports for agency driver costs
- Improved operating instructions

To order the FREE Fleet Performance Management Tool contact 0845 877 0 877

**Coming soon from Freight Best Practice**

- Information Technology for Efficient Road Freight Operations**  
An independent overview of available IT systems, demonstrating their uses and benefits as well as issues to consider and costs.
- Key Performance Indicators for the Next-Day Parcel Delivery Sector**  
Identifies opportunities to maximise transport efficiency, reducing both running costs and environmental impact.

Hotline: 0845 877 0 877  
info@freightbestpractice.org.uk  
www.freightbestpractice.org.uk

### Spreading the word about best practice

This winter, the Freight Best Practice team has joined up with the Highways Agency to spread the word about the importance of properly preparing fleets and drivers for the boots of bad weather that occur at this time of year. Reliable weather and traffic information is essential if the transport manager is to be able to make informed judgements on dispatch and routing of trucks. It is good to know therefore that real time traffic and travel information is available for England's motorways and major A roads from the Highways Agency by calling: 0870 066 0115 or over the web: www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo.

We asked a couple of our Freight Ambassadors - transport operators who help us promote and disseminate best practice across the industry - to come up with some top tips for dealing with the rigours of winter. Night heaters to avoid excessive engine idling and not getting stuck with summer grade-tread in both tanks are the favourites.

But it's amazing how best practice can be so simple but so effective. Padded and warm high-visibility jackets, keeping the dashboard free from obstruction so that heater vents can work properly, and keeping cab glass clean to reduce moisture and therefore freezing - simple, safe and effective measures that won't break the bank.

If you are looking for some briefing material for drivers on bad weather driving, you could do worse than getting hold of our *Safe Driving: The pocket guide*. It is crammed with no-nonsense safety advice for the professional truck driver, including driving in fog, snow and of course, high winds. Once again, it won't break the bank, copies are available free from our order Hotline: 0845 877 0 877.

We have had a busy time of late with the development and publication of a whole raft of new best practice guides and support material. I'm pleased to report that the popular *Know Your Limits* on fuel management and safe and efficient driving have been updated and are available on DVD. There are two new benchmarking guides, identifying operational improvements in both the next-day parcel sector and hauliers' mechanics fleets. We have new guides concerning IT and telematics solutions for fleet operators as well as one on how to measure performance on an on-going basis.

There is more to come too, in particular in the shape of practical 'tools' that help the busy transport manager and fleet engineer perform every-day tasks, such as collecting fuel data, briefing and debriefing drivers and sharing performance information.

But for now, if it's cold outside and you have a spare moment or two, stay indoors, call the Freight Best Practice Hotline, or browse the website at: www.freightbestpractice.org.uk. There may just be a top tip, case study or guide that will save you fuel, improve your efficiency and keep your drivers safer on the roads this winter.

John Hix is spokesperson for the Freight Best Practice Programme and Associate Director of the transport and engineering consultancy Faber Maunsell. To request a copy of any Freight Best Practice publication, log on to www.freightbestpractice.org.uk or call the hotline on 0845 877 0 877.

# Achievements

- Freight Best Practice has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the freight industry by **240,000** tonnes over the two year period
- Fleets which utilise the Freight Best Practice programme **save** on average **£20,500** per year
- Vehicles which use the programme save on average **£1,900** per year
- **Industry savings** directly attributable to the use of Freight Best Practice programme material total **£190 million** over the last two years

## What the Industry Has to Say



→ FreightBestPractice

*'A clearly signed – route to managing our transport'*

*'Good case studies, great resource'*

*'Makes you aware of hidden costs'*

*'Interesting to see the amount of help available through documentation and performance tool'*

*'Excellent site resources available'*

*'I am the system administrator for our ISO9001 & ISO14001 this could be very useful to use'*

*'I am working for one of the largest Humanitarian organisations of the United Nations system and am very interested in the information provided by you'*

*'Excellent service for any operator!'*

*'Very thought provoking'*

*'Well presented easily understood'*

*'Wealth of information and assistance was provided'*

*'Staff very professional, gave useful information'*

*'Good to see government doing something to help'*

*'Will convert it into proper saving for my company'*

*'One of the best seminars – come away with vast amounts of useful tips to pass on, so easy for seminars to become dull and mundane with no real impact. Well done very well organised'*

*'The conference was informative & direct. Due to the relatively short presentations interest was always high'*

*'I have my three ideas to go away & implement'*

*'Really useful focus on fuel efficiency'*

# → **FreightBestPractice**

- Freight Best Practice can offer you advice and guidance to improve your company's fuel efficiency and costs
- Fleets which utilise the Freight Best Practice programme save on average £20,500 per year

w e b s i t e

[www.freightbestpractice.org.uk](http://www.freightbestpractice.org.uk)

h o t l i n e

0845 877 0 877