



Reducing fleet running costs

IF YOUR COMPANY OPERATES a fleet of trucks, it will come as no surprise to discover that the UK is one of the most expensive places in Europe to run one*, not helped by the rising costs of fuel. However, there are some things that fleet operators can do to offset these increasing costs by saving money in other ways:

Many companies have found that installing a telematics system can lead to improvements in fuel efficiency, as well as reducing accidents, as it encourages better driving habits.



Regular risk analysis leading to better health and safety policies can help to reduce the number of incidents across a fleet. Reviewing health and safety policies regularly helps companies spot any recurrent problems and thereby put measures in place to reduce them.

Bonus systems for drivers that are linked to accident records on a sliding scale also encourage safer driving. Reducing the number of accidents can help to save on insurance premiums, but can also bring about cost savings by reducing the number of lost driver or truck days across the fleet.

Companies that are paying out large amounts for fully comprehensive insurance for their fleet might find that taking on an element of self insurance could bring their premiums down. This might mean simply agreeing a higher excess with the insurance company and setting aside some money to cover small incidents.

Alternatively, this approach can be taken further, with some companies choosing to take out only the most basic insurance policies for their fleet and ring fence an internal budget to cover anything short of a catastrophe. Of course, some years will be better than others if this approach is used, but over a number of years it should even out and savings should be apparent.

To find out more, call Peter Blanc on 01376 574 200 or email peter.blanc@theovalgroup.com

* According to a survey in Commercial Motor magazine earlier this year