



# Idealease Safety Bulletin

May 30, 2008

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## Question of the Week

### **With fuel prices rising weekly, what can I do to reduce fuel consumption in my fleet?**

With fuel prices now over \$4.50 a gallon in many areas controlling fuel costs is the responsibility of all employees of your company. The Environmental Protection Agency has established the Smartway Transport Program to partner with the transportation industry to reduce fuel consumption and pollution. The following are a few areas where changes can be made to increase fuel mileage and lower overall fuel consumption. Go to: <http://www.epa.gov/smartway/> to view additional suggestions for reduced fuel consumption.

#### **Idle Reduction**

Several technologies and practices can be used to assist drivers in reducing truck idling. Reducing or eliminating prolonged idling of trucks can save up to 1,000 gallons of fuel per truck each year and reduce pollution emissions. Idle shut down controls are now available on International trucks. Contact your local Idealease location to inquire about idle shut down controls. Also, consult with your Idealease location about your idle RPM setting. If your truck idles 1,000 hours per year a change in the RPM idle setting from 1,000 RPM to 800 RPM can save 200 gallons of fuel per year. Another practice is to share the fuel savings with the driver. The driver is the one person who has control of the key to the unit that starts and stops the fuel flow to the engine. The right foot of the driver also controls the amount of fuel flowing to the engine. By creating an incentive program for drivers to reduce fuel consumption, both the company and the driver will share in the savings. Idle time restriction laws are now in place in a number of states and municipalities, the following website provides a listing of the laws: <http://www.atri-online.org/research/idling/Idling%20Regulations%20Compendium%20Dec%200611.pdf>

Using a streamlined profile tractor with aerodynamic devices (roof fairing, cab extenders, and side fairings) can reduce fuel consumption up to 600 gallons and eliminate over five metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year compared to a typical classic profile tractor. Trailers can be improved through aerodynamics simply by reducing the tractor-trailer gap, securing loose tarpaulins on flatbed trailers and arranging cargo to keep the outline of the total load as low and smooth as possible. International has just released the new ProStar Class 8 tractor which has enhanced aerodynamic features. Contact your local Idealease location for further information on the fuel saving advantages of the ProStar tractor.

#### **Improved Freight Logistics**

Improved freight logistics can optimize trucking operation efficiency, saving fuel and increasing profits for trucking companies. Logistics strategies include load matching, more efficient routing and scheduling of vehicles, and improved receiving policies. Better load matching, which ensures full trucks, improves the efficiency of trucking operations, allowing carriers to carry the same amount of freight with fewer vehicle miles of travel. Not only does this help profitability, but it reduces fuel use and emissions.

#### **Automatic Tire Inflation Systems**

Automatic tire inflation systems monitor and continually adjust the level of pressurized air to tires, maintaining proper tire pressure even when the truck is moving. Automatic tire inflation systems can extend tire life by 8 percent. Installing an automatic tire inflation system on the truck drive and trailer axles can save over \$200 per year in tire replacement costs and tire pressure inspection time. Automatic tire inflation systems can reduce fuel consumption by over a 100 gallons per year for a typical combination truck, resulting in annual cost savings of about \$450.00 and the elimination of over one metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions. Idealease supplier Pressure Systems International provides an Automatic Tire Inflation system that is widely used in our industry, [www.psi-atis.com](http://www.psi-atis.com).

**NEWS:** The Department of Transportation's Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance has made a new document available online, "What Employers Need To Know About Drug and Alcohol Testing."

The document is designed to offer best practices and clear instructions for having a quality DOT-compliant program. To access the document, go to [www.dot.gov/ost/dapc/index.html](http://www.dot.gov/ost/dapc/index.html)

#### **RoadCheck 2008 Is Next Week!**

The annual Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance International RoadCheck is scheduled for June 3-5.

About 10,000 CVSA inspectors are set to participate in the 72-hour concentrated safety inspection blitz.

Now is the time to inform your drivers of the upcoming event and to sharpen those Pre-Post Trip inspection skills!

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**Reducing Highway Speed**

Truck fuel economy drops significantly as speeds rise above 55 mph. For every 1 mph over 55 you lose .1 mpg. By limiting top highway speeds, trucks can save fuel, reduce emissions, and prolong engine life. Depending on a units annual mileage, reducing highway-driving speed from 70 mph to 65 mph could save nearly \$1,500 in fuel costs and eliminate nearly ten metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year. Maximum truck driving speeds can be limited through electronic engine controls, driver-training programs, or incentive programs that reward drivers for staying within set limits. Nearly all new truck engines in use today are electronically controlled and the cost of changing the maximum speed setting on these engines is negligible. Contact your local Idealease location to govern the maximum speed on your units electronically.

**Driver Training**

Driving practices can have a large impact on truck fuel economy. Even highly experienced drivers can enhance fuel economy using simple techniques like cruise control, coasting whenever possible, limiting use of cab accessories, smooth and gradual acceleration, progressive shifting (up shifting at the lowest rpm possible), reducing maximum freeway speeds, and limiting truck idling and stops. Driver training can reduce fuel consumption by 5 percent or more, saving more than \$1,500 in fuel costs and eliminating about eight metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per truck each year.

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