

The Key to Running Commercial Vehicles Successfully

How businesses can manage costs through safe and efficient van operation.

Commercial vehicles are undoubtedly the workhorse of businesses. In fact, according to Department for Transport figures they constituted just under one in 10 vehicles on the roads in Q3 2014.



And such vehicles have a massive role to play in helping keep small businesses – which themselves are the ‘lifblood’ of the British economy – operating effectively.

For many businesses, running vehicles presents a major cost alongside payroll and premises. Yet there are many ways that small businesses can cut their costs through improved van fleet management.

Key issues to consider include:

Downsizing – many van manufacturers have now introduced new models that employ creative use of space to offer optimised loading along with improved fuel consumption and emissions.

A review of your business operations may uncover the possibility of switching to a smaller van. If you occasionally need to accommodate a larger load, van rental can provide an effective short-term solution. It is also highly recommended to work with your vehicle supplier and fleet management specialist on storage solutions that maximise load space.

Overloading – Unfortunately this is a very common issue – in 2013 the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) reported that 93% of the vans it stops are overloaded. However, overloading not only increases fuel costs and wear and tear on items such as clutches and brakes but could also have disastrous implications if the driver was involved in the accident – not to mention the possibility of prosecution and a major fine for whoever overloaded the vehicle. It is essential to put best practice policies in place.

Daily Walkaround – Undertaking simple checks every morning can help ascertain any issues with damage, lights not working, tyre issues etc. This should also be accompanied once a week with checks on all levels under the bonnet and tyre pressures. Such checks are vital in terms of making sure vehicles are roadworthy and also reducing costs – for example, make sure tyres are properly inflated can improve fuel economy and reduce tyre wear.

Using technology – Downtime is one of the biggest costs that businesses running vans face but thankfully there are a number of technologies that can save money. Telematics, such as Lombard Vehicle Solutions’ award-winning ProFleet2 telematics technology, can provide an effective tool to help manage fuel and driver efficiency.

Other simple solutions that can also help businesses running vans include fitting reversing sensors and in-vehicle cameras – these can reduce both damage and vehicle downtime, far outweighing their costs. Meanwhile speed limiters can help improve fuel economy while a sat nav can assist the driver getting to where they need to be.

Driver training – Taking the type of vehicle used out of the equation, the driver has the greatest influence on costs and emissions. Driver training can play a major role here in helping to improve both of these as well as reducing accident rates and insurance premiums and minimise vehicle wear and tear. And working with a specialist in driver training, such as Lombard Vehicle Solutions, can bring instant benefits for the business’s bottom line.

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If you would like to find out more about what Lombard Vehicle Solutions could do for you, or would like to see our vehicle special offers, please click [here](#).

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