



Current market factors affecting vehicle downtime

The commercial vehicle industry's persistent challenge of limited parts availability is causing disruptions to the maintenance and repair network.



As commercial vehicles' operational demand remains high, a combination of global events – including supply chain disturbances, evolving regulations, and unexpected global occurrences – **have heightened the scenario, impacting the maintenance and repair processes' efficiency and reliability.**

Challenges of restricted parts availability

Supply chain disruptions

The automotive supply chain faces constant disturbances from natural disasters, geopolitical tensions, and trade restrictions.

Distribution and production of vital vehicle parts are at the mercy of unexpected events, resulting in a severe shortage, elongated downtime for commercial vehicles, and ultimately, impacting efficiency.



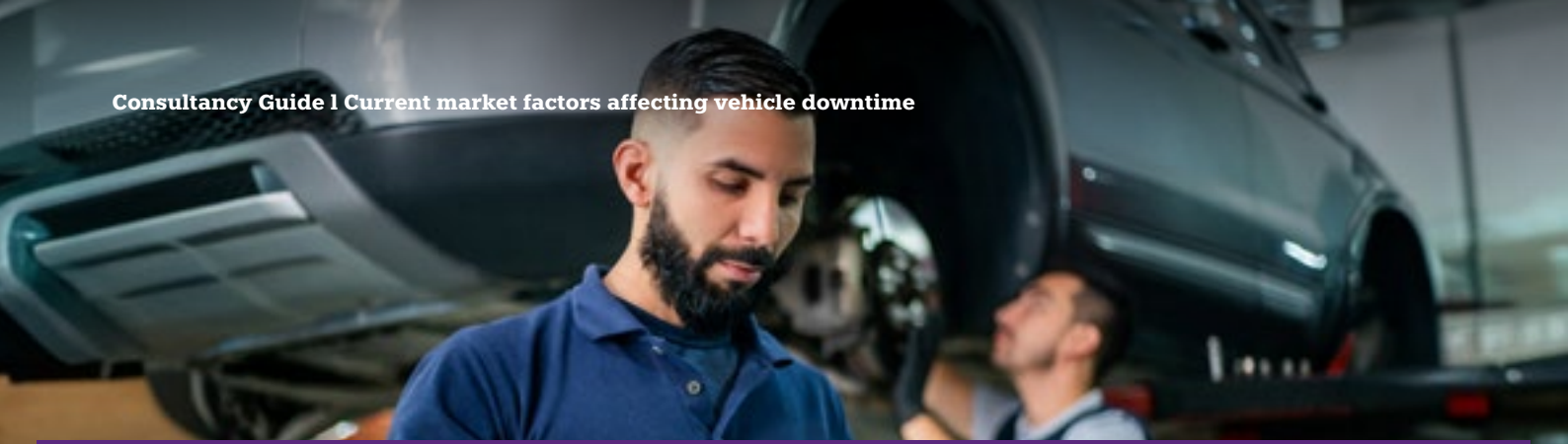
Aging fleet

The industry is full of older fleets, operating many vehicles beyond their expected lifespan due to new vehicle shortages.

As these vehicles age, the demand for parts surges, while other parts become outdated and their production becomes scarce or could even cease.

Consequently, finding appropriate replacements for these obsolete parts becomes progressively challenging, further intensifying the issue.





Specialised components

Commercial vehicles often need specific components to adhere to the demand of their role and industry.

These specialised parts might not have extensive market penetration, resulting in restricted availability, increased costs, and extended lead times, disrupting vehicle maintenance and repairs.



OEM vs aftermarket

Choosing between Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts and aftermarket alternatives introduces another dimension to the challenge of parts availability.

Although OEM parts are famed for their dependability, they might be rare and pricier. Conversely, while aftermarket parts are more accessible and economical, their quality could differ, possibly affecting vehicle performance and warranty.



Impact on maintenance and repair network



Increased downtime

A shortage of vital parts leads to extended downtime for commercial vehicles. Prolonged inactivity profoundly affects business operations, revenue generation, and client satisfaction, especially in sectors heavily dependent on a flawless transport network.

Escalated maintenance costs

The constrained parts supply often elevates their prices due to surging demand. Maintenance facilities face escalating costs, which could be passed to customers, influencing overall business expenses for companies overseeing commercial vehicle fleets.

Technician training and expertise

On top of the ongoing shortages of vehicles technicians, handling limited parts availability mandates technicians to have comprehensive knowledge of vehicle components. Continuous training is essential for these technicians to adapt their repair methodologies, introducing more intricacy and expense to the maintenance procedure.

Strain on spare parts inventory

Anticipating and addressing parts shortages might require maintenance facilities to bolster their spare parts inventory. This can strain their logistics and resources, possibly increasing operational costs.

Customised fleet solutions

We understand that your fleet is unique, and you need a bespoke downtime offering.

We will work with you to deliver and meet your specific fleet requirements.

We offer advice around:

Advanced analytics and reporting



We can use our advanced analytics to provide comprehensive fleet performance reports, helping fleet managers to make informed decisions.

Customised downtime approaches



Whether it's upgrading your fleet to newer models or using TCO to clarify your best fleet fit, we work with you to understand your needs.

Safety first



Not only do we prioritise driver and vehicle safety, we can focus on driver training initiatives or proactive maintenance to ensure your vehicles are in top condition and your drivers are confident behind the wheel.

Cost saving initiatives



Our partnerships and capabilities allow us to provide cost effective solutions without compromising on quality.

Green fleet initiative



We're committed to reducing fleets' carbon footprint by offering eco-friendly solutions and promoting efficient driving practices.

We recognise that fleet management isn't just about keeping vehicles on the road; it's about efficiency, safety, cost effectiveness, and sustainability. Our holistic approach ensures our clients benefit from significant time and monetary savings, establishing us as their trusted fleet management partner.

Keeping your vehicles on the road ensures your business is working optimally

Our Business Intelligence and Consultancy team can work with you to ensure you're supported when reducing your downtime management and make sure your fleet stays on the road for as long as possible.

About the contributor



Russ Boulton
LCV Consultant

Specialisms:

- Light commercial vehicles
- Total Cost of Ownership
- Vehicle conversions and type approval

Specialising in zero emissions transition, Light Commercial Vehicles, and Total Cost of Ownership, Russ is dedicated to driving sustainable solutions for fleet operations. As the creator of LVS' Multi Award Winning TCO+ proposition, Russ empowers fleets with valuable insights into their operational requirements and TCO demands.

With a reputation as a thought leader in the LCV market, Russ has presented at numerous conferences, served on industry committees, and provided expert guidance to OEMs and third-party suppliers. Furthermore, his extensive experience in the van conversion market has honed his knowledge and technical expertise in this field.

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