



Secrets of Better Fuel Economy





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Introduction: Understanding Fuel Economy

The importance of fuel economy to the successful operation of a transport company cannot be understated. Fuel is one of the largest variable costs in a transport venture, and, while no operation can control the cost of fuel, it has at least some control over the amount or rate of consumption.

Rock-Solid Rules

- Every 2% reduction in aerodynamic drag results in approximately 1% improvement in fuel economy.
- Above 90 km/h, each 2 km/h increase in vehicle speed decreases fuel economy by nearly 2%.
- Worn tyres provide up to 7% better fuel economy than new tyres.
- Used lug drive tyres can get up to 0.2 km/litre (0.5 mpg) better than new lug tyres.
- Ribbed tyres on the drive axles provide 2% to 4% better fuel economy than lugged tyres.
- Every 70 kPa (10 psi) that a tyre is underinflated reduces fuel economy by 1%.
- The break-in period for tyres is up to 50,000 km.
- Tyres make the biggest difference in fuel economy below 80 km/h; aerodynamics is the most important factor above 80 km/h.
- The most efficient drivers get about 20% better fuel economy than the least efficient drivers.
- Idle time is costly. Every hour of idle time in a long-haul operation can decrease fuel efficiency by 1%.