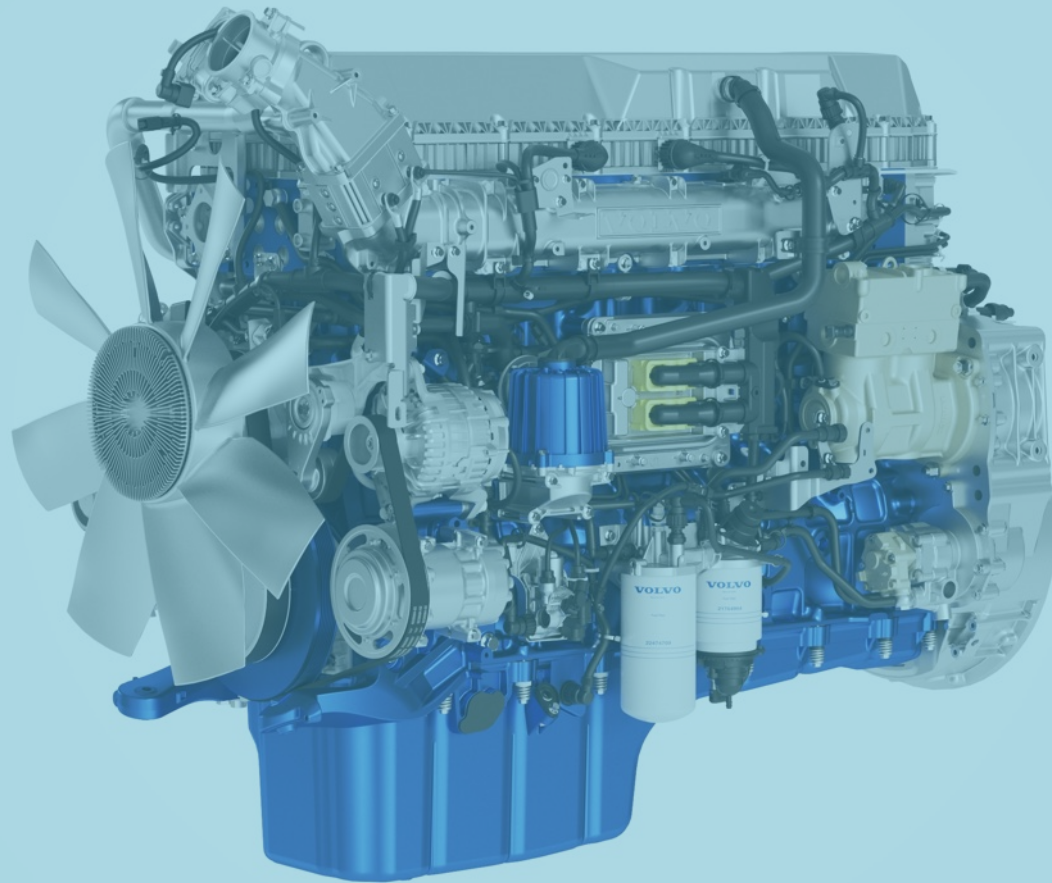




Volvo Trucks. Driving Progress



Guide: What to consider when choosing a truck engine





Having the right engine for your truck will be critical in ensuring that you get the most out of your investment. Here are some of the most important questions you should ask yourself.

1. What is the topography of your route?

The topography of the area you are driving in is going to be important to determining which type of engine is right. Is your route mostly covering flat areas, hilly areas or mountainous routes? The more mountainous your route, the stronger the engine you will need to pull the truck up hills.



2. How important is speed to your profitability?

The added performance of a larger, stronger engine can be key, especially if speed is essential to your operation. There are plenty of assignments where speed is key essential to profitability. Are you on a time critical mission like ferry port with fresh deliveries on time? Or will an additional lap on your mission allow you to earn more? If a higher average speed allows you improve your profitability, the added performance of a stronger engine makes a lot of sense.



3. How important is fuel economy to your operation?

The type of engine you choose will be key to fuel economy. Choosing an engine with just enough power to cover your transport needs can be a way to cut back on fuel use. While for transport operations covering long distances, a turbo compound engine such as the D13TC long-haul engine can be a suitable choice, since it is both fuel-efficient and strong enough for heavy haulage loads.

The type of fuel you choose can also be a key factor in fuel economy: could an LNG vehicle or an electric truck can be a cost-saver? This could be the case if you happen to live in an area where fuel prices are high and infrastructure for alternative fuels is well developed.

4. How much are you hauling?

How much are you hauling on average? Specifying a more powerful engine will allow you to haul larger loads. Generally, you need 10 hp minimum for each tonne you are hauling to maintain enough average speed and stay safe on the road. This is a good rule to keep in mind although what hp you go for will also depend on the specific nature of your operations and your priorities.

These are just some of the issues to think about when determining what engine might be right for your operations. There are other things like resale value that should also be taken into account. Since an engine is not a technology that lives on its own but performs best when combined with the right gearbox, transmission and axle ratios, it's best to talk to your sales rep. Nevertheless there is no one source of truth and it's best to also do your own research and talk to others in the industry to determine your needs and choose a truck that becomes a true money maker for your business.

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