



Volvo Trucks. Driving Progress



What to look for in a truck driver training program

A high-quality and well-structured training course will focus on critical

areas and skills that will make your drivers safer and more fuel-efficient. By implementing the knowledge from training, your business could save thousands of Euros each year.

This guide highlights vital aspects for you to consider and what to look for in a good truck driver training package.

Questions to answer before booking truck driver training

What type of training is going to create the most value for your business?

What are the training needs for your drivers and business? How does the training fit into the overall driver development?

Think about what will benefit drivers and your business the most; is it a session on driving in a fuel-efficient manner, learning more about the features in a truck, or about a digital tachograph?

Is the cheapest course going to offer the most value for your business?

It's very tempting to go with the cheapest provider when choosing a training program. But when fuel costs are the highest cost for a trucking business and retaining good drivers is so hard, it is probably worth spending a bit more money to get more value out of the training and return more to the business.





Driver training best practices

Content:

In my experience drivers are very practical people, so I would recommend you look for a course that is a good balance between theory and practice. This means drivers get a chance to understand the thinking behind what he or she will learn and implement it on the day of the training.

Timing and frequency:

If you are placing an order for new trucks remember that it comes with a training session. I would recommend booking driver training 2-4 weeks after the delivery of the new trucks. This will give drivers a few weeks to familiarize themselves with the product.

I recommend drivers go on training courses every year as a refresher. It takes a long time to change driving habits. Over a year, you can use statistics to see how driving behavior has changed, and the areas for improvement.

What truck driver training should include

Fuel efficiency

As you know, the fuel cost for a trucking business can significantly eat into your turnover, so it's essential for your drivers to be active in driving in as fuel-efficient way as possible, while still getting to the destination in good time. Fortunately, there are several techniques that a driver can adopt to do this. Make sure the training covers driving fuel efficiently: on a motorway, in a city, approaching a junction, a roundabout, traffic lights, braking and estimating the speed of on-coming traffic.

Safety

Drivers are representatives of your company and brand. Creating a safe working environment that minimizes risks for drivers needs to be a key priority for any trucking business and feature of any training package. Drivers need to know the safety features of a truck and how they can help create a safe working environment that eliminates and reduces risks.



What driver training should include

Features

Each brand and model of a truck comes with its own features. Understanding the key features of a truck will help you/ your drivers get the most from each vehicle and ensure it is being driven in the most efficient and optimal way. A good training course will explain how and when the auxiliary brake is to be used, when to use traction control and in which situations you need to use the differential lock.

What happens if there is a failure in a truck?

I'm always surprised by how unprepared some drivers are for failures in a truck. Ensure the course covers an outline of what to do in different situations. Would your drivers know what to do if they had a starter failure, the engine overheated or there were issues with the wheel bearings?



Before a course

It is important that drivers take an active approach to training. They can do this by for instance preparing a list of questions for the trainer.

Another important aspect to consider is ensuring drivers are well rested and relaxed before a training.

As a fleet manager or owner, you should think about taking some time out to go on the training with your drivers to understand their everyday realities and challenges.





Maintaining progress

Driver training needs to be viewed not as a one-day event but a continuous journey.

As a business, you need to ensure you are using the right tools to follow-up the training. Retrieving, analyzing and acting upon data from [a fleet management tool](#) is your best weapon in ensuring that you can reap long-term benefits from driver training.

When analysing data to evaluate drivers look out for average speed, idling time, rolling time and fuel consumption. Some fleet management programs also offer an overall driver score.

Also consider talking to others in the industry to find out how they cut costs through different means. Here is an example of how [Czech haulier Vapas cut fuel consumption by 10%](#) through driver training and other initiatives.

Did you find this interesting?

Subscribe to get the latest blogs and content
offers from the Volvo Trucks Knowledge Hub!

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

