

Top 20: Best Fleets to Drive For 2012

Every fall Truckload Carriers Association and CarriersEdge hold a nomination process to name the 20 "Best Fleets to Drive For". Drivers and owner-operators are asked to submit carriers that have 10 or more trucks in their fleet.

The companies that are nominated then undergo an interview process about the company policies, programs, and corporate direction. The information will be used in a scoring matrix that has a list of categories:

- Total compensation package – including base pay, bonuses, vacation, and sick day allotment
- Health benefits
- Pension plans
- Professional development opportunities (training, coaching

programs, etc.)

- Career path/advancement opportunities • Commitment to employee personal growth, including work/life balance, driver family support, and employee-directed charitable contributions
- Commitment to continuous improvement, including dispute resolution processes and inclusion of driver feedback in policy-making
- Team building and driver community development activities
- Annual driver turnover rate
- Fleet safety record

This is the 5th year that this has taken place and there was 50% more participation in the contest. The Yanke Group of Companies has been in this list all 5 years.

There are 2 more categories that will be awarded in March. Best Overall Fleet for Owner Operators and Best Overall Fleet for Company Drivers.

The 20 companies that made the list are:

- Brian Kurtz Trucking Ltd. – Breslau, Ontario
- Erb Group of Companies – New Hamburg, Ontario
- Fremont Contract Carriers – Fremont, Nebraska
- FTC Transportation, Inc. – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Gordon Trucking, Inc. – Pacific, Washington
- Grand Island Express – Grand Island, Nebraska

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Upcoming Deadlines

- If you haven't already filed your 201 UCR, do so ASAP. Roadside enforcement is in full effect. Brokers, freight forwarders, and leasing companies are required to file annually too.
- 20th series New York Highway Use Tax permits that were issued 2009-2012 will expire this year. Renewals for the 21st series began October 1, 2012. You must be current with your

quarterly reports and taxes to renew. NY HUT permit holders will now be required to display decals on all vehicles that will operate in New York.

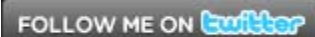
- All New Mexico Weight Distance Tax permit holders must renew their permit by December 31st.
- All IFTA license holders must renew their license by December 31st.

For assistance with any of these permits please call 405-701-4173 or visit our website at www.dotprocessagents.com

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Top 20

Continued from front page

- Halvor Lines, Inc. – Superior, Wisconsin
- Landstar System, Inc. – Jacksonville, Florida
- Load One Transportation & Logistics – Taylor, Michigan
- Motor Carrier Service, Inc. – Northwood, Ohio
- Paramount Freight Systems – Jeffersonville, Ohio
- Sammons Trucking – Missoula, Montana
- Spirit Truck Lines, Inc. – San Juan, Texas
- Steed Standard Transport Ltd. – Stratford, Ontario

- Steelman Transportation – Springfield, Missouri
- Tennant Truck Lines, Inc. – Colona, Illinois
- TimeLine Logistic International – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- Trimac Transportation – Calgary, Alberta
- WTI Transport – Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- Yanke Group of Companies – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Source: <http://www.truckinginfo.com>

AeroFlex

AeroFlex by Freight Wing is a great option to add to your truck. It's not only a trustworthy skirting system, but it adds extra space to advertise. Most of all it can save fuel.

It was reported that there was 7.45% fuel savings in 3rd party SAE J1321 type II testing.

The wedge shape of the AeroFlex is what helps with the fuel savings. There are other companies that offer similar products as Freight Wing. However, they usually do not offer the same

kind of coverage and may not work as well when it comes too fuel savings.

For more information visit: <http://www.freightwing.com/aeroflex.php>



Road Companions

In 1977 movie "Smokey and the Bandit", Cledus, Jerry Reed, took his dog Fred with him on the road for company. Is it a good idea to take a pet with you on the road? While a pet could keep you company and help keep from getting lonely, it does take some planning. There may be a list of things to consider before you decide if a travel friend is right for you.

Exercise is very important for dogs and cats, and even the truck driver. Some truck stops may have areas to walk your pets and give them an area to do their business as well. You may be able to purchase some small pet "play area" type fencing that would allow your dog to have some

freedom if there isn't a designated area for them.

Food and water may sound simple enough, but on a truck it may be a bit more difficult. You would need to find ways to make sure that the food and water are contained. Also, should you run out of pet food, water, or supplies it may provide difficult locating a convenient place to get those items.

Exposure is very important to keep in mind. If you need to leave your truck and you can not take your pet with you, you need to make sure that the pet is not going to get too hot or too cold while you are gone.

Source: <http://www.truckingtruth.com>

GloLights

A Tulsa, Oklahoma company, Optronics International, is a leading manufacturer and supplier of heavy-duty LED vehicle lighting. Their new GloLight Series made their debut officially last December. The lights are available in 4" round and 6" oval LED stop, tail, and turn lamps which will meet all FMVSS 108 and SAE photometric requirements for safety.

The GloLight Series does offer a new advancement to the stop, tail, and turn lamps. The outstanding feature of the GloLights is that the outer band surrounds a central LED display that remains unlit during normal tail light operation. There is a dual-function outer ring that

brightens and the central LED display lights up only when stopping or turning.

It is said that Optronics has showed the new line of lights to select customers and have been getting rave reviews. It appears that the GloLights will be a valuable improvement. Not just because of the safety factor, but also as a way to provide individual style to rigs that will appeal to fleet owners and independent owner-operators alike.

Optronics say that they are expecting to start shipping on February 1, 2013.

For more information visit: <http://www.optronicsinc.com/>



New Wireless Technology to Improve Safety

There is a program being tested by some trucking companies that could raise the bar for vehicle safety. This technology would essentially send and receive signals giving drivers a heads-up on upcoming situations using wireless connections between vehicles and between vehicles and highway and related infrastructures.

For example, there would be a warning on the dash that

would alert a truck driver that he is going too fast for an upcoming curve. Or if there is an accident ahead causing cars to slam on their brakes.

Over the next year, there will be 3,000 vehicles testing this new technology on the roadways. Mainly around the area of Ann Arbor, Michigan since the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute and DOT are running the research.

They are trying to make their final decision by the end of the year for cars and 2014 for trucks.

With this new technology it could save money and lives with lower risks of rear-end crashes, which total over 900,000 a year.

For more information visit:

http://
www.truckinginfo.com/
article/print/story/2013/01/
what-if-cars-and-trucks-

could-talk-to-each-other.aspx



Decreasing Positive Drug Test Results

The U.S. Department of Transportation has reported that the percentage of drivers testing positive when conducting random drug tests in 2011 has dropped to the lowest level since mandatory testing began in 1996.

In 2010 the positive rate was 1% for the 455,000 drivers that were tested. The 2011 rate was 0.9% for the 492,000 drivers tested, which is half of the 2.2% rate for the 438,000 tested in 1996.

The most common test, the urine test, was given to obtain these results. Hair testing results would probably increase the positive rates. As reported in the January issue of our newsletter, there is a push to get the hair test to be the new standard.

Sources:

http://www.ttnews.com/
articles/petemplate.aspx?
storyid=31102

Safety Concerns

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration there was a rise in truck-occupant deaths in 2011. It would seem that around 1/3rd of truck-occupants were not wearing their seat belt at the time of the accident. 22% of the victims were in a truck that was exceeding the speed limit, 2% of the victims had alcohol in their blood, and 4% were impaired in other ways, like fatigue.

Recent studies show that only 78% of truck drivers use a seat belt, which is an in-

crease in past studies, with an 86% usage rate in passenger cars in 2012.

ATA wants to set forth mandates such as; seat belt use, a set national speed limit, and speed limits for heavy-duty vehicles to help improve highway safety.

Safety is always a major concern for all vehicles that travel the U.S. highway and roadways. The manufactures are also helping with this issue with installing safety systems in vehicles and doing crash testing.

Source: www.ttnews.com

Tu' Habla Espanol?

FMCSA Spanish Home Page:

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/spanish>

Mexico-Based Motor Carrier Home Page:

http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/spanish/mmc_spanish.html



Don't get overburdened with paperwork or information! We are here to help make this industry as easy to understand as possible! Feel free to contact us at any time to answer questions!

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Off Duty

Sudoku

			6			4	2	
	6	7		1			5	
		4		7			9	1
5					2		1	
4								8
	3		1					9
7	4			3		1		
	9			2		3	6	
	2	3			4			

9	3	2		6	8			
			4			6	8	
6								2
	1		5	2			3	
		3				1		
	4			9	3		2	
7								4
	6	1			4			
			6	7		2	1	3

Instructions:

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1-9, without repeating any.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions for future newsletters please feel free to contact us. We would love any input you have to make this the best and most informative newsletter available!

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Did You Know?

- In 1901, Connecticut became the first state to enact uniform, motor vehicle laws.
- In 1903, the first commercial vehicle race was held in New York City and sponsored by the Automobile Club of America. It included 7 heavy trucks and 6 delivery wagons. The American trucking industry grew as sales increased with the benefits of bringing goods to market quickly and less expensively. To date, the largest cargo theft resulted in \$76 million worth the loss from an Eli Lilly and Co. warehouse loaded with prescription drugs in Enfield, Conn. on March 14, 2010.
- In 1904, the first intercity trucking service began with a six-cylinder motor truck running between Colorado City, Colorado and Snyder, Texas.

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