TRUCKS

WHAT ARE TRUCKS?

- The European classification system defines trucks as “motor vehicles with at least four wheels, used for the carriage of goods”. They have a mass of more than 3.5 tonnes.
- Under this system, trucks are either classified in the N2 category (weighing more than 3.5 tonnes) or N3 (weighing more than 16 tonnes). N3 vehicles are also referred to as ‘heavy commercial vehicles’.
- The end-use of trucks varies widely – they may for instance be used for long-haul or regional delivery, for construction or for municipality use.
- Depending on their mission, most trucks are custom-built on an individual basis, often in a multi-stage process, in order to meet specific requirements. They can vary from the number of axles to the size of the engine, fuel tank or cab, to the height of the chassis.
- When taking the complete vehicle into account – a rigid body or a tractor plus a trailer – the truck market becomes even more complex. There are literally thousands of shapes and sizes of trucks.

WHY ARE TRUCKS IMPORTANT?

- Road freight transport is the backbone of trade and commerce on the European continent.
- Trucks carry 71.3% of freight transported over land.
- Trucks function as part of a logistics chain whose components also include inland waterways, shipping, air and rail transport. While separately, each has its own advantages, combined they form an integrated system. The other transport modes also depend on trucks to transfer freight to and from depots, rail terminals, airfields and ports.
- Not only do trucks remain the most flexible, responsive and economic mode of transport for the vast majority of goods and freight, they are also essential to the functioning of the larger, integrated European logistics and transport system.
- Most of our daily necessities, such as fresh food from the supermarket or corner shop, newspapers and magazines, electronics and appliances, clothing, and so on, depend on trucks at some point in the distribution chain.
- Many essential public services are delivered by trucks, such as garbage collection, fire and construction services.

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The performance of road freight transport (measured in billion tonne-kilometres) grew by 14.3% between 2000 and 2014.

In modern economies, 85% of road freight tonnage is carried over distances of 150km or less – along routes for which no other form of transport would be realistic. Less than 1% gets carried over 1,000km.

Despite the increase in freight transport, fatalities involving heavy goods vehicles decreased by 53% between 2001 and 2014.

The average age of Europe's trucks is over 11.7 years.

Today, there are some 6.5 million trucks in circulation throughout the EU.

In 2016, 367,222 new trucks were sold in the EU, up 11.4% on the previous year.

Heavy trucks with alternative powertrains represent less than 1% of the current heavy truck fleet.

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