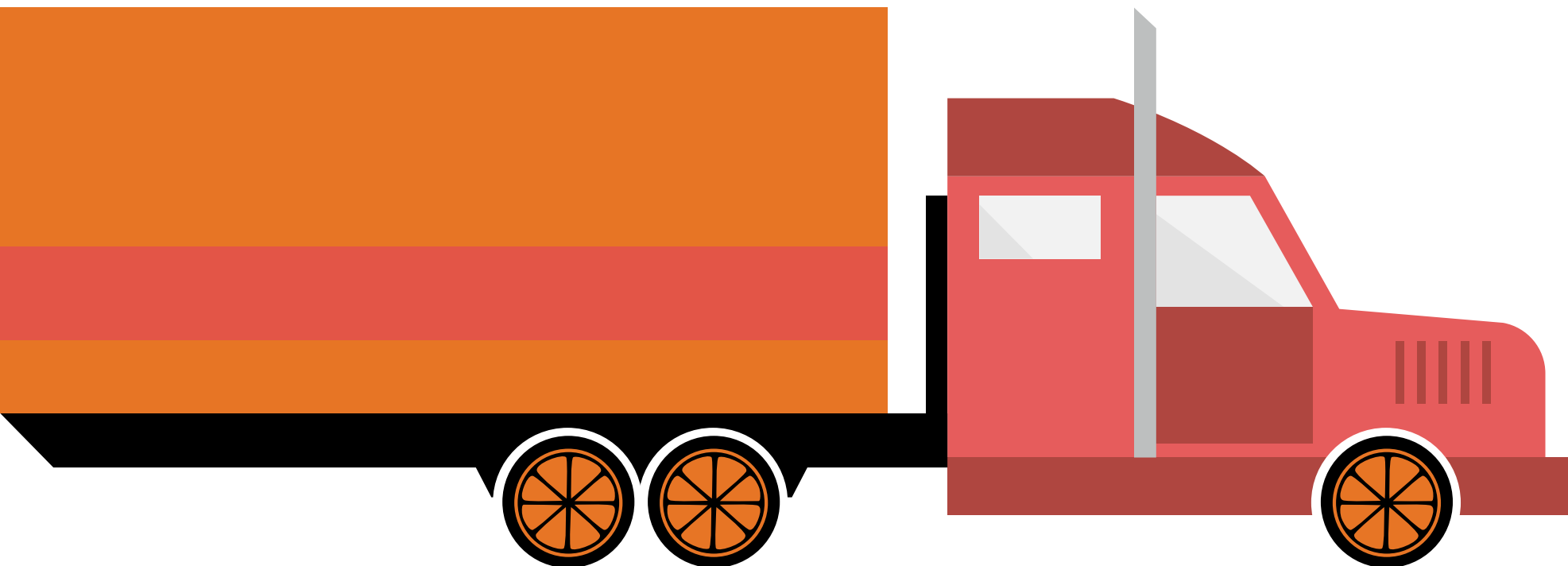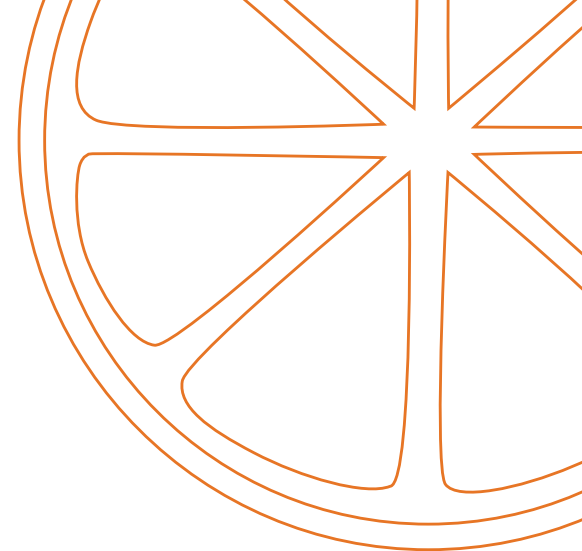Omnitracs

3 Benefits of ELDs Beyond Compliance
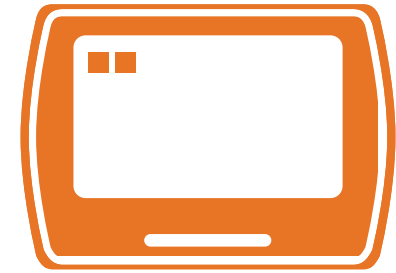
Squeeze More Juice out of an ELD

3 Benefits of ELDs Beyond Compliance

Now that the majority of carriers in the U.S. have Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs), fleets are taking more and more steps to become productive and safe. Whatever your business needs may be, there are a variety of strategic ways to acheive goals beyond ELD compliance.

ELD technology can help provide many benefits to fleets, allowing you to stay safe and competitive — and significantly reduce operational costs. If you focus solely on ELD compliance, you are most likely not fully leveraging your investment. Today's best fleets already understand that ELD technology can help them set, measure, and meet goals, including:

1.

**Improving
fuel efficiency**

2.

**Increasing driver
productivity
and engagement**

3.

**Improving
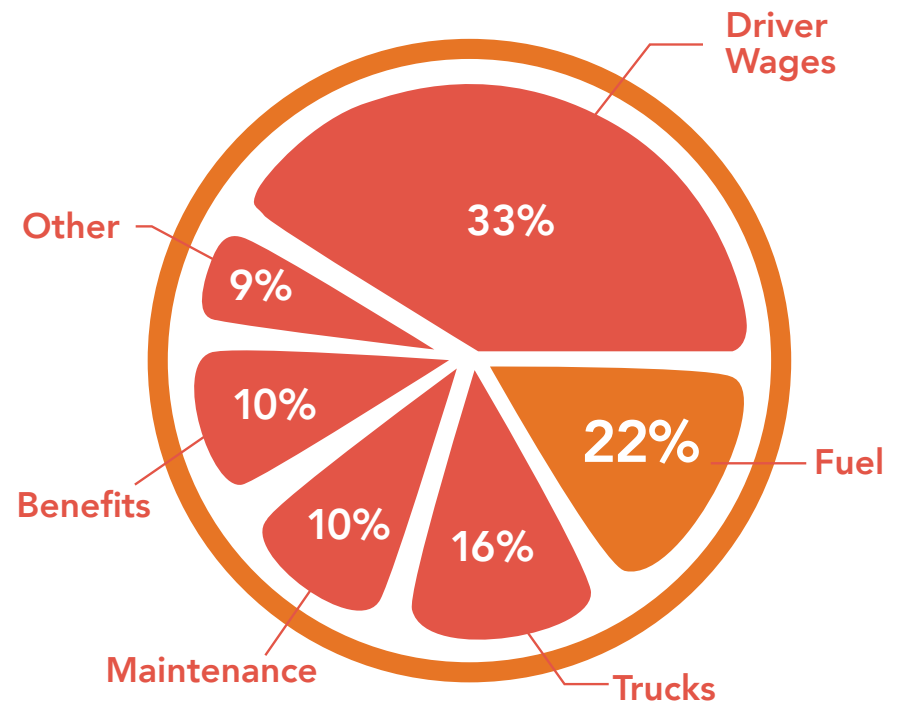safety**

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1 Improving Fuel Efficiency

Fuel is one of the largest costs for fleets, comprising 22 percent of total operational costs. Even at prices lower than historical highs, fuel will still have a major impact on your bottom line. Add in the environmental concerns of high fuel utilization, and it is as important as ever for fleets to reduce fuel consumption.

Luckily for fleets, several options exist to control fuel. With proper planning, the amount and associated costs of fuel can be reduced.

While there are many best practices in reducing fuel, some major methods include idle reduction, efficient routing, and driver performance measurement.
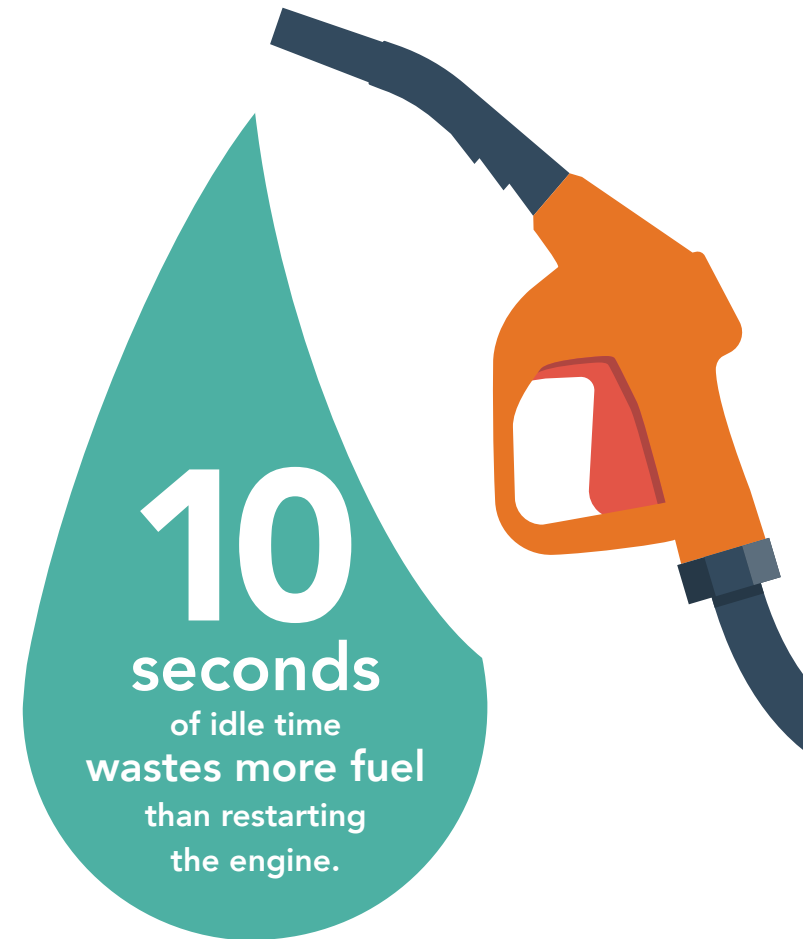

Driver Wages 33%
Other 9%
Benefits 10%
Maintenance 10%
Trucks 16%
Fuel 22%

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Reduce idling

Excessive idling burns fuel unnecessarily — up to one gallon of fuel per hour. One hour of idling per day for one year results in the equivalent of 64,000 miles in engine wear. Just 10 seconds of idle time wastes more fuel than restarting the engine.

Without a technology solution, fleets have no way of knowing exactly how much additional idling occurs. ELDs offer the ability to monitor idle time and provide reporting to fleet managers about which drivers spend the most time idling. To reduce idling costs, fleets can integrate start–stop systems to shut the engine off when it would otherwise idle and telematics systems to monitor usage parameters.

Improving your fuel efficiency and cutting waste can help you achieve significant gains. Using idling reporting, you can identify drivers that need coaching and even employ friendly competition to drive down fuel costs. Many fleets also create goals and incentives to reward drivers for good behavior.

10 seconds of idle time **wastes more fuel** than restarting the engine.

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Efficient routing

Out-of-route miles can contribute to up to 15 percent of a vehicle's fuel consumption with the cost per mile in the U.S. averaging $1.593. While there will always be events that cause out-of-route miles, you can help reduce unplanned miles and reduce fuel expenditures by ensuring that vehicles are operating on the best routes.

Some ELD providers offer routing solutions that can integrate with your ELD. With automated routing, you have the ability to suggest routes for unassigned or new customers. If you add a customer to a specific route, you'll be able to see the impact that will have on the driver's service time. Even if you keep similar routes week to week, they could change based on customer orders — and routing software finds the best path to drive down the cost to deliver.

It can be too vast a network to try to manually come up with efficient routes. Automated routing works faster than the human mind, and it can help your fleet uncover inefficiencies.

Help reduce unplanned miles and reduce fuel expenditures by ensuring that vehicles are operating on the best routes.

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5

Driver performance measurement

Many fleets would like to coach drivers on the best practices in saving fuel. But knowing the key metrics to measure, as well as how to interpret them, can be a challenge. The best ELD providers offer applications that measure and compare drivers, allowing fleets to incentivize the top performers and coach the bottom performers. In addition, these applications provide tangible ways to help fleets improve driver behavior.

Using driver and unit scorecards, fleet managers can view times in top gear, over-speeding, cruise control, shift patterns, and more — leading to better fuel optimization and improved performance. Managers can segment those habits believed to create poor fuel economy and identify them on a dashboard. The data will help you find the root causes of bad driving habits and identify which drivers need more education or training.
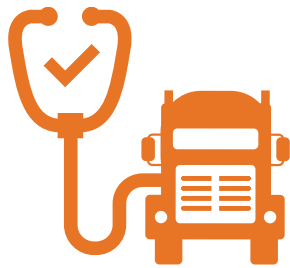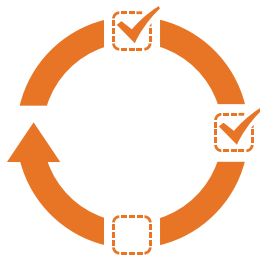
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2 Increasing Driver Productivity and Engagement

Today's driver wears many hats. Responsibilities extend well beyond driving — from maintenance to data entry to out-of-cab tasks and regulatory requirements.

Here are a few of the many ways ELDs can improve the driver experience:

Productivity outside of the cab – While it is beneficial to reduce the amount of activities required outside of the cab, it is not always possible to eliminate them. Vehicle Inspection Reports and signature captures, for example, need to be completed outside of the cab. ELDs can help to make these processes easier through out-of-cab productivity applications that allow drivers to electronically inspect vehicles, capture signatures, and complete many other tasks that would normally require cumbersome paperwork. This not only increases accuracy but eliminates the burden of requiring drivers and fleets to maintain additional paperwork.

Driver workflow – Anything that allows drivers to spend more time on their core responsibilities, and less time completing administrative tasks that land on their plates, is valuable for fleets. One such example is a driver workflow solution which allows fleets to automate driver tasks, reducing the potential of human error and increasing both fleet and driver productivity.

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Automated IFTA reporting
– Fleets have enough to worry about without dealing with the hassle of an International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) audit. As a requirement of IFTA, carriers must maintain a record-keeping system that accurately tracks Individual Vehicle Mileage Reports and fuel purchases. The requirements of consolidating and reconciling this information into an IFTA filing each quarter demand a lot of resources. Some ELD providers offer applications that automate the IFTA process, saving fleets and drivers time and frustration.

In-cab scanning
– In-cab scanning applications allows drivers to transmit important documents quickly from the truck cab to the back office, which reduces wasted time, out-of-route miles, and scanning fees.

With all the challenges fleets have in keeping good drivers, improving the driver experience is imperative. Decreasing paperwork and balancing workloads can help increase driver satisfaction. Technology solutions can also help greatly help drivers feel more connected. One example is a media delivery application, which allows fleets to deliver training materials and electronically update drivers on the road.

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③ Improving Safety

Every fleet wants to increase safety and mitigate risk — but risk that you cannot see is risk that you cannot manage. With effective driver coaching and the right use of data, fleets can help prevent incidents and accidents — and increase safety.

Fleet managers who continuously monitor risk will help prevent more hazardous safety incidents and accidents from occurring. Fortunately, ELDs can provide a lot of data to inform better driving. Applications focused on critical event reporting, speed, and tire monitoring can help improve safety.

Speed monitoring – Speeding is simultaneously the biggest contributing factor to accidents and one of the easiest driving behaviors to control. Speed monitoring applications allow you to see exactly when and where speeding occurs, so you can identify at-risk drivers and reduce the frequency of speeding incidents.

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3 Benefits of ELDs Beyond Compliance

Critical event reporting
– Critical event reporting applications gives fleet managers the ability to monitor risk before an accident occurs.

On-board sensors let managers know when events such as hard braking, follow-time violations, and forward collisions occur. Some in-cab video solutions can even be fully integrated into a reporting application.

In the event of an accident, there's no better protection than thorough documentation of your operator's safe driving behaviors. Video — which managers can sometimes request access to — is also proven to be an excellent coaching and improvement tool — especially for new drivers.

Tire monitoring
– Improper tire inflation can not only decrease fuel efficiency, but it can also lead to safety hazards. Access to near-real time monitoring and reporting on tire inflation can help fleet managers take quick action to fix tire-related issues before they lead to significant problems.
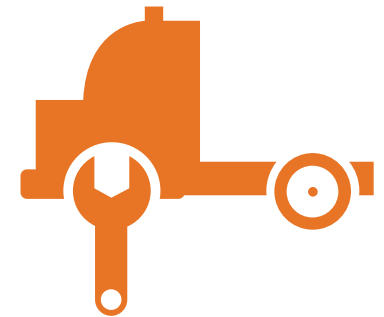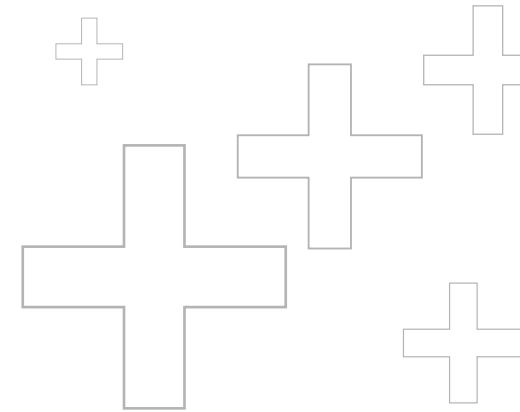
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➕ Bonuses of ELDs

In addition to compliance benefits, there are plenty of added bonuses to ELD technology — from increased vehicle productivity to improved customer service and driver retention.

Increasing vehicle productivity – While it is vital to enhance driver productivity, it is also important to optimize vehicle efficiency. Many factors can help decrease fuel costs and also assist with increasing a vehicle's performance. In addition, fleet maintenance is a major cost for fleets. Commercial vehicles are subject to more mileage, oftentimes on poor roads and hazardous weather conditions. All of this adds up to a lot of wear and tear on trucks.

Since vehicles are often on the road and away from maintenance centers for long periods of time, it is critical to ensure vehicles are in optimal shape. Fault monitoring applications monitor thousands of faults and provide your back office with near-real time notifications in the event a fault does occur. With this level of insight into a vehicle, fleets can quickly diagnose and fix problems before they become severe.

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3 Benefits of ELDs Beyond Compliance

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Improving customer service — When it comes to customer service, it is key to remember that taking the steps to meet your goals will have a halo effect. Fleets that work to improve fuel efficiency, driver productivity and engagement, and safety will improve customer service in the process.

However, just because customer service may improve organically when refining other areas of the business does not mean that fleets necessarily need to stop there.

Recruiting and retaining good drivers — Driver turnover typically costs a company around $8,000 per driver. This is a massive financial impact and doesn't even consider the loss of productivity, strain on other drivers and employees that must make up for loss of resources, and impact to customer service. Retaining good drivers goes hand in hand with increasing driver productivity. Drivers who feel connected to their home, office, and family feel less burdened by non-driving activities, and drivers who are better trained tend to stay in their jobs.

Through the use of predictive modeling, fleets are able to understand the reasons why their drivers leave. The best telematics providers offer predictive analytics as an additional layer of resources to help fleets hire and retain the best drivers. By analyzing large amounts of data, fleets can see subtle differences in driver behavior, letting them know the factors that lead to driver dissatisfaction so they can take the necessary steps to better retain drivers.

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Get more juice out of ELDs with Omnitracs

Omnitracs offers a wealth of applications to help fleets address transportation challenges and capitalize on latest industry innovations. Access the benefits listed in this eBook with these Omnitracs solutions that can scale with your business:

Omnitracs Critical Event Reporting
Reduce unsafe driving behavior and prevent accidents and hazardous incidents.

Omnitracs Route Optimization
Build efficient, automated routes to increase operational efficiency.

Omnitracs Tire Management
Safely extend the life of your tires and reduce fuel expenses.

Omnitracs Driver Workflow
Improve in-cab communication between drivers and the back office.

Omnitracs IFTA Reporting
Prevent costly audits and lighten driver workloads with automated IFTA reporting.

Omnitracs Fleet Telematics
Optimize your business with comprehensive data insight into your fleet and drivers.

Omnitracs Vehicle Inspection Reporting
Automate your reporting process so drivers can quickly and easily inspect vehicles.

Omnitracs Driver and Vehicle Performance Monitoring
Track critical vehicle and driver behavior to reward high-performing drivers, and coach drivers needing improvement.

Visit **www.omnitracs.com** to learn how to save time and money with our fleet management applications.

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