

SAFED for Vans: Case Study

RENTOKIL INITIAL UK CLEANING AND FACILITY SERVICES



The Company

- Head Office - Castlegate House, Castlegate Way, Dudley
- Professional cleaning services
- Fleet of 280 Light Commercial Vehicles
- Annual fuel cost: £1.5m
- Annual fuel use: 1.63m litres
- Annual mileage: 7m

“With Environmental and Health and Safety performance being top of the Company agenda the SAFED for Vans scheme was seen as one way that our drivers could assist us reach these targets. In combination with our fuel monitoring system, we anticipate long term fuel and accident savings.”

Colin Blake, Fleet Manager, Rentokil Initial UK Cleaning and Facility Services

The Company's Perspective

Rentokil Initial is one of the largest business services companies in the world, operating within Europe, North America, Asia Pacific and Africa. As a subsidiary of this group, Rentokil Initial UK Cleaning and Facility Services provide a professional cleaning service to a wide range of sectors including industry, commerce, hotels, schools and hospitals.

Rentokil Initial UK Cleaning and Facility Services is committed to continually improve its working practice and as such to remain at the leading edge of its performance. To achieve this, it continually reviews and evaluates its internal management systems, ensuring that it is meeting its customers' needs.

The Company believes that environmental protection is a strategic business issue and as such it has become an integral part of its corporate strategy. Along with its high profile environmental policy the Company has issued a number of Environmental Good Practice Technique documents, which aim to standardise the approach taken within the business. One such Technique, Efficient Road Transport, aims to improve the environmental performance of the business fleet through a range of measures including the monitoring and measurement of fuel consumption and increasing driver awareness of the importance of fuel costs and the techniques for fuel efficient driving.

It is also committed to the highest standards in health and safety and risk management. As part of this, the Company's Health and Safety policy states that it will provide all of its employees with the training and tools to do their job safely and effectively.



In order to achieve its environmental and health and safety policy objectives, the Company have developed a number of nationally recognised award-winning staff training programmes. For example, in the UK, the Company are one of a few



organisations to gain a national contract with the government Learning and Skills Council to deliver Vocational Qualifications, Apprenticeships and Basic Skills to its staff.

On reading about the SAFED for Vans scheme Colin Blake, Fleet Manager of Rentokil Initial UK Cleaning and Facility Services realised that the training programme was one way that his team of drivers and cleaning operatives could not only improve their driving skills but also assist the Company in reducing its fuel costs and accident levels. Colin had already instigated a series of driver training courses aimed at Company Car drivers and felt the SAFED programme fully met the needs of the light commercial part of the fleet. Beyond this, he saw that SAFED complimented a number of other internal training schemes and Environmental Good Practice Technique documents.

Colin therefore initiated the training of 18 Company drivers as the start of a long-term series of training. Those initially chosen to undertake this training were relative novices, with the majority having less than 8 years of van driving experience.

With training and personal development being a high priority within Rentokil Initial UK Cleaning and Facility Services, there was little resistance from the drivers to the training. In fact, for many drivers it was the first time they had received any additional driver training. The training took place during December 2006 to January 2007 and the preliminary results have been very positive, with an average fuel economy saving of 13% and a reduction in gear changes of 30% being achieved.

With the fuel monitoring systems in place Colin expects that the savings achieved on the training day can be translated to the drivers daily task.

Potential Benefits

- ➔ Improved Company environmental performance
- ➔ Increased fuel economy
- ➔ Reduced vehicle wear and tear
- ➔ Reduced accident levels
- ➔ Increased driver skill
- ➔ Reduced risk levels for driver and business alike

Potential Environmental / Cost Savings¹

- ➔ Fuel economy savings: 13%
- ➔ Fuel savings: 212,000 litres
- ➔ Carbon dioxide savings: 560 tonnes
- ➔ Cost savings: £190,000

¹ Assuming fuel savings maintained for a full year

Trained by:

- ➔ ATC Driver Training