

# A Call to ACTION

# Essential CHECKLIST

A  
**FleetWatch**  
INITIATIVE

## Fuel Management

With continuing hikes in the price of diesel, fuel is now a major factor affecting the profitability of running a fleet of vehicles. Working together, the operator and driver can – with a bit of education – achieve significant savings:

### DRIVER

- **Maintenance:**  
Regular checks and maintenance will ensure better fuel consumption.
- **Speed:**  
The faster you drive the more fuel is used. Slow down.
- **Tyres:**  
Keep the right inflation – if too low rolling resistance will increase...more fuel is used.
- **Driving style:**
  - Keep the revs at near peak torque.
  - Drive in the correct gear.
  - Avoid frequent shifting – keep changes smooth.
  - Don't idle unnecessarily.
  - Switch off. Idling uses as much as 10% extra fuel.
  - Drive 'softly' – no excessive acceleration or braking
  - When engine is cold, don't use full power - pull away in first gear.
- **Wind resistance**  
Adjust air deflectors to correctly suit cab and trailer.
- **Fuel Tanks**  
Fuel tanks must be properly secured. Fuel theft is rife! Watch your vehicle.



Adjust trailer brakes  
- don't stop enticing with your trailer brakes only.



Adjust deflectors



Keep vehicle in top working condition - maintenance pays!



### OPERATOR

- **Train drivers:**  
Consistently and regularly – driver skills, habits and attitude – are frequently the biggest single factor affecting fuel consumption.
- **Incentives:**  
Consider introducing an incentive scheme for fuel saving.
- **Install a Fuel Management System:**
  - Effective electronic control of the dispensing and consumption environments
  - Automated data collection and reporting
  - Better understanding of vehicle and driver performance
  - Easy comparison of vehicles operating similar routes
  - Reports available on demand through automated processes
- **Maintenance**
  - Maintenance begins with management
  - Regular service schedules
  - Tyre care is a priority
  - Wheel alignment
- **Replace old vehicles**
  - Have a vehicle replacement policy - old vehicles use more fuel
- **Choice of vehicle**
  - is it right for the job to be done?
  - are the rear axle ratios correct?
- **Overloading and load distribution**
  - more fuel will be used
  - will cause damage to the vehicle and tyres
- **Routing and Scheduling**  
The planning of routes is critical to trip time and fuel consumption - this is a management responsibility



**OTI EasyFuel**

Market leader in fuel management solutions

*Reduce operating costs and enhance management controls with this versatile and affordable offering from OTI Africa*

**Homebase Solution**

[www.otiglobal.com](http://www.otiglobal.com)

For further information contact Charlotte Hambly-Nuss or Mark Levin on +27 21 526 9100 or [info@oti-africa.co.za](mailto:info@oti-africa.co.za)