

Summary

Economical driving in trucking companies A study of implementation and effects of the Eco Ladder for energy management

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The present study examines the relationship between economical driving, energy management and (reductions in) fuel consumption, among 16 companies that have received support from Enova to work with economic driving, and a Reference sample of drivers from assumed average companies. The study is also based on qualitative interviews with company representatives, and interviews with experts. To describe the companies' measures for economical driving, we use an approach that we call the Eco Ladder for energy management, that we developed in a previous study. The Eco Ladder is comprised of three levels, with an increasing number of measures at each level. The purpose of the present study is to examine whether the companies at level 3, which have introduced the most measures aimed at economical driving and energy management, have had the largest reductions in fuel consumption. Results indicate that this is the case: The companies at level 3 have achieved approximately a 10 % reduction in fuel in the study period, while the companies at level 2 have generally achieved somewhat lower reductions. This supports the idea behind the Eco Ladder. The drivers also report a number of positive additional effects of the measures aimed at economical driving and energy management: they experience more well-being at work, more self-confidence and more pride as drivers, and they also perceive that the company's reputation has improved. We argue that there are two mechanisms that explain why companies at level 3 have had the greatest effect. The first is that these companies are best at "cultivating" drivers with good scores in the fleet management system (and low consumption), through systematic facilitation of an economical driving style. This refers to the management practices at level 2 in the Eco Ladder. The second explanation is that the companies at level 3 are also best at working with other factors that affect fuel consumption, such as vehicle optimization and optimization of transport. This refers to the management practices at level 3 in the Eco Ladder.