

# Putting Digital at the heart of compliance management

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There is little, if any, sign of pressure easing in logistics and transportation management. If anything, the issues continue to mount. There was no evidence of the slowdown in ecommerce that many were predicting in 2018; on the contrary, online growth continued at record levels, leading many organisations to reconsider the importance of reaching beyond traditional strategies to enhance their logistics and transportation capabilities. Meanwhile, the industry continues to battle issues such as driver shortage, congestion, and legislative reporting requirements.

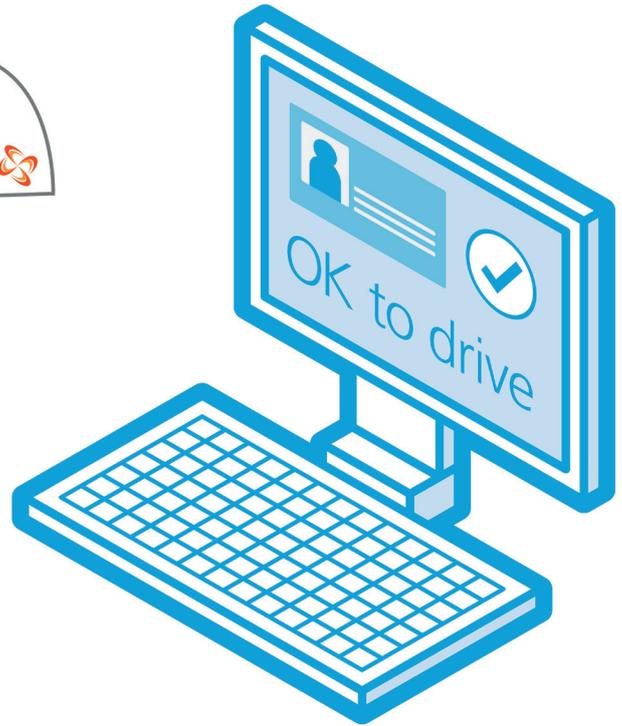
In the face of such adversity, there is a new – if perhaps unlikely hero: telematics technology. Already an integral part of fleet management, telematics technology paired with advanced routing systems can transform supply chain performance. Not only by optimising delivery efficiency through intelligent routing, but also through reduced mileage and fuel consumption which in turn, leads to a reduction in drivers' hours per job, as well as the necessary vehicle maintenance and servicing required.

However, the real change lies in the convergence of telematics systems and tachograph data. The addition of being able to automatically send tachograph data via a telematics device means that efficiencies can be achieved in gathering tachograph data to manage drivers' hours compliance. Operators today save 20-30 mins per vehicle per week in downloading tachograph data using remote download devices and the same can be achieved by using an installed telematics device for automated remote tachograph downloads, improving fleet utilisation and ensuring compliance with tachograph regulations. Plus, the burden of getting drivers to come into a depot office to download their driver card data is eliminated as it happens in the background to a set schedule as they are driving. Whilst Vehicle Unit tachograph data is only required to be downloaded every 90 days, there are clear advantages in doing it more frequently to deal with any issues such as unaccounted mileage. Similarly, Drivers' Card data is only mandatory every 28 days, but the benefits of being able to detect and deal with abnormalities or potential issues early are significant.

By using telematics technology to download vehicle unit tachograph data on a weekly basis and driver card tachograph data daily, operators will be able to deal with any issues and infringements in a timely fashion before they become a bigger problem. For example, as alluded, one of the biggest problems is unaccounted distance. Is the distance simply accumulated by the driver working his way around a large depot? Is it a result of a maintenance engineer driving the vehicle to a service bay? Or – more risky – is a driver not putting in his Driver's card to extend his hours? If the data is left unchecked for 90 days, this presents a significant challenge for any transport operator to justify to the DVSA.

On a more positive note, by further streamlining the process to include vehicle walk-around safety checks combined with a smart alerting function that can be tailored to an individual organisation's key trigger points, the historical manual processes associated with logistics and transport management can be all but done away with.

Telematics and mobile data communications can now be utilised



to allow the fleet manager to know what the status of a driver's hours compliance is; know in advance when to book a vehicle in for maintenance; and therefore plan the fleet accordingly. We can now see all these aspects of fleet management from a single dashboard, in a single integrated digital solution.

Fleet efficiency is becoming all the more difficult to maximise without utilising advanced technology.

Telematics should no longer be seen as a standalone system but a foundation to facilitate seamless exchange of digital data and information. Using telematics devices to transmit tachograph data further ensures improved levels of compliance and greater efficiency in managing a compliant transport operation. This is all to the ultimate benefit of the operators' clients in delivering a trusted, reliable, cost-effective and compliant service.

At the **CV Show, 30th April – 2nd May, NEC Birmingham, Stand 5G110**, Descartes will be unveiling its fully integrated, complete range of Smart Compliance solutions.

The solution comprises:-

- SmartCompliance™ - our Software-as-a-Service compliance management solution for transport operators, comprising our drivers' licence validation suite SmartLicence; our vehicle walk-around check app, SmartCheck and SmartAnalysis.
- Descartes SmartAnalysis - the leading solution used by thousands of road transport operators to manage and comply with legislation concerning tachograph data, drivers' hours and the European Union Working Time Directive.
- Smart Alerts - Automated email alerts to issues that need immediate attention.
- SmartDownload - automatic remote download of tachograph data via a the Descartes Telematics Hub.

One integrated package; one single system; one login; one complete picture of all your compliance needs.

<https://smartcompliance.descartes.com/>