

Target Keyword: Trucking Industry technologies
Word Count: 756
Page Title: 4 Technologies Improving the Trucking Industry Today

New technology is changing the way truckers operate while on the road. Trucking industry technologies can help with everything from navigation to bypassing weigh stations, and is readily available and affordable for trucking companies and owner-operators alike.

GPS Systems

One of the biggest trucking industry technologies to emerge in recent years has been that of the GPS. Global positioning systems that are designed for commercial carrier use provide more detail than those used by everyday drivers. That's because they are able to mark travel routes according to roads that are legal for a particular truck's weight and type of cargo. Drivers can also be advised of ongoing construction, and can sometimes receive live traffic feeds of a particular area as well. Whenever possible, one of these advanced GPS units will also help a trucker choose another route to his or her destination.

Some of them will also have additional features available such as trip logs and mileage expenses as well. This can help drivers consolidate paperwork, because they will only have to worry about using one electronic device in order to keep track of important information.

Apps for Weigh-Station Bypassing

Truckers can now download apps onto their smartphone or tablet that will allow them to bypass certain weigh stations. Drivers will be alerted when they are in close proximity to a weigh station equipped with the right technology, at which time they can make the election to bypass. If they hold a good safety rating, they will be permitted to do this in around 90% of all cases. This can effectively save drivers' time as well as additional fuel costs that would have been spent idling otherwise.

The down side to using apps to bypass weigh stations is that most of them are sold on a subscription basis. Since not all weigh stations currently use this technology, some drivers may benefit more than others do depending on the area in which they normally travel. As a result, it may be some time before all drivers can realize the benefits of using bypass apps on their smart phones.

Shore Power

One of the latest trucking industry technologies aimed toward improving driver comfort is that of shore power. What this amounts to is basically electric stations

that drivers can plug their rigs into while they are sleeping, thereby eliminating the need for idling. Drivers will be able to take advantage of these electrical hookups for around \$1 per hour, and in some cases, this also includes cable television and Internet access as well. Not only will this save fuel, but wear and tear on a truck's engine.

In order to be able to do this, truckers will have to purchase special equipment and have it installed on their vehicles. Several programs are underway that provide rebates for operators who are looking to do this. Alternatively, drivers may also use an outdoor extension cord and space heater to help warm their vehicles during the fall and winter months without buying any additional equipment. This technology will allow drivers to get a better night's rest since there will be less noise from other idling trucks in the background. Truck stops that feature shore power are primarily located in the western United States, with plans to add more stations throughout the country over the next few years.

Maintenance and Safety Monitoring

Many modern trucks are equipped with electronic equipment that will help them to keep up with regular maintenance while also ensuring vehicles are safe while on the road. Some of this electronic monitoring equipment can easily check the weight of the truck and make sure that cargo is evenly distributed. Drivers will also be alerted whenever there is a problem with the engine or change in tire temperature. Some systems will even make emergency calls on behalf of a driver in the event there is an accident or breakdown.

Not only do these electronic systems monitor safety, but they also help drivers maintain their logs, and also provide the exact location of a truck to corporate headquarters. Operators can stay up-to-date with weather changes, and can even use their electronic systems to communicate with their dispatchers or friends and family members who are back home.

Trucking industry technologies are ever evolving in an effort to improve safety and driver comfort while also increasing efficiency. While these technologies will cost a little bit initially, they can allow trucking companies to realize greater productivity and increased fuel economy, making them pay for themselves in only a short while.