



## Nelson Petrol Distributors



## Tracking trucks transporting flammable fuels

If your business is transporting highly flammable dangerous goods on public roads, reducing risk factors is crucial. Maintenance plays a core part in better risk management and improved health and safety practice for Richmond-based Nelson Petrol Distributors (NPD).

NPD is a wholesale distributor of fuels and lubricants in Nelson and throughout the South Island. They are fuelcard providers for Mobil and for their own NPD fuelcard which has a network of over 4,000 users. NPD runs a large fleet of modern Scania truck and trailer units to ensure consistent and reliable fuel supply for customers.

Fleet Manager Nick Cairney says the business experienced dramatic growth in the last five years due to expanding its area of distribution.

"As a result of the growth, we needed a better way to track the maintenance and safety of our fleet, as well as getting accurate reporting on the trucks in terms of how they were being driven," said Nick.

That need led NPD to GPS fleet management system Teletrac Navman which was installed in March 2015. The entire fleet, 15 trucks, as well as company cars and utes are now being tracked with Qube tracking devices, and the trucks have MNav messaging terminals installed.

### Reducing risk factors through maintenance

Transporting dangerous goods on public roads requires operators to conform with Land Transport Rules.

"We have to comply with legal safety requirements for tank wagons because they're transporting dangerous goods," says Nick. "The trucks need CoFs, but the hoses and additional accessories on the truck also have to be regularly checked to achieve a Safe Load Pass."

NPD trucks also need In Service Test Certificates where a certified engineer checks the truck bi-annually to ensure there are no risks of it catching fire or leaking fuel.

"We're at the top of the risk triangle in terms of goods transported on public roads in New Zealand, so it is absolutely essential that we are on top of maintenance and safety. I use the Teletrac Navman DIRECTOR software to keep track of all the certification and safety requirements. The system sends me alerts when the next certification is required.

"Our fleet is dispersed across Nelson and Christchurch, so since I'm not on site with all the vehicles, the Teletrac Navman DIRECTOR software

### HERE'S HOW NELSON PETROL HAS BENEFITED FROM INSTALLING TELETRAC NAVMAN ECHNOLOGY

- Meeting stringent certification and safety requirements to conform with Land Transport Rules
- Keeping a complex range of maintenance needs up to date
- Improving driver safety
- Significant savings through claiming back RUC for off-road driving



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For safety and business purposes, NPD runs a very modern fleet so there are a number of specific servicing requirements to keep warranties up to date. Nick uses alerts within DIRECTOR for upcoming maintenance needs so servicing can be booked and completed on time.

"With a range of different trucks and trailers in our fleet, CoFs may be due at different times. I use the Teletrac Navman system to make sure we're not caught out by this."

**Keeping drivers safe**

Nick says that DIRECTOR provides an overview of where the NPD drivers are and how they're driving.

"If they get a flat tyre in the middle of nowhere, we can now send a service vehicle to assist," says Nick adding that NPD follows strict health and safety policies and holds regular safety meetings with staff members to remind themselves of the importance of safety in the workplace.



**"The Teletrac Navman DIRECTOR software gives me oversight of the maintenance needs of our whole fleet."**

"Teletrac Navman is a useful tool at safety meetings, because it gives us evidence to discuss and better manage driving behaviour."

Nick uses the DIRECTOR app on his cell phone on the weekends, as they often have staff working after business hours.

"We want to keep an eye on our guys to make sure they're ok," says Nick.

**RUC**

NPD uses the Teletrac Navman system to claim back RUC for off-road usage. The RUC can run into hundreds of dollars per 1,000km per vehicle, and for heavy trucks running heavy permits on certain roads, the cost can be as much as \$620 per 1,000kms.

"RUC is hugely expensive so we use the Teletrac Navman system to help us cover the least amount of kilometres to deliver the most amount of fuel. Margins aren't big, so we need to run as efficiently as possible to keep RUC as low as possible.

"Using Teletrac Navman, we're getting significant savings on claiming back RUC. We're talking thousands of dollars."

Overall Nick says that the Teletrac Navman system has proved its worth as the NPD business expands.



**"Using Teletrac Navman, we're getting significant savings on claiming back RUC. We're talking thousands of dollars."**

"Teletrac Navman has helped us hugely with maintenance. As our fleet grew, I was having trouble keeping on top of maintenance. But now by using Teletrac Navman I can plan for all the servicing and certification requirements. It's saved us a lot in efficiencies. For safety purposes, the system provides the confidence of knowing where all the trucks are and how they're being driven."

For a business transporting dangerous goods, maintenance and safety are constantly top of mind. And the Teletrac Navman system makes things that much easier for NPD.