

# Prepare Your Vehicle Early For Winter

**W**eather in the UK and Ireland can be unpredictable. Snow, hail and rain can start suddenly and can fall thick and fast in a short time. Strong winds, fog, darker evenings and early mornings and even winter sun can be dangerous. In recent years we have seen severe traffic disruption caused by heavy snow and icy conditions as early as November and as late as March.

The start of winter is the start of a busy period for many fleet operators and an ideal time to prompt drivers to consider how they can reduce the risks they face on the roads, which are increased in winter weather.

Regular safety inspections are essential to an effective roadworthiness maintenance system. Although a part of the overall vehicle maintenance plan, the inspections should ideally be undertaken as a separate operation to routine servicing and repair. This provides the maintenance programme with the flexibility to intensify or otherwise change the frequency of inspections. It also allows the introduction of ad hoc inspections, should they be required, without affecting frequency of servicing and other routine



work (e.g. when the operating conditions call for more regular checks or when first-use inspections are required).

In addition, freestanding inspection reports can be produced which provide the operator with the means of determining not only the roadworthiness of individual vehicles in service but also the overall effectiveness of their vehicle maintenance system, thus enabling the instigation of any changes that might be necessary.

### Being Cost Effective

Although primarily undertaken in the interest of safe vehicle operations, roadworthiness inspections together with prompt remedial action are also cost effective. The early indication of wear, damage or maladjustment may prevent sudden failure of a component – resulting in unscheduled downtime – or prevent wear becoming so advanced that premature replacement becomes necessary.

### Ashcroft Trailers safety inspection facilities include:

- Undercover accommodation for the largest of vehicles, this is required to ensure that safety checks can be conducted satisfactorily in all weathers
- Tools and equipment appropriate to the size and nature of the fleet
- Adequate lighting
- Access to brake test equipment
- A safe working environment
- Access to test equipment
- Adequate vehicle inspection pits
- Qualified technicians

## FOLLOW US ON facebook

Add us on Facebook for more Ashcroft Trailers news. Our facebook page is part of an effort to expand our reader audience to a wider network; we regularly post news, offers and updates.



### CONTACT US:

At Ashcroft Trailers we're always happy to discuss your requirements and help you choose the right trailers and services at the right price. To discuss your requirements call or email us now.

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Opening hours: Monday - Friday 8am – 5.30pm

# Ashcroft Trailer Hire



ARTICULATED TRAILER HIRE | SALES | REPAIRS

## Some Free Advice Available For Haulage And Freight Operators

**W**hen the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 2010 is implemented in early 2012, all those using goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes will be required to have an operator's license.



The Department of the Environment recognises that for some operators this will require little change, if any, to the way they run their business, but for others more work may be required.

With this in mind, the Department, through Freight Best Practice Northern Ireland, has developed "The Transport Operators Pack" (TOP Pack) specifically to help operators achieve the requirements of the upcoming Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence by 2012.

The pack is held on CD and covers a number of important areas within operator licensing, namely maintenance and record keeping, drivers' hours, safe and proper loading, safe parking and driving including training. It also includes sample forms and

checklists which may be useful tools for operators who need to put systems into place for daily driver walk around checks, defect reports, regular safety inspections and planned maintenance.

Operators may also find it useful to check out additional material on Freight Best Practice Northern Ireland website. Freight Best Practice promotes operational efficiency for the freight transport industry in Northern Ireland and provides a wealth of FREE support material on all aspects of improving efficiency. There are pocket guides, guides, case studies, DVDs and practical tools designed to help you save fuel, money and reduce your CO2 output.



## Warehousing and Storage

Units available for rent, from 2,000 sq ft to 9,000 sq ft, within 0.3 miles of the motorway network and 7 miles from Belfast city centre.



Long term or short term leases, bespoke agreements for storage with loading and unloading service from one tonne to 8.5 tonnes.



# ISO 9001:2008 Certification

**A**t ATH we place the highest possible value on our customers and a commitment to quality through our ISO 9001:2008 achievements.

This award has allowed us to build a company which has structure and complies with all new regulations, put in place training schemes for employees, build on team work and the quality of service and knowledge base we want our customers to benefit from.

This accreditation requires us to build on key processes in business, monitoring processes, keeping them up to date and effective, record

tractability, out put checks for defects and problem areas followed by corrective action. Some key areas are to monitor goals and customer satisfaction reports to improve services to the end user.

Reputation and trust are two of the cornerstones of the industry and this accreditation is a cast iron guarantee that we can be relied on to provide a consistent and outstanding service for each customer.



# Looking To The Future

**W**e want to look to the future and seek innovative ways of improving our services.

Recently we invested in new sliding skeletal for moving shipping

containers and continue to refurbish existing fleet equipment to keep both hire rates competitive and the fleet fresh.

With experience in large scale refurbishment plans should you

require details and pricing, please contact [cheryl@ashcrofttrailer.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@ashcrofttrailer.co.uk) for further details or contact us on 028 9083 2641.

## SK14/3S



## ET7153



# EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

## RIGID SKELLY



- Red McGrath
- YOM 2008
- Good test

POA

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# Exports Rose for First Four Months of Year

The value of Irish exports rose by 8% in the first four months of 2011.

This is according to new figures from the Central Statistics Office and it spells good news for the transport sector. Medical and pharmaceutical products showed the biggest increases, while more than one half of all our exports went to the US, Britain and Belgium.

Interestingly, imports also increased by 13% during the same time, with the biggest increase being recorded in none other than transport equipment.

Exports were static in May, while the value of imports fell by 24%.



# Comprehensive Fleet of Trailers at very Competitive Rates

## SPOT HIRE

SPOT HIRE - is a flexible and cost effective way to source equipment. With a modern fleet comprising of twenty plus trailer types, customers use spot hire to cover gaps in their fleet or when they need a quick turnaround on transport jobs.

## CONTRACT HIRE

CONTRACT HIRE - The Benefits of good equipment and an all inclusive maintenance package is that you know your costs before the job has started.

## SHORT TERM STORAGE

SHORT TERM STORAGE - If you require short term storage our trailers are available at a moments notice with no planning requirements, trailers can be in place quickly and acting as an extension to your existing warehousing facilities. All costs tailored to your requirements.

## All trailers are available to hire for daily to long term contracts

