



TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

Campaign to improve the health & wellbeing of lorry drivers

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NEWSLETTER 2-8

A busy month! We're delighted that the Truckers' Toilets UK campaign is reaching an even wider audience and notice is being taken of our activities

Australasian Transport News: Yes, our Campaign has been reported on the other side of the world in an article dated 12 February and headed 'Toilet ban on UK truck drivers raises concerns'. Whilst Australian lorry drivers also experience problems from time to time they certainly appear very sympathetic to the situation in the UK. It is also gratifying that this article has received 67 'likes' and 9 Tweets at the time of writing this paragraph!



Blue Arrow: The meeting with Blue Arrow representatives on Tuesday 17 February was very productive and the partnership between Blue Arrow and TTUK is gathering pace. Jack [Chair of our meeting] writes: *"There's a variety of activity planned in the very near future which we look forward to announcing soon – most of which has been fuelled by conversations with our own driving community. Now, we're focusing on gathering more information and having discussions with businesses and organisations whose support could make a big difference. We take this issue very seriously, so now, we're chipping away at some of our influential clients and contacts to make sure they take it seriously too. And Gill's support and knowledge is helping to make it all possible."*



Unite the Union: Excellent news. Our campaign will be brought to the attention of the HSE Logistics Forum on 25 February. Unfortunately not being a member of either Unite or the HSE Forum Gill is not allowed to speak but she did liaise with Unite and the points she said needed attention were similar to those of Unite, viz: (1) the need for toilet access for drivers (2) the need for toilet access to be a statutory requirement as it is for other employees eg construction workers (3) what constitutes Minimum Standards (4) Legal issues related to welfare of drivers (5) Ratio of toilets to numbers of visiting drivers (6) Solutions to misuse of facilities



Legal issue: There is the suggestion of a possible breakthrough in toilet provision for drivers. More investigation needs to be carried out but there maybe a glimmer of hope on the horizon. Watch this space.



Human Rights: As mentioned in our January newsletter the UN General Assembly recognised sanitation and water as a Human Right, 'essential to the full enjoyment of life and all other human rights'. This is being investigated further.



Communication with Companies: Recorded delivery letters sent with sae have not been particularly successful so alternative methods of communication are under consideration; these should prove more productive. TTUK will keep you informed.



Health: Exercise: There has been a great deal in the media about the importance of exercise and the beneficial effects on health. TTUK recognises that exercise is not an easy activity for lorry drivers to undertake and has



voiced the issue on Twitter on several occasions and will continue to do so.

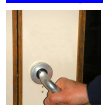
Health: Toilet access: Gill has also raised on Twitter the difficulties of accessing toilets experienced by lorry drivers. The health implications to drivers themselves and the effects on other road users have also been mentioned many times and will continue to be raised.



Hand Hygiene: The Food & Drug Administration [FDA] in the US believes that the benefits of using antibacterial hand wash should be documented [*FDA Consumer Health: FDA taking closer look at 'antibacterial' soap*] Many of us use this type of product, not just lorry drivers, but apparently there is no evidence to show 'antibacterial' soap is any better than using ordinary soap and water. The FDA has issued a proposed rule requiring more information on the safety and effectiveness of such products that are used with water. Hand sanitizers or wipes for example are not included. There is concern that one of the chemical ingredients may contribute to bacteria becoming resistant to antibiotics. But please don't stop washing your hands! This continues to be the best way to reduce infection and avoid becoming ill. [Thanks to Chris Packham www.enviroderm.co.uk for sharing this information]



Door handles: In addition to hand washing the Pure Hold hygienic door handle unit www.purehold.co.uk helps to reduce the risk of transmitting germs from contaminated surfaces. It releases sanitiser gel onto the hand of users via a clever valve system. It was found to be 98.5% cleaner than a standard handle. It seems to be ideal for food areas [*The Cleanzine 29 Jan 15*] [clipart does not illustrate product usage]



Take responsibility?: *The Cleanzine*, an excellent online magazine, covers a range of topics under the cleaning 'umbrella'. The Editorial for the January 29 issue highlighted the lack of foresight in providing essential services for the increasing rise in population – and the lack of money to improve matters. It seems that one woman has taken it upon herself to organise the cleaning up of her local community that is usually carried out by the local authority. Durham Police are apparently happy with the arrangement but the Council seems less so. But here is someone is actually taking responsibility for their local environment. We should all take a leaf out of this lady's book and take responsibility for our actions even down to flushing the loo before the next person ventures to use it! Get my drift?



Teaching respect: In the same issue of *The Cleanzine* [see above] there is an article about Singaporean youngsters being taught respect for washrooms – and those that clean them!!! Perhaps we could learn something from their efforts too



A portaloos problem: The outrage at the treatment of drivers in Kings County [Seattle area] when it comes to toilets continues. A further excellent article by Lolly Kay [Crosscut.com 2 Feb] describes how, a few days before Christmas, a Metro driver entered a portaloos signaged 'Honey Bucket' [!] only to emerge seconds later because of it's awful state. The toilet bowl was filled to the brim. Apparently this was the first opportunity for this female driver to take a loo break after 3 hours. She had to wait a further 45 minutes until she was able to reach another toilet. The facility was not cleaned until 16 days later – and this toilet serves as a pit stop where up to 145 trips finish daily! So that stop is vital to the drivers. Men had the use of a urinal which was OK but the women were at the mercy of their biology. To make things worse it seems that this was a new replacement for



one that also had had problems! So it's not all rosy abroad. [Do YOU use a Portaloo at the companies YOU visit? Let TTUK know YOUR story – good or bad. Ed]

Forget the loo roll! Apparently there is no toilet roll in the 'office of the future' [Mirror 2 Dec 14]. The Dutch technology company Decos aims to be environmentally friendly and be paperless even in the loo. Instead, toilet users are jet washed and hot aired dried. [Sounds a bit like a car wash! – Ed] Would this appeal to you? Could this be the answer to toilets getting clogged up, paper strewn around the floor or toilet roll thefts?



If you're interested in **Health and Wellbeing @ Work** it may not be too late to register for the exhibition and conference at the NEC on 3rd and 4th March

Public Toilets UK was launched on Facebook earlier this month. Operating on similar lines to *Truckers' Toilets UK* this campaign is focusing on the advantages of providing more clean and well maintained toilets instead of closing them – and also having them made a legal requirement!
www.facebook.com/pages/Public-Toilets-UK-A-matter-of-urgency/

And don't forget it's **Election Year!**
This is an opportunity to say your piece about toilet provision!

TRUCKERS' TOILETS UK

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Truckers-Toilets-UK/520313554691335>



Next issue of the **Truckers' Toilets UK** newsletter will be March 2015

Gillian Kemp

The British Toilet Association < www.britloos.co.uk >

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