



## Findings on Fuel Economy

The first step in reducing fuel consumption, according to the American Trucking Association (ATA), is reducing speed. A Truck Traveling at 75 mph consumes 27% more fuel than one going 65 mph. So, limiting truck speed to 65 mph would save 2.8 billion gallons of diesel fuel over a decade.

Reduce fuel consumption and increase **Average Fuel Economy (A.F.E)** by applying a number of simple techniques including:

- Driving at the lowest engine speed possible
  - Using the highest gear possible.
  - Driving in 18<sup>th</sup> gear at all highway speeds on flat ground above 50 mph.
- Using cruise control whenever possible.
- Using progressive shifting techniques
  - Upshift at the lowest RPM possible, no higher than 1300 rpm.
  - Downshifting between 900 and 1000 RPM.
- Utilizing the engine brake to maintain a safe speed going downhill and to slow down.
- Limiting unnecessary shifting (taking full gear changes - do not split gears)
- Braking and accelerating smoothly and gradually.
- Limiting unnecessary truck idling.
- Starting out in a gear that doesn't require the use of the throttle when releasing the clutch.
- Other common habits that reduce fuel economy are frequent or improper shifting, too-rapid acceleration, too-frequent stops and start from failing to anticipate traffic flow and taking circuitous routes.
- Limiting the use of cab accessories to reduce parasitic energy losses.
- Even the most experienced truck driver can improve their skills and enhance driving performance.

### Tire Inflation and Fuel Economy:

When not properly inflated, tires flex more under load, producing heat and increasing rolling resistance, which wastes fuel. Truck tires inflated 10 psi below recommended air pressure levels can reduce truck fuel economy from 0.5 to 1%. Maintain the following cold tire pressures:

- Steer tires: 110 psi
- Driver tires: 100 psi
- Trailer tires: 100 psi