

## DAF takes the cake for commitment to irtec licensing scheme

**In April 2011 commercial vehicle manufacturer DAF Trucks became the first truck manufacturer to adopt the Institute of Road Transport Engineer's (IRTE) irtec technician accreditation scheme throughout its entire dealer network. Since then DAF has invested heavily in putting technicians through the two-stage accreditation process, and as of August 2012 over 1,000 DAF technicians have received their irtec licence.**

The premier technician accreditation scheme for the road transport industry, irtec provides technicians with an industry-recognised benchmark of their current competence and commitment to best practice.

Phil Clayton of Ford & Slater in Leicester, who is Chairman of the DAF Dealer Service Panel, says: "I believe that the introduction of irtec accreditation is a major move forward for all: technicians, dealers and in particular customers. The independent endorsement from a recognised industry body is extremely important to us as we pursue further improvements to our already creditable VOSA first-time pass rate.

Ian Chisholm, head of operations and communications at the Society of Operations Engineers (SOE), the membership organisation of which IRTE is a Professional Sector, says: "DAF's commitment to irtec marks a huge contribution to the development and recognition of technical competence within the UK. Through the achievement of obtaining their irtec Licences, DAF technicians receive industry-wide recognition of their professional skills. In addition to this, DAF is demonstrating its commitment to excellence, and can pass on this assurance of quality and competency to customers."



Notes for editors

### irtec

irtec is a renewable voluntary testing and assessment scheme that certifies theoretical and practical skills of technicians working in the commercial vehicle, trailer and passenger carrying industries. irtec was established by the Institute of Road Transport Engineers (IRTE), the Professional Sector of the Society of Operations Engineers (SOE). An irtec licence proves commitment to safety and professional development by technicians and employers alike.

In 2010 the SOE formed a partnership with the IMI (The Institute of the Motor Industry) and IMI Awards Ltd. This partnership aims to further strengthen irtec's objective of improving industry competence and standards and involves working together on the development and delivery of irtec to ensure it reflects the changing needs of employers and industry.

For further information about irtec please visit [www.irtec.org.uk](http://www.irtec.org.uk).

For further information about SOE please visit [www.soe.org.uk](http://www.soe.org.uk).

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