



THE INSTITUTE OF THE  
MOTOR INDUSTRY

# Press Release

[www.theimi.org.uk](http://www.theimi.org.uk)

## **Truck industry needs more accredited technicians claims IMI**

A 50 per cent increase in the number of licensed articulated goods vehicles exceeding 40 tonnes over the past ten years\* clearly demonstrates the demand for more highly skilled and industry accredited heavy vehicle technicians.

That's according to the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI), IRTE's partner for the irtec licensing scheme, which is focused on creating additional opportunities for truck technicians to achieve the five-year competency based accreditation across the UK.

Following the addition of the Heavy Vehicle Trailer (HVT) Inspection Technician route to the irtec licence, the IMI and its subsidiary awarding body, IMI Awards, which manages the quality assurance process for the irtec scheme, is seeking new assessment centres to provide good regional representation for individuals and employers to access.

Linda Stansfield, Chief Operating Officer, IMI, said:

"The introduction of the new irtec accreditation for trailer technicians has shown the appetite for independent standardisation and recognition of technical skills within the heavy vehicle sector. As technology continues to advance, however, we need to ensure that there are the opportunities for employers to access assessments for their technicians as flexibly as possible. The IMI Awards team is actively pursuing opportunities to develop the approved assessment centre network to facilitate this."

Organisations interested in becoming an approved centre to deliver the irtec assessments are invited to contact Ian Cheetham at IMI Awards on [ianc@imiawards.org.uk](mailto:ianc@imiawards.org.uk)

**- Ends -**



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## **Notes to Editor**

### **About the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI):**

The IMI is the professional body for individuals working in the motor industry. Its vision is to ensure that the automotive retail sector has a skilled, competent and professional workforce that is fully equipped to keep pace with the demands of new technology and changing markets while remaining competitive in the global market. The IMI is also the industry's government licensed Sector Skills Council, the ruling body of the Automotive Technician Accreditation and Automotive Management Accreditation schemes, as well as the authoritative source of retail motor industry careers information, standards and qualifications.

\* According to statistics published by the Department for Transport, in 2000, around 26 per cent of articulated goods vehicles licensed were over 40 tonnes. In 2010 this proportion had risen to 72 per cent. Between 2009 and 2010, the amount of goods moved by GB-registered vehicles in the UK increased by 11 per cent to 139 billion tonne kilometres.

<http://assets.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/road-freight-statistics-2010/road-freight-economic-environmental-safety-statistics.pdf>

In 2010 the SOE formed a partnership with the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) and IMI Awards Ltd to develop the irtec license provision and delivery within the approved IMI Awards centre network. This partnership aims to strengthen the irtec objective of improving industry competence and standards and be reflective of the changing needs of employers and industry.

IMI Awards is the UK's only awarding body that focuses solely on the retail motor industry. IMI Awards partner with more than 500 training providers to offer over 150 nationally-recognised qualifications and accreditations; recognising and supporting the skills of over 70,000 learners each year. IMI Awards quality assures accreditations and qualifications and ensures their delivery through approved training centres. To find out more information about becoming an approved IMI Awards training centre visit [www.imiawards.org.uk](http://www.imiawards.org.uk) for more details.

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.

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

Please visit [www.theimi.org.uk](http://www.theimi.org.uk) to find out more.

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