



Background interview

VDO Academy: “Regular training courses ensure security“

Just thinking about all the things that can go wrong when operating the DTCO makes some drivers nervous – and fleet managers also get nervous when they realize that some of their drivers might be unsure enough to enter the wrong data... but neither drivers nor managers have to worry if they acquire the relevant knowledge. In a short interview, Markus Weide from Continental talks about the most common operating errors and their consequences – and, most importantly, how they can be avoided.

Markus Weide has been working for Continental in the tachograph division since 2001. He has been responsible for training & qualification since 2008 and is currently a senior lecturer at the VDO Academy.

What do people forget most often when they’re operating the digital tachograph?

The time group switch is often incorrectly set, because the driver forgets to switch to the correct time group when the vehicle is stationary. Likewise, there are always uncertainties when entering the country details and the same applies to entering all the activities since the last time the driver card was removed.

What are the consequences of these mistakes?

Each of the above-mentioned points can sometimes result in substantial fines for the transport companies during roadside inspections. A missing country entry, for example, costs up to €75 in Germany and up to €40 in Austria – per day!

How can fleet companies counteract this?

Knowledge is the key here. Quite simply, drivers must learn how to operate the DTCO. There are no shortcuts. However, when they have acquired the knowledge and become familiar with the tachograph and its functions, they can easily operate it safely – it's really not complicated. Regular training courses, such as those offered by the VDO Academy, ensure security for drivers and the transport companies. Then that uneasy feeling some drivers get – as if they're being tested by the tachograph – will quickly be replaced by confident operation.

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Picture and caption



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