

## **Kuipers Logistics opts for the Interlock XT Breath alcohol ignition interlock devices in trucks**

**Kuipers Logistics, a medium-sized transport company based in Oldenzaal Netherlands, can see the benefit of the Dräger Interlock and realized the system in more than forty of its trucks. Dräger News talks to Harry Kuipers, owner and Director of the company, and to Philip Vollenbroek, who is responsible for the shipping and insurance divisions. Philip is furthermore supervising the 'Interlock' project.**

### **How did you become acquainted with the Interlock XT?**

Philip: "A year ago, the breath alcohol ignition interlock featured frequently in the news, due to the intentions of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management to make it a statutory requirement for all vehicles of alcohol offenders to be fitted with an interlock device. We equip our trucks with these as standard. After a little searching, with the aid of the Dutch Traffic Safety Association, we got in contact with Dräger. Agreements were reached soon thereafter and the decision to install the devices was made very quickly."

### **Why made you decide to install interlock devices in your trucks? Is alcohol consumption a problem?**

Harry: "Numbers do not lie: 2 to 3% of employees in the Netherlands have a drinking problem. A quarter of road deaths can be attributed to alcohol consumption. Furthermore, research shows that an employee with a drinking problem only performs to 75% of his or her normal potential. This of course includes so-called 'professional drivers'. If someone is a professional driver, then his or her job title predetermines how he or she should behave. This behaviour does not include excessive alcohol consumption and, until now, we have been unable to exercise control over this. This is something we needed, however. One time 2 years ago, for example, I stood at the gate with a breathalyser. A few of the drivers took offence at the time."

### **But you do it anyway?**

Harry: "Yes. The possibility of one of our trucks ending up in a ditch on a Monday morning does not bear thinking about. It ruins our reputation. It could even be more serious, if someone were to be run over and killed. I do everything I can to prevent it. You need effective support in order to do so, as well as peace within the company. It is actually rather a crazy idea that you would just hand over a one ton truck to someone, bearing a load that is potentially worth half a million euro. In some cases, it may even be a temporary employee, who you would not even trust with your wallet. This breathalyser test is therefore, in my opinion, quite justifiable."

### **Do drivers not feel they are being subjected to extreme control?**

Harry: "As the Germans say: Trust is good, but control is a necessity [*Vertrauen ist gut, aber Kontrolle muss sein*]. All of our trucks are equipped with an on-board computer that monitors precisely what the driver is doing and where he or she is located. The data is fed through every minute via Carrierweb. If a driver is using the cruise control much less than is normal, or if he or she is using the brake every other minute, then we can monitor that remotely before proceeding to discuss the issues with the driver. It is in keeping with modern times. A genuinely good driver has no issues with this; they simply do their work as usual and have nothing to fear. The introduction of the interlock device was already been discreetly announced within the company. Drivers were aware of the requirements that we imposed and it was good that they knew where they stand. The Interlock XT communicates with the existing on-board computer and therefore forms an expansion to the existing system."

**Do you also discuss alcohol abuse?**

Harry: "That needs no discussion. Just a single incident of being under the influence at work is already too many. It therefore carries a heavy penalty: any driver caught drink-driving is subject to immediate dismissal. The temptation may very well be great: we frequently drive in Italy, for example, and our drivers therefore meet one another at roadside restaurants. Having a glass before bed can be enjoyable on such occasions, but I would prefer it if the last glass was a glass of mineral water."

**Do you not worry that there will be cheating, for example, by getting another person to blow into the device?**

Harry: "No, that is their personal responsibility. Cheating will furthermore be detected in the majority of cases, because the system demands a new breathalyser test at any random time."

**What will the Interlock XT bring to your company?**

Philip: "I know for sure that it has a fantastic preventive effect and that the number of accidents will decrease. That alone makes it worth the effort."

**So it constitutes a valuable addition to your company?**

Harry: "The Interlock XT is fully in keeping with our safety policy. We want to be a well-balanced company and this is something for which we have even won awards. In 2007, we were proclaimed best transport company in the Netherlands by TLN (Transport and Logistics Netherlands) and in 2005, we won the Occupational Health and Safety Service Award [Arbo-prijis]. We wish to maintain this level of quality and the Interlock XT most surely contributes towards us achieving that objective."