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Britain without trucks: the nightmare unveiled

If the nation's trucks were to stop running tomorrow the public would be unable to buy basic food items after just two days and a large proportion of the labour force would be laid off after five days, according to new research.

The research is a central part of Commercial Motor magazine's *National Truck Week*, which runs from Monday 29 November to Friday 3 December. It was prepared by Professor Alan McKinnon from Heriot Watt University and graphically reveals the impact that a week-long truck strike would have on the country.

Key findings:

- **Day one** - Fresh grocery supplies would stop
- **Day two** - Bread, milk, eggs and other perishable products would run out
- **Day three** - Rationing of fuel and food products would be introduced
- **Day four** - Most petrol stations would run dry
- **Day five** - A large proportion of the labour force would be laid off

National Truck Week is the brainchild of **Commercial Motor**, the biggest selling weekly magazine for Britain's road transport industry, and is designed to encourage the UK public to rethink their attitudes towards truckers. The week will be used to highlight the crucial role that trucks play in our every day lives and aims to reverse the prevailing view that they are just a nuisance on the roads:

- Lorries move 82 per cent of freight tonnage in the UK
- Very few of the deliveries by road could be made by another form of transport
- Without lorries current standards of living could only be maintained for a few days
- Within one week of living without lorries, the country would be at a virtual standstill

Commercial Motor has **organised a range of activities** to take place during National Truck week, including **roadshows** in the centre of major cities across the UK, competitions and delivering bacon butties to drivers stuck in city congestion zones.

The magazine will also use the week to educate people about the importance of the trucking industry in the UK, and the roadshows are a chance to give advice to anyone interested in a **career in trucking**.

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Women in particular will be encouraged to join the industry as they currently account for only two per cent of the workforce. Commercial Motor has coined the term '**Mother Truckers**' for this target group.

Andy Salter, editor of Commercial Motor magazine, explained the decision to introduce National Truck Week: "There is a massive disparity between the public's negative perception of trucks and the vital role they have in all of our lives. People do not make the connection between the daily availability of basic items such as the food we eat or the clothes we wear and the fundamental role trucks play in making this possible. The research by Professor McKinnon examines this in very graphic terms.

Through National Truck Week we want people to become more supportive of the UK's truckers and think about the positive role trucks play. Until now, this has been rarely talked about."

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The full findings of the research, spokespeople and trucker case studies are available on request.

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Notes to editors

Commercial Motor is the biggest selling weekly magazine for Britain's road transport industry. Firmly at the heart of the industry, it prides itself on being straight-talking and isn't afraid to tackle difficult issues. Whether it's providing in-depth business and legal advice, unbiased truck and van reviews, campaigning on its readers' behalf or getting the best deals through its "mystery shopper" series, Commercial Motor provides readers with all the information they'll ever need to run a successful road transport business.