

A Week without Truck Transport:

Based on a study done
by the Swedish Association of Road
Haulage Companies in 2009

The importance of truck transport for society

Trucks are a necessary link in the logistics chain. All products are at some point in time transported by truck.

Truck transport can replace most other forms of transport but is not itself easily replaced by them. Rail and ship transport are by their nature confined in their flexibility, and for that reason truck transport has become a link in the chain of transport used by others, for example to and from airfields, harbours and rail terminals.

Many businesses in society today are dependent upon fast and flexible deliveries. Firms have tried to work with the smallest stocks possible to avoid tying up capital. Instead, they rely on running deliveries of raw material and parts, even up to several times a day. Even small disturbances can have a large effect on their business.

Truck transportation has met this demand by offering high quality services beyond simple transport. Truck operators' knowledge of logistics, in combination with IT, turns them into a central player when it comes to coordinating customer transport needs.

However, despite these simple economic and transport realities, few understand the vital importance of truck transport in our daily lives. What would happen if truck transport stopped for a week?



The International Road Transport Union

The International Road Transport Union (IRU), founded in Geneva on 23 March 1948, has a local and global reach through its 180 Members in over 70 countries, including all 27 EU countries. The IRU represents the operators of trucks, buses, coaches and taxis, from large transport fleets to individual owner-operators.

The IRU and its Members have made sustainable development a constitutional obligation and subsequently developed a cost-effective 3 “I” strategy to achieve it.

Innovation — Develop ever more effective “at-source” technical measures & operating practices to reduce environmental impact.

Incentives — Encourage faster introduction by transport operators of best available technology and practices.

Infrastructure — Without free-flowing traffic, the above measures are useless. Adequate investment in new infrastructure and the fullest use of existing infrastructure are essential.

To learn more about the IRU and its work, please visit www.iru.org





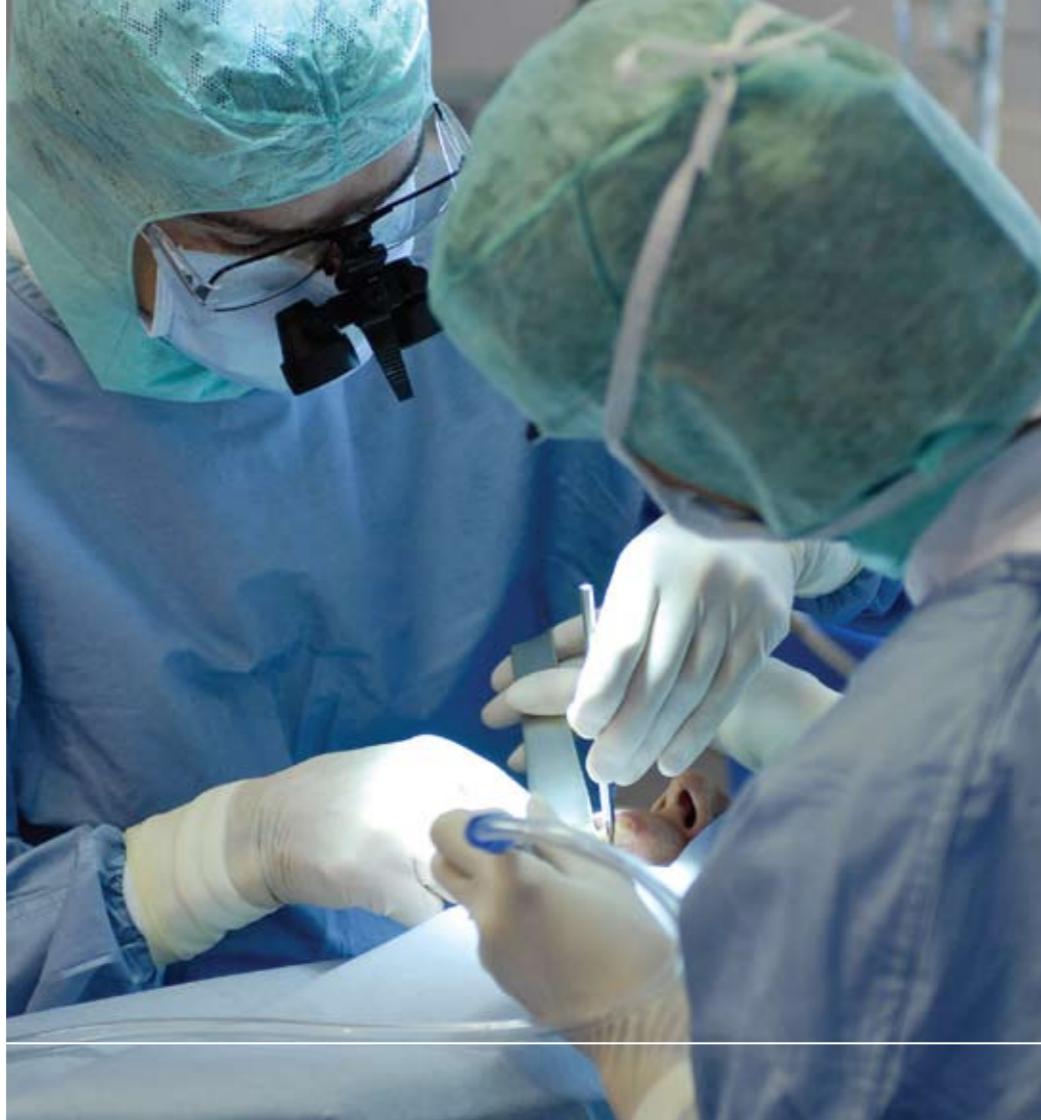
Study background

Each year, 406 million tonnes of goods are transported in Sweden. 353 million tonnes (86%) are moved by truck of which 36 million tonnes are food products or other agricultural products. Of all goods transported by truck, a large part (91%) is transported over distances of less than 50 kilometres.

What would happen if this transport did not take place? To obtain a concrete answer to this question, the Swedish Association of Road Haulage Companies (Sveriges Åkeriföretag) studied what would happen if truck transport stopped without warning for one week.

The study has been conducted in four regions, Falun/Borlänge, Borås, Växjö and in Umeå. An assumption for this study was that no advance warning of such an interruption in service would be given. This time period was used in order to prevent the stockpiling of supplies which usually occurs during a crisis.

The conclusion that can be drawn from this study is that truck transport today is an integral part of all social activity, and that without it economies and society in general would have trouble functioning normally. Truck transport is truly the lifeblood of our society.



Monday - Day 1 without truck transport

- Milk and fresh bread runs out
- Hospitals run out of clean linen
- Garbage removal becomes a public health problem
- Pharmacies encounter shortages in medicine supplies
- Newspapers are not delivered to many people
- Letters and packages cannot be sent out
- Company stocks begin to be depleted
- Industrial production slows
- Work on infrastructure stops
- Senior care is affected by lack of food delivery

Within a day hospitals experience a lack of clean linen. Every day there is a delivery of clean clothes. Delayed deliveries of linen and clothing affects a large part of the health care system and means that planned operations must be delayed.

Already after a couple of hours without truck transport milk will be unavailable at food stores. As milk is usually collected every other day on the farms, there is a risk that milk producers already on the first day will have to dump the milk that had been stored over the weekend.

Only letters that are already at the post office can be distributed. New letters or packages cannot be sent away.

MONDAY - DAY 1



Tuesday - Day 2 without truck transport

- Pharmacies are forced to close
- Fresh produce disappears from food stores shelves
- Some service stations run out of fuel
- Public transport may discontinue service
- Restaurants run out of supplies
- Restaurants and other businesses encounter sanitation problems

On day two there is a lack of fresh produce in the food stores. Large food stores get 10-15 deliveries by truck daily. Some products will no longer be found in the stores.

Pharmacies depend upon daily deliveries of products. Certain medicines will soon be out of stock. For people who depend upon medicine that is not stocked in large quantities the missing deliveries can have serious consequences. There is the risk that one cannot live up to the promise of being able to get customers their medicine within 24 hours.

In the public transportation system the stoppage of delivery of spare parts can result in interruptions in traffic.

At restaurants there will be changes in the menu. There will be less fresh food in the selections. It will be necessary to use whatever is in the freezer. At hotels the guests will have less to choose from at the dinner table.

TUESDAY - DAY 2



Wednesday - Day 3 without truck transport

- Waste water sludge becomes a problem
- Milk can no longer be picked up at the farms
- Dairy products have disappeared from stores shelves
- The shortage of fuel is now a reality
- More serious disruptions to public transportation now occur
- Hotel guests can no longer count on clean sheets
- School food is now either leftovers or packaged dry food
- Teachers encourage children to bring their own lunch

The lack of diesel fuel and gasoline is now very serious, and fuel is now out at many service stations. Those businesses which had switched over to smaller trucks or vans also experience difficulty in making their rounds.

Sludge and slime storage tanks at treatment plants are now full. Sludge is now stored on asphalt slabs, with the risk of bad odor, or it's pumped out with insufficient treatment.

Restaurants' supplies of produce are now limited and many items are taken off the menu.

Public transportation buses are still rolling, but as the lack of fuel takes hold there are interruptions and routes are cancelled. The interruptions can also hit air traffic as the supply of jet fuel runs out during the day.

Hotels no longer have clean sheets.



Thursday - Day 4 without truck transport

- Shortage of food supplies
- All fuel supplies are depleted from service stations
- Bus service stops
- Air traffic stops
- Garbage is piling up in the streets
- Newspapers stop printing

Garbage removal has become a sanitary problem. Outside restaurants and apartments the garbage is piling up in the streets and alleys.

The lack of fuel forces public transportation to stop. The buses stand still, as does air traffic.

Printing newspapers has stopped as the supply of newsprint has run out.



Friday - Day 5 without truck transport

- Drinking water is depleted
- Hotels close
- Restaurants close
- School lunches are no longer available
- Industrial production stops

Water supplies are affected. The delay of weekly deliveries of chemicals has meant that water treatment plants can no longer guarantee that water is fit to drink.

Food delivery is now critical. In schools and senior care centres, as well as in hospitals, food is in short supply. Restaurants close.

Hotels close due to a lack of both customers and supplies.

Industrial production has stopped due to a lack of room to stock finished products, if a lack of raw material and parts has not already made it impossible to continue production.



Conclusion



Trucks play a unique role in today's transport system. Whether it is local transport or part of the long distance transport chain, trucks are instrumental in enabling the proper functioning of the economy and ensuring the quality of life we enjoy today.

For this reason, an interruption or stoppage in truck transport service has consequences in nearly every aspect of daily life including health care, food and energy distribution. It affects most businesses that we all have daily contact with, since many of them today have small or almost non-existent stocks or supplies and are completely dependent on receiving daily deliveries on time. Even businesses with large stocks of raw material are still dependent on a continuous supply of important components or parts.

A precondition for recognising the importance of truck transport in the future is that everyone understands the vital role that it plays today. If even one part of the transport chain fails, it spreads quickly to other sectors. Even minor interruptions in truck transport can have dramatic consequences.

Should you be interested in reading the full study, "A Week Without Truck Transport: Four Regions in Sweden", please visit www.iru.org for the English version and www.akeri.se for the original Swedish version.

*Working together
for a better future*

IRU

since 1948

IRU Permanent Delegation to the European Union
32-34, Avenue de Tervueren • Box 37 • 1040 Brussels • Belgium
Tel: +32-2-743 25 80 • Fax: +32-2-743 25 99 • E-mail: brussels@iru.org • Web: www.iru.org

IRU

©2010 IRU-I-0231-1(e)