



# FRAMPTONS TRANSPORT SERVICES LTD

*Professional, reliable, responsive*

## News April 2010

### NEW OFFICE MOVE

At the end of March we relocated our accounts, sales and marketing offices to a new and refurbished Head Office building, just across the road from our Mendip Freight Centre in Shepton Mallet. Our postal address and all contact details are, however, unchanged. The traffic office will remain on the main site, so that operators can maintain visibility of freight passing through the transshipment areas and for ease of dialogue with drivers as they start and end their shifts.

Our new Head Office is generally more spacious and has greatly improved reception and meeting areas which are now much more professional and customer-friendly for visitors to the site. We're settling in to our new surroundings very nicely - you are most welcome to visit!

Even more importantly for safety, with over 70 vehicles and 100 trailers, our site can become rather congested at certain times of the day, and moving some of the offices has freed up valuable space and created an opportunity to make changes to traffic flows, with a new entrance and one-way system being introduced and virtually all employees' cars now removed from areas used by articulated vehicles.



### A TRANSPORT WISH-LIST

With an election just around the corner, the principal groups representing the transport industry, the Road Haulage Association and the Freight Transport Association together with other key organisations have combined forces to lobby politicians from all parties with the case for transport issues to be pushed higher up the agenda.

The 6 point manifesto calls on the next Government:

- To recognise the essential role of road transport in everyday life now and in the future
- To invest in the road network, and if private finance is used, to ensure toll prices are not prohibitive for HGV users
- To introduce a national lorry road-user pricing scheme which includes a fuel duty rebate for essential users and ensures that foreign operators contribute to the infrastructure costs
- To issue planning guidance to local authorities to encourage more out-of-hours deliveries
- To expand and improve safe parking facilities for HGVs
- To increase Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) funding for enforcement targeted on unsafe domestic and foreign vehicles

Fuel, of course, is our major cost and the RHA estimates that the duty paid by UK hauliers amounts to a 25% tax

on the total operating cost of a typical 44 tonne truck, which is by far the highest in the EU.

Framptons bulk buy for our own tank 36,000 litres of fuel every two weeks, and every 1 pence increase in the purchase price adds another £9,000 per year to our operating costs (not even counting fuel purchased on the road). Assuming that the further increases go ahead as planned on 1<sup>st</sup> October this year and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, fuel duty will have risen seven times in 28 months.

It's a sad but true fact that championing road transport does not have the same prestige as some other Government jobs and we have seen a succession of 7 Transport Ministers in the last 10 years, either on the way up the ladder, or worse, on the way down. So it's hardly surprising that very little has been achieved.

Whatever the final result on election night, the next Government will have the British economy as the main priority. We would argue that road transport has an integral function to perform in our country's recovery and that issues affecting the consumer supply chain have far-reaching ramifications in the wider economy.

We are part of the solution, not the problem.

## NEW BSI ACCREDITATION



We're delighted with our recent assessment by BSI and are now officially accredited with BS EN 9001:2008. If you require a copy of our certificate for your own records, please ask Gilly.

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## VISIT FROM THE NEW OWNERS OF FRAMPTONS IBERICA

Last November, following the sad loss of our local manager in Barcelona, Framptons Transport Services sold our financial interest in Framptons Iberica SL to Emilio Paz Ciria.

Emilio and his wife Nati have enthusiastically taken over the reins of the business, and are already introducing new clients to our regular UK – Barcelona groupage and full load trailer service.

In March they both spent a couple of days with us in Shepton Mallet so they could see for themselves the scale of our operations, understand better the range of services we provide and be able to offer the whole UK storage and distribution package when they are promoting Framptons Iberica in Spain.

Emilio and Nati are pictured with Andrew Frampton (left) at our Mendip Avenue warehouse.



For more information please visit [www.framptons.co.uk](http://www.framptons.co.uk)

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