

Your shout!

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So an agreement regarding irtec's future has been signed between IRTE and IMI, but what does this really mean for the transport industry?

In the absence of a quality system for commercial vehicle maintenance and repair providers, the irtec Licensing Scheme has provided a voluntary scheme that tests the competence of technicians and mechanics against modern quality standards.

Now, irtec enters a new stage in its life; one where the hope is that skill levels, as well as recognition of the scheme within the transport industry, will be increased. These, in turn, should bring industry-wide improvements to efficiency and the standard of vehicle maintenance.

The recent agreement for joint development of irtec by IRTE and the IMI (Institute of the Motor Industry) has laid the foundation for a positive collaboration, which will provide considerable benefit for the industry as a whole.

It is anticipated that the joint approach will enable the concept of licensing to be developed to accurately reflect the requirements of all stakeholders within the road transport industry.

Via a joint irtec steering group, both IRTE and IMI will ensure that irtec meets the industry's needs, as well as developing a nationwide network of irtec assessment centres to increase availability of licensing.

The relationship that has now been established between IRTE and the IMI will also provide a conduit for the expertise and good practice that have been developed by both organisations, resulting in considerable improvements and efficiencies in the maintenance and repair of vans and trucks, but also buses and coaches.

Changes are already afoot. Proposed revision and modification of the irtec licence will satisfy the changing requirements of operators, vehicle manufacturers, maintenance providers, training organisations, and the bus and coach sector of the industry.

It is even possible that this licensing may also form the foundation of a regulated system for maintenance contractors.

A valuable partnership, and hopefully an even more valuable technician licensing scheme is here.

Transport Engineer's regular 'IRTE to IRTE' members' column: focusing on the issues, challenges and concerns that matter to transport engineers and fleet managers

