NPTC's Definition of Private Fleets



The following core features constitute the definition of authentic private fleets:

AN IN-HOUSE CORPORATE TRUCKING OPERATION

The private fleet is an in-house truck fleet operation, often incorporated as a separate company, in service to a parent corporation whose primary business, such as manufacturing or retailing, is not trucking. However, private fleets may have their own operating authority to act as a for-hire carrier to produce revenue and lower net operating costs by selling capacity of the private fleet not used or required by the parent company.

TARGETING SPECIFIC CORPORATE GOALS

A private fleet plays a key role in fulfilling and measuring specific corporate goals related to meeting high standards of customer service, quality, cost management, capacity control, and environmental sustainability

MANAGED BY EXPERT TEAM OF COMPANY EMPLOYEES

The private fleet is managed by a professionally-trained team of company employees who are transportation services and private fleet specialists; however, the work of this team may be supplemented by outside management services providers.

DRIVERS

The private fleet's driver teams may be made up of company employees; full-service leased drivers; sometimes temporary drivers, or independent owner-operator driver contractors—or in combinations thereof—working generally on a full time basis, occasionally on a part-time basis, year-around or seasonally. Outstanding customer service, exceptionally safe driving performance, and longevity of service to one company are key differentiating values of private fleet drivers

EQUIPMENT

The private fleet's tractors and trailers may be owned, leased, financed-leased, rented—or in combinations thereof.

SAFETY

Private fleets are significantly safer—generally three times or more safe—when compared to the overall safety performance of the for-hire trucking industry.

FINANCIAL MODEL

The private fleet may be a profit center, cost center, or "hybrid" profit and loss entity

WHAT IS NOT A PRIVATE FLEET

Other types of trucking operations may appear like or claim to be private fleets but are not. The term "dedicated private fleet" is a misnomer. The trucking services provided to a shipper company by an outside carrier or third party logistics company—generally known as "dedicated fleets"—whether used to augment, replace, or as an alternative to a private fleet, whether deployed regularly or seasonally, are not private fleets.

