

Get the Facts

Natural Gas Trucking - Frequently Asked Questions

What is LNG?

LNG stands for Liquefied Natural Gas. This is the same natural gas that is used to heat water and furnaces in homes, except the gas is cooled into a liquid.

Is LNG truck fuel imported?

No. All LNG truck fuel is Made-In-America.

Where does LNG come from?

Natural gas is converted to LNG at production plants all across the U.S. LNG is delivered by tractor-trailers from the production plant to the fueling station.

Is there going to be a shortage of natural gas?

No. North American reserves of natural gas are estimated to last anywhere from 70 to 120 years. More natural gas is being discovered all of the time so that reserves are actually increasing.

What is the range of an LNG tractor?

LNG tractors can have one fuel tank or two fuel tanks. An LNG tractor with one fuel tank stores approximately 60 diesel gallon equivalents of fuel. A tractor with two tanks will store approximately 120 diesel gallon equivalents. The range depends on the fuel economy of the specific load, route, driver, and driving conditions. If the fuel economy is, for example, 6 miles per gallon then a single tank will go up to 360 miles.

How much does an LNG tank weigh?

- ∞ Dry weight is 750 pounds
- ∞ Wet weight 1,100 pounds

What is the price difference between LNG and diesel?

The price of diesel fuel and LNG fuel both change with market conditions. In 2008, LNG fuel has saved from \$0.35 to \$1.73 per gallon compared to diesel fuel on an energy equivalent basis.

What happens if there is a collision with the LNG tank?

LNG tanks are double wall steel tanks. The tanks are manufactured and tested under stringent safety requirements. The tanks are very durable and damage resistant. If a tank is punctured, then the liquid fuel will evaporate away instead of pooling on the ground.

Who provides the warranty service on an LNG tractor?

Warranty maintenance can be provided by the truck dealer or any other factory-authorized service center.

How long does it take to fuel an LNG tractor?

LNG fuel is dispensed at 20 to 40 gallons per minute. Filling the tank only takes around 5 minutes.

Does LNG fuel evaporate overnight?

No. LNG only turns to vapor over time. LNG will eventually begin to warm and evaporate if the fuel is not used. LNG is a fuel that is most economical when used daily.

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What is the fuel economy of an LNG truck?

Fuel economy varies widely depending on driver behavior, truck configuration, truck maintenance, load weight, route, and route conditions. In general the following can be reasonably expected.

- ∞ Sterling with 9-liter ISLG engine is 4.8 to 5.0 mpg
- ∞ Kenworth with 15-liter ISXG engine is comparable to diesel

Can natural gas trucks go over bridges and steep grades?

Natural gas trucks have excellent power, torque, and performance. The Kenworth with 15-liter ISXG engine can go anywhere a diesel truck goes including the Grapevine and El Cajon passes. The Sterling with 9-liter ISLG engine can travel throughout the greater LA area including over bridges.

Where do I fill up my LNG truck?

A network of public access fueling stations for LNG trucks is being built throughout southern California and the Southwestern US. LNG truck stations are currently open in Carson and Barstow. Soon additional stations will be opened including two in the Port area, Fontana, Commerce, South Gate, Industry, Otay Mesa, Stockton, and other locations.

Why does the Kenworth T800 LNG truck use 5% diesel?

The ISX-G natural gas engine uses a fuel mixture of approximately 95% natural gas with 5% diesel fuel. Natural gas does not automatically ignite at the pressure/temperature of a compression ignition engine. A very small amount of diesel fuel is needed to start combustion of the natural gas. The role of diesel is to serve as the "pilot ignition".

Who can fuel an LNG truck? Is there a need for special protective clothing?

Any individual with proper training can fuel an LNG truck. Recommended protective clothing should be worn.

Can I lock in a long-term fixed fuel price?

Yes. With sufficient volume commitments fuel price can be fixed from one to three years.

What are the Clean Truck Fee exemptions for an LNG truck?

- ∞ LNG trucks funded by either port are exempt from fees in Los Angeles.
- ∞ LNG trucks purchased without port funds are exempt from fees in both ports.

How do I pay for my LNG fuel?

LNG fuel is purchased using a fuel fleet card.

Do I need to clean the diesel particulate filter (DPF) on the Kenworth T800 LNG tractor with the ISXG Natural Gas Engine?

The ISXG engine comes equipped with a DPF. The DPF traps particles from the diesel fuel. The maintenance frequency should be reduced by about 95% compared with standard diesel trucks.