

17 March, 2020

IVECO puts auto and AMT Eurocargo 4x4s to the test off-road

IVECO has recently undertaken side by side testing of two Eurocargo ML150 4x4 models in Tallarook State Forest north of Melbourne.

Over the course of the program, the Eurocargo 4x4s – one fitted with a full automatic transmission and the second with an automated manual transmission (AMT) – were put through their paces on the demanding bush tracks, in particular on inclines and declines of over 30 per cent gradient.

Both vehicles were operating at full GVM to replicate real-world conditions, to help analyse the best features of both transmission types, as well as to identify any limitations.

In attendance were several Country Fire Authority (CFA) driver trainers, as well as CFA and IVECO engineers, product managers and key account staff.

Among the findings was that although the AMT is a fantastic solution, when operating on hills, the full torque converter automatic with its ability to eliminate rollback from standstill and with similar characteristics to an automatic car, would prove more attractive for less experienced drivers.

IVECO Australia Senior Key Account Manager, Rory Wale, said the event was an enlightening exercise, and was part of IVECO's desire to provide the most suitable vehicles possible for emergency service markets, including for firefighting applications.

"Across the commercial vehicle industry there has been a noticeable shift in recent years from manual to automated and full automatic transmissions, as operators search for a more relaxed and safer driving experience with the benefits of reduced maintenance costs," Mr Wale said.

"More importantly though, there has been a change in drivers' skillsets – many emergency service bodies are run by volunteers who may occasionally drive trucks, but most are not professional drivers. With this in mind, we seek to supply the safest and most user-friendly options to suit the application.

"The ease of use and drivability of the full automatic is certainly attractive to many, and we're very likely to see this transmission become the preference in the years ahead."

IVECO Australia



PRESS RELEASE

Iveco Australia manufactures and imports commercial vehicles spanning the light, medium and heavy duty truck segments and, under the Iveco Bus brand, buses and coaches. The commercial vehicle range includes on and off-road models beginning with car licence vans, through to prime movers rated at up to 90 tonnes GCM. The ACCO is developed and produced specifically for the Australian market, complement Iveco's worldwide best sellers such as the Daily, Eurocargo, Trakker and Stralis. Iveco vehicles are ably supported by a dedicated network of over 60 dealerships and service outlets strategically located nationwide, offering aftersales services that include extended warranties, roadside assistance and programmed maintenance contracts.

Iveco's Australian manufacturing base in Dandenong Victoria, represents a major investment in the local truck and bus industry. Iveco directly employs around 600 people nationwide and thousands more Australians in related industries, from retailing operations to component suppliers.

Iveco Iveco is a brand of CNH Industrial N.V., a World leader in Capital Goods listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: CNHI) and on the Mercato Telematico Azionario of the Borsa Italiana (MI: CNHI). Iveco designs, manufactures and markets a wide range of light, medium and heavy commercial vehicles, off-road trucks, and vehicles for applications such as off-road missions.

The brand's wide range of products include the Daily, a vehicle that covers the 3 – 7 ton vehicle weight segment, the Eurocargo from 6 – 18 tons, the Trakker (dedicated to off-road missions) and the Stralis, both over 16 tons. In addition, the Iveco Astra brand builds off-road trucks, rigid and articulated dumpers as well as special vehicles.

Iveco employs close to 21,000 individuals globally. It manages production sites in 7 countries throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and Latin America where it produces vehicles featuring the latest advanced technologies. 4,200 sales and service outlets in over 160 countries guarantee technical support wherever an Iveco vehicle is at work.

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