

# PROFESSIONAL DRIVER

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THREE DRIVERS ABOUT THE GREENDRIVER TRAINING:

## ‘You know the drill, and yet it seems new’

**Early February, Van den Bosch launched their updated training programme for drivers. In addition to the mandatory basic training, Van den Bosch drivers now also have the opportunity to improve their skills with three master training programmes. The first few drivers have already taken the GreenDriver Master Class. The editors of Professional Driver asked them about their experiences.**

One of the first green trainees is Marcel Tijssen. He has been driving for the company since 1995. "At first I drove a silo; then I moved to bulk and now I still mainly drive bulk containers. Loading and unloading is more or less the same. The big difference is that the container frequently has to come off the chassis, which requires additional skills", Marcel comments on his daily

routine. "Nowadays we don't drive back and forth to Italy anymore. And although that also makes for a big change, it doesn't mean much for the profession as such. I am still on the road most of the week. Also, the shorter distances require more interventions, which means more opportunities to improve on your fuel consumption. And for me, that is kind of the fun

of it: to drive as economically as possible."

### FEAST OF RECOGNITION

Asked about his experiences during the training day, Marcel tells us that he basically knew everything. "To me, the GreenDriver Master Class was mainly a feast of recognition. But maybe that's how it's intended to be. Some things you already know, but then again, you're not quite sure. I've been a Van den Bosch driver for quite some time now, and it's been a while since we took the 'New Driving' training. This course has freshened things up. You pay better attention again, especially when it comes to letting your truck roll out – that's where you can gain a lot in terms of fuel savings. The correct position and use of the VEB (Volvo Engine Brake) was also very informative. The whole day was great. If



Marcel Thijssen

the other Master Classes are similar, I will definitely continue to get the Professional Driver's certificate."

"It's a good thing to brush up your knowledge", states Mark Verhagen. Mark modelled for all photographs related to the Master Class training. "That doesn't mean that there is nothing more to learn for me. And maybe that's exactly why they chose me", he muses. "Of course all of us at Van den Bosch can learn a thing or two, so maybe it's symbolic that they used me for the photos." Mark has a long history at Van den Bosch and knows the company from different angles. He started in the cleaning department and worked his way up to his current driver's position. "I drive the same routes, carrying dry components for Mars", he states. "Not the best job for perfect fuel consumption. The distances are too short, there are too many unexpected elements and on top, you have to deal with variables such as dense traffic, traffic lights and highly unpredictable other drivers."

Mark, too, is convinced that he had seen most of the training

material before. "But that's also because I switched to a Volvo FM some time ago, and took a training course for that. In the area of fuel savings, I can't do very much more than letting the truck roll out as much as possible. But the GreenDriver Master Class certainly proved instructive in the field of anticipative driving, prevention of damage and the blind spot. Anticipation is very important: the road is not a casino. And you learn again how to unload at the lowest possible compressor rotation. But I have to drive to Amsterdam or Duisburg now and then. Those trips allow me to practice all that I've learnt, although it also helps that I know my way around those places. Whether I'll continue for the Professional Driver Class? Definitely. But I'll have to take the E-modules first. And that requires a bit of putting your mind to it."



Mark Verhagen

### GREAT OPPORTUNITY

The figurehead of all the Van den Bosch drivers, you would think that someone like Hans van Rooij has nothing more to learn. After all, he has been with the company for 36 years. But he doesn't quite share that

view. "Of course I've seen a lot. But I still found the training very refreshing. I'm not much of a student type and quite frankly, I didn't look forward to it at all", he confesses. "But the trainers did a great job and in the end it was much easier than I expected. That does say a lot: I can't stand being inside all day; I have to



Hans van Rooij

be outside, doing something." Overall, the training did not offer a lot of new stuff for Hans either. "I've been a driver too long for that. Especially as regards the fuel, and with the short distances I drive, there's not much more I can do to cut consumption. But there will be new drivers and I know that this training is a fantastic opportunity for them; they can learn the profession in a modern and comfortable way. I found the observing and reaction part quite interesting. It sticks in your head while you're on the road: keep your distance, anticipate, stay alert. The Master Class cleverly covers those issues. Now all I need to do is muster up the courage to take that E-learning course. I currently do a little bit at a time. It also sticks better that way."