

DESPATCH

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ACHIEVES ISO 14001:2015



ENVIRONMENTAL ACCREDITATION DRIVING GREENER FREIGHT FORWARD

United Pallet Network (UPN) has achieved ISO 14001:2015 certification, marking a major milestone in its mission to put sustainability at the core of palletised freight distribution.

ISO 14001:2015 is the global standard for Environmental Management Systems, proving organisations manage environmental impact responsibly while driving sustainability, compliance, and continuous improvement across operations.

Following a rigorous independent audit by the British Assessment Bureau, a UKAS-accredited body, UPN has been officially certified for its Environmental Management System recognising UPN's structured, accountable, and transparent approach to reducing its environmental footprint.

From **Carbon Neutral Deliveries** to the rollout of **Electric Forklift Trucks**, UPN has already made bold strides to lower emissions and modernise operations. This latest accreditation cements its position as a logistics leader that delivers both reliability and responsibility.

David Brown – UPN **Managing Director** commented, "This certification is a proud achievement for UPN and

a clear signal of our commitment to sustainability. We are dedicated to providing services that not only meet our customers' needs but also have minimal impact on our planet. ISO 14001:2015 provides the framework to ensure we keep driving measurable improvements across our business."

Joanna Davila UPN Sustainability Lead, added, "ISO 14001 proves that for UPN sustainability is not just a promise, it's embedded into how we operate every day. Our members, customers, and partners can be confident that when they choose UPN, they're choosing a business that takes its environmental responsibilities seriously."

The certification carries the **UKAS 'Crown & Tick' mark**, the government-backed guarantee of trust and quality. Through UKAS CertCheck, anyone can validate UPN's certification details, offering transparency and assurance at every step.

UPN's sights are set on combining **first-class palletised freight services with uncompromising environmental responsibility**. This certification is both recognition of progress and a springboard for further innovation in green logistics.



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INSIDE - YOUR 2026 YEAR PLANNER



SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

MotorTransport

UK logistics unified influential voice

A coalition of 12 leading UK logistics trade bodies, including the Association of Pallet Networks, has united under the Alliance of Logistics Trade Associations (ALTA) to tackle the industry's most pressing challenges.

Meeting in London recently, the group set out a joint agenda on skills, infrastructure, sustainability, and government engagement. With labour shortages still a critical barrier, ALTA called for better access to the apprenticeship levy and pledged further support for Generation Logistics, alongside a new driver-focused campaign. Members also pressed for faster, digitally enabled border processes, stronger integration of freight into government strategies, and a dedicated cross-departmental lead.

On sustainability, ALTA reaffirmed its net-zero commitment but stressed the need for coordinated government support. The initiative reflects an unprecedented level of collaboration across UK logistics to present a unified, influential voice.

<https://motortransport.co.uk/industry-news/logistics-and-freight-industry-leaders-address-major-challenges-facing-the-sector/26997.article>



Driver shortages - multiple issues

Virtually every haulier is reporting growing driver shortages at a level unseen since the pandemic, the current situation is a culmination of multiple issues that have been building for years, not least of which is related to the UK's new relationship with the EU.

The three pillars which are often cited as the reason for a shortage are · The way drivers are treated in general – Pay – Unsociable and inflexible lifestyle

Whilst it's generally true that the highly specialised, highly trained, highly paid sectors such as tankers are much less affected, for the general market mere financial increases in per hour rates aren't fixing the problem, the wider issues run deeper.

<https://www.rha.uk.net/news/news/detail/global-driver-shortage-reaching-tipping-point>



NETWORK MEMBER NEWS



A LANDMARK YEAR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS

28,500 Tonnes of offset!

UPN has announced a landmark year of environmental progress, confirming that the network offset 28,500 tonnes of CO₂ between April 2024 and March 2025. The offsets cover the delivery of pallets travelling 26 million miles on UK roads and have been verified to ISO 14064-1:2018 and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol by independent auditor Carbon Neutral Britain.

All carbon credits were sourced exclusively from high-integrity projects certified under Verra's **Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)**, the **Gold Standard** Voluntary Emission Reductions (VER) programme and the United Nations **Certified Emission Reductions (CER)** scheme. Each project was selected not only for its emissions impact but also for its proven contributions to education, employment, clean water and biodiversity in local communities worldwide.

"Sustainability is embedded in every kilometre we travel," said Joanna Davila, Group Sustainability Champion, "By coupling rigorous measurement with certified offsets, UPN is delivering carbon-neutral freight today while investing in projects that uplift people and protect ecosystems for tomorrow. Our customers can therefore ship with confidence, knowing their pallets arrive with a net-zero delivery footprint."

Operational efficiency has amplified the impact of UPN's offset initiative. Over the same period, the network achieved a **77% trailer utilisation rate**—above the Association of Pallet Networks' published industry average of 73%. This higher load factor eliminated **millions of unnecessary road miles**, effectively removing thousands of truck journeys and the associated congestion, noise and tail-pipe emissions from UK roads.

"Sustainability is now a core commercial driver for our business and our partners", commented David Brown, UPN Managing Director, "Customers want proof, not promises, and that is exactly what these results provide. UPN is setting the pace for responsible growth across the pallet sector."



ONE Planet ONE Chance

Our Sustainability Commitment



First Class Travel for Palletised Freight

SAFETY FIRST: PALLET NETWORKS UNITE

The Association of Pallet Networks (APN), once again joined together with the UK's eight major pallet networks, for World Health and Safety at Work Week.

At hubs nationwide, staff and drivers received practical guidance on the fundamentals of staying safe in high-pressure, fast-moving environments. Topics included the safe use of nets, curtains, and restraints; the dos and don'ts of loading and unloading; emergency response; and the importance of full PPE. Workers were also reminded to prioritise their own physical and mental health, with advice on recording essential health data for "In Case of Emergency" access.

Marcus Munton, Group Health and Safety Officer at UPN, stressed: "For our central staff and Network member trunk drivers, these messages aren't just reminders—they're habits to be lived. Safety must be part of the mindset that guides every shift, every action, and every decision."

The initiative aims to strengthen the sector's already strong safety record while shining a spotlight on the health and well-being of the people who keep freight moving every day.



UPN SHOWCASES SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION AT MULTIMODAL 2025

UPN was delighted to join forces with Truck and Track at this year's Multimodal Expo at the NEC, Birmingham – the UK's premier gathering for domestic and international logistics professionals. With thousands of attendees and strong representation from leading logistics brands, the event was the perfect platform for UPN to share its latest achievements and innovations.



As the first pallet network to fully offset all palletised freight deliveries to achieve carbon neutrality, UPN used the show to present its first-year results from this groundbreaking environmental programme.

The Expo also marked the official launch of SmartTRAK – UPN's new, state-of-the-art freight tracking system. Designed to provide complete visibility and pinpoint accuracy, SmartTRAK ensures every UPN shipment is monitored with exceptional precision from collection to delivery.



On the stand, Sue Keenan and Lily Keenan represented UPN, introducing visitors to the network, explaining the carbon-neutral initiative, and demonstrating the capabilities of SmartTRAK.

Multimodal proved to be an invaluable opportunity for UPN to increase brand visibility, connect with its nationwide network of over 100 high-calibre member hauliers, and engage directly with prospective partners interested in joining Team UPN.



BEN SWAPS LOGISTICS FOR THE WHISTLE TO HELP RAISE £40,000

UPN is delighted to share the fantastic efforts of Ben Weldon, Director at leading UPN member HBC Logistics, who recently took centre stage at the Ayrfield United Festival of Football in Dublin.

The event, welcomed over 2,000 spectators and raised an incredible €40,000 to fund a brand-new community clubhouse. Once complete, the facility will house a youth club, a men's shed, and a sensory room for neurodivergent children and adults – a lasting legacy for the local community. The day's big match saw Ayrfield United take on

a team of Premier League legends including Jaap Stam, Wes Brown, Jason McAteer, and Yakubu. And who better to referee than Ben himself? A former FA referee – and an Evertonian through and through – Ben relished the chance to don the officials kit again. True to form, he even celebrated Ayrfield's first goal with the players

before showing his hero Yakubu a yellow card for backchat!

With schoolboy and schoolgirl games, a lively meet-and-greet, and a gala dinner for 300 guests, the festival was a resounding success.

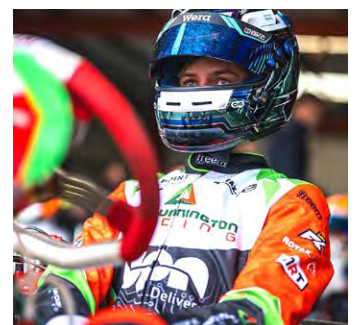


DRIVING FOR SUCCESS

At UPN, we're always proud to support the achievements of our network – both on and off the road. This issue, we're shining a spotlight on 17-year-old Harrison Crowther, son of Geoff Crowther, Operations Director at Essex-based UPN Member P&S Bird Ltd.

Harrison is making waves in the world of motorsport, competing at national level in the British Karting Championships with top-tier team Guy Cunnington Racing. With over 50 career podiums, six British Championship podiums, and two seasons of seeded numbers under his belt, his record speaks for itself. Highlights include representing the UK at the 2021 World Championships in Bahrain and reaching the finals of the 2022 Ginetta Junior Scholarship.

Standing just 5'0" and weighing 47kg, Harrison proves that talent and determination matter most. With ambitions to compete in the European Championships, he's a young driver to watch – and one we're proud to cheer on from the UPN family.



First Class Travel for Palletised Freight

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