

Sibling Rivalry

When you have a famous sibling, your own achievements can be somewhat over shadowed and as the XF 105 is known to be DAF's flagship, we thought we'd spend a bit of time looking at its close relative the CF. The CF is a popular choice for a wide range of operators, from tippers to long distance haulage drivers and under close examination is not difficult to see why.

As you approach the CF, the first thing you notice is the subtle external styling which rejuvenates the whole appearance. Thanks to non slip illuminated steps, well positioned grab handles and doors that extend into the roof, you can enter the cab with ease. Once inside you can tell that DAF have really thought about space as the interior height of 2.23 metres (7.31 ft.), combined with impressively large windscreen and side windows, makes the cab feel spacious and luxurious, something which is further added to by the use of warm yet practical colours.

Again keeping to the maximised space design, the central information display presents only essential vehicle information when needed or on the driver's request, therefore minimising distractions. Combine this with the fully adjustable air sprung driver's seat moulded perfectly to the body to provide the driver with fatigue reducing support, as well as the spacious storage facilities which allow room for home comforts like a TV, refrigerator and microwave the CF certainly is impressive.

When considering performance it can be seen that the CF is equipped with the all new 12.9 litre PACCAR MX engine, available in 360, 410, 460 and 510 hp versions with torques ranging from 1775 to 2500 Nm. By incorporating the SMART injection system and the latest SCR technology, this engine is fully compliant with Euro 5 emission regulations.

The AS Tronic automated gear box employs an electronic system to select the right gear for every situation, resulting in lower fuel consumption and of course enhanced driver comfort. However if you decide to take control the AS Tronic can be shifted manually without using a clutch. The CF features DAF's unique all round disc brakes, benefitting from EBS and ABS.

When testing it for Export & Freight, Garfield Harrison stated that "The CF85 is clearly a driver's truck. It has been designed and built with the driver in mind, offering a comfortable working environment, with handling and performance that is stress free. Road holding was excellent, steering was measured and accurate, and all round visibility made it a pleasure to drive."

featuring extracts from Export & Freight (Sep-Oct 07)

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