

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As editor of Taxi Globe I am always pleased to receive letters and emails from our readers. Following the recent issue of Taxi Globe which ran an article about ComCab and their Greenest Cab, I received the following letter from Stanley Roth, a licensed taxi driver of many years standing, who is a keen supporter of lpg. Mr Roth says he is already benefiting from driving an lpg cab, which is not only green but also much quieter than a diesel equivalent taxi. He writes:



Dear Editor

It was with interest that I read the article on "London's Greenest Taxi" as I have been a pioneer of gas taxis since the 1970s and the second owner to have an LPG taxi. In 1995 I bought the only CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) FX4 and am now driving an 2.3 LPG Metro. I phoned Malcolm Paice, Head of Operations of Computer Cab plc, and asked to see the SGS/PCO emissions printout, proving their claim. Well, I have never heard so much waffling. He said that I did not understand what was meant. Well, I can tell him that I do understand what is meant by "greenest". (I have been to a number of conferences on the environment to understand what we are doing to it.) "Greenest Taxi" means that it has the cleanest taxi emissions in London. If this is the case it is not unreasonable to ask to see the figures to back up his claim. If he shows me his SGS figures I will show him mine. If those of my taxi or any of the METROS, ECOS or JAYMICS are cleaner I will ask Advertising Standards to ask Computer Cab to rephrase the wording on the side of their taxi and any other printed matter as it would not be a true statement.



In his article Malcolm then goes on to state that LPG is stable at 40p per litre. When I informed him that LPG is in fact 46.9 to 50 pence per litre, he said he pays only 40p but when I asked if I could fill up at 40 pence he refused. Malcolm, what have you got to hide? I suggest he looks up the word "stable" in the Oxford English Dictionary because LPG has not been "stable" at 40p for a long time.

Stanley M. Roth MITG

MALCOLM PAICE REPIES TO MR ROTH

In the interests of fairness, Taxi Globe asked Malcolm Paice for any comments or reply that he would like to make to Mr Roth. This is what he writes:

"I am very sorry that Mr Roth thought I was waffling in our recent conversation! Mr Roth clearly has his own interpretation of what constitutes London's Greenest Taxi and his interpretation is that means cleanest - but neither Computer Cab plc nor GasTech are claiming this is the cleanest vehicle in terms of its emissions at all. We have been quite open with the emissions data that is currently available and we have also been very open about the fact there is still some further data being established over the course of a 10,000 mile trial period which we are conducting in consultation with the PCO. The further data which Mr Roth has requested is still being verified so it is simply not a case of anybody having anything to hide. The 'headline' data regarding the particulates is proven and we have publicised this fact.



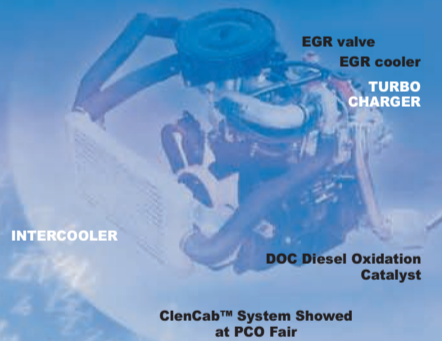
Mr Roth is to be commended for being a pioneer in this area - as are all the other solutions suppliers who have LPG solutions - this new technology is not claiming to be cleaner or 'better' than any of them at this stage and as neither Computer Cab plc nor Gastech are advertising this product for sale it is a little puzzling as to why Advertising Standards apply.

We have been able to purchase LPG at 40p per litre but Mr Roth seemed to be under the impression Computer Cab plc was retailing LPG fuel at this price - which we are not and we have never claimed this. We did not 'refuse' to sell fuel to Mr Roth- we simply explained that we didn't sell fuel.

I think that Mr Roth, Gastech and Computer Cab plc ultimately all have the same aim of producing greener and cleaner taxi solutions and this new solution is no 'threat' to Mr Roth's or any other manufacturers options - ultimately the driver will be able to make a choice based on cost, efficiency and environmental credentials. Once the Gastech solution has finalised its testing all relevant data would be available to anybody interested in purchasing this option.

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