



Our position on transport

Transport, and the growth in road transport in particular, is one of today's most high profile environmental issues. The problems of noise, congestion and air pollution are commonplace, with road transport being the most common mode of transport for both people and goods in economically developed countries.

In Great Britain, for example, over 80% of internal freight is moved by road. Road transport is central to the success of British business and is considered essential to the maintenance of the standard of living and quality of life expected by the majority of the population.

- **Current position**

The road transport of goods between suppliers, factories, warehouses and retail outlets is - and is likely to remain - the only practical method for delivering goods to predominantly high street retail locations.

Our business now operates partnerships with leading transport operators to provide the specialist logistics support required to support a company operating in a dynamic retail environment. However, we still expect our partners to help us minimise the environmental impact relating to the movement of our stock from central warehouses to distribution centre to stores.

We will continue to minimise the impacts of our transport operation by developing existing and new initiatives. For example, the collection of our suppliers stock using the empty space on returning store delivery and distribution centre vehicles. In 2007/08 this saved over 2.6 million kilometres from UK roads. We also operate shared user arrangements on some of our store deliveries.

To meet the demands of regulations on packaging waste, road transport remains key to the economic recycling of packaging through the backloading of these materials from stores to distribution centres.

We continue to review delivery options and following reviews in 1993, 2003 and again in 2007 we determined that road transport was the only practical method for prompt delivery of vital goods such as medicines to predominantly High Street retail locations.

The business is recognised as an innovator for its employee commuting initiatives. We have worked with the local council in Nottingham to allow access to our site for public bus services; these are regularly used for by around 600 staff journeys each working day. Our support office in Feltham also encourages staff to use both public transport and cycle to work. Around 400 staff cycle to work at our Support offices in Nottingham and Feltham.

Boots UK operates a fleet of approximately 1050 cars, around 80 % are diesel. Where travel is essential to their job, employees are provided with a fleet car. Company car drivers can 'downsize' to smaller vehicles and receive a part cash payment if they wish.



- **The future**

We will continue to work with our transport partners to build on our existing initiatives e.g. load consolidation, back-loading and computer aided delivery vehicle scheduling. We will also review and implement initiatives that add value to the business and also produce direct environmental benefits e.g. shared user schemes, double deck trailers and logistics infrastructure changes. Our aim is to reduce the carbon dioxide emissions generated from the delivery of goods to our stores, despite an increase in the number of stores being serviced.

Dick Metcalfe
Head of Quality and CSR