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Mercedes-Benz

# The Econic

Mercedes-Benz municipal, collection and distribution vehicles





## Raising the standard. Not the entrance height

Since the Econic was launched more than ten years ago, over 8,000 Econic trucks worldwide have entered service, reliably performing a series of extremely demanding tasks. If you choose the Econic, you know you are getting a fully tried-and-tested special-purpose vehicle for your municipal, collection and distribution operations.

Distinguishing features include a low entrance, wide-opening folding door, flat cab floor and low frame, meaning that the Econic meets the very highest standards in terms of ergonomic design and efficiency. And because progress is about the environment as well as about people, the Econic already complies with the next Euro emissions standard.

The lifecycle assessment also makes pleasing reading: the extremely quiet natural-gas version in particular sees the Econic proving once again just how cost-effective environmental protection can be.

In short, the Econic not only masters the challenges of today – it also prepares you for the challenges of tomorrow.

# Finally – a reason to look forward to Monday mornings: the Econic cab

## **Extremely persuasive: the Econic workplace**

Large, comfortable and at the same time open in design – that is the Econic cab, whose low-set seat position keeps the crew and passers-by on a level with one another. This engenders a sense of closeness, whilst improving the view out of the vehicle as well as safety.

The same applies to the new mirror unit with the wide-angle mirror at the top. Further safety-enhancing features include the expansive windows and the low instrument panel.

Everything has its place inside the Econic. The ergonomic positioning of all of the controls promotes effective work routines and the new instrument cluster provides quick and clear information. Quite apart from its larger, high-contrast display, the instrument cluster also comprises an integral service hours counter and a facility for calling up body manufacturer functions. The flat floor throughout and a standing height of 193 cm in the tall cab create optimum space for up to four occupants. And during the journey everyone has the security of a seat with a seat belt and head restraint.

## **Individual seats instead of a bench seat**

The Econic is available with up to three individual co-driver seats thanks to the modular co-driver-seat concept. The result is high seating comfort and optimum safety, as the robust, easy-care seats are fitted with head restraints as standard and are arranged so that optimum use can be made of the space in the footwell and at shoulder level. They can also be upholstered in water-repellent man-made leather as an option.

Cabs which are only fitted with one or two co-driver seats have a stowage facility instead of the third seat, with space for three bottles plus documents. But whether there are one, two or three co-driver seats, the stowage compartments on the rear wall of the tall cab ensure that there is always ample stowage space for all occupants.

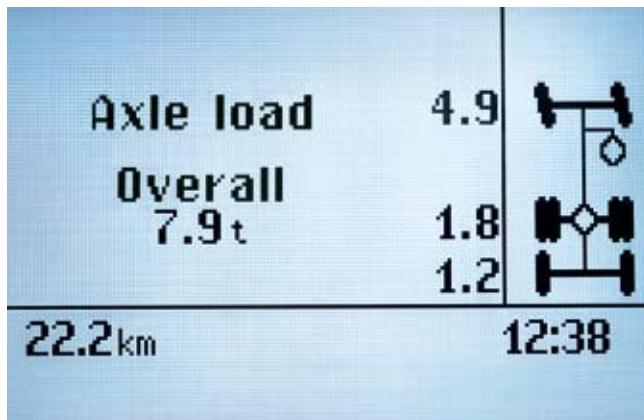
## **Blind down – visibility up**

On sunny days, the one-piece sunblind and tinted windows with UV block-out offer effective protection from dazzle – even when the sun is low in the sky. The electric sunblind, fitted as standard, also prevents the cab from heating up excessively, supporting the air conditioning system and helping the driver to stay alert and concentrate.

The four standard-sized slots above the windscreen are a further highly practical touch: the tachograph and items of communication equipment, such as FleetBoard and TollCollect, are located here, where they are safe and easily accessible.



Plenty of workspace: a wealth of compartments and stowage options makes the Econic even more spacious, with ample room for tools or a change of clothes, for example



The axle load measuring device permanently indicates the current vehicle load and the total weight on each of the individual axles



Outstanding comfort: driver's suspension seat with up to three individual co-driver seats, height-adjustable steering wheel, controls all within reach – just the kind of workplace drivers dream of

# Every little helps: A low entrance makes life much easier

## Easy access: the folding door on the co-driver's side.

A truck entrance could scarcely be wider, safer or faster. With an enlarged 620 mm opening, the pneumatically operated folding door allows rapid, unimpeded entry and exit – even when space at the side of the road is tight. As an added benefit, it also gives the driver a direct view of the pavement and the kerb. When moving off, the fully glazed folding door automatically closes when the speed passes 3 km/h. The automatic reopening function ensures that limbs or other objects cannot become trapped. This enhances the crew's safety and simplifies the process of moving off from a stop.



Entering safely: the integral cab step with hard-wearing plastic covers and protection around the edges ensures an optimum foothold



Effortless gear changes: the gearshift buttons for the standard 6-speed automatic transmission with hydraulic torque converter



Frequent-stop brake, Acceleration skid control, Start-off aid



# Easily adaptable, agile and flexible: technology that thrills and saves you money

## **Advantages as standard: full air suspension**

The full air suspension in the Econic comes replete with a lot of benefits: even when fully laden, the Econic offers sure-footed handling and maximum ride comfort. The standard-fit level control keeps the suspension operating in the ideal range and the frame positioned at precisely the same height at all times. It also enables the ground clearance and angles of approach/departure to be set individually as required. In addition to this, a lifting/lowering system can be ordered for all Econic models which allows the vehicle to be raised by as much as 200 mm or lowered by up to 60 mm, depending on the particular variant.

## **The right chassis for the job ... whatever it is**

Whatever the task in hand the Econic has just the right chassis to suit, with wheelbases measuring between 3,450 and 5,100 mm, a choice of two, three or four axles and a gross vehicle weight ranging from 18 up to 32 tonnes. This gives you ample scope to configure your vehicles to suit local conditions and the specific application requirements.

## **The ideal framework**

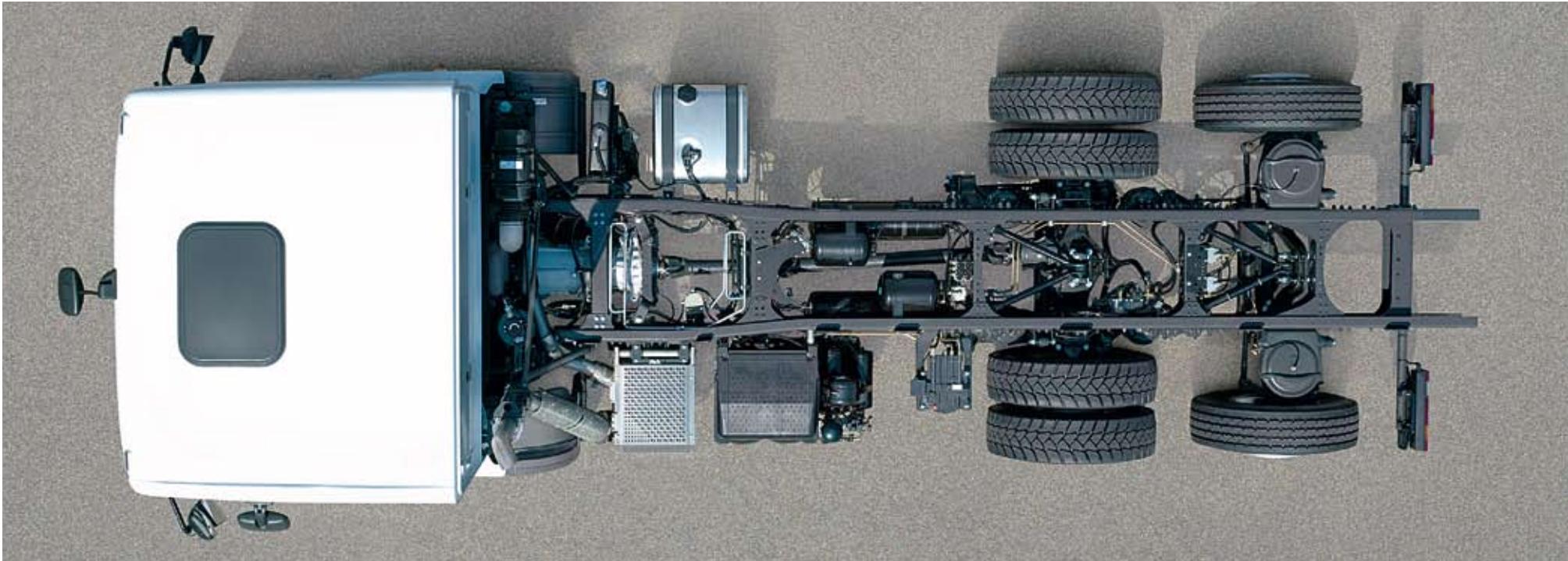
The Econic's low-frame concept has significant advantages: the two-part design with a pronounced downward offset at the front means that the frame allows a particularly low cab access height.

The rear section of the frame is designed for the greatest possible flexibility. It allows more compact bodies to be fitted with shorter wheelbases and the same load capacity, or low bodies with the same payload and improved handling. The reason for this is the Econic's lower centre of gravity that results from the frame concept and translates into outstanding roadholding.

The Econic's chassis configuration and shock absorber set-up enhance directional, handling and roll stability. There are also advantages to be had when it comes to loading and unloading, permitting shorter and safer work processes as a whole. This increases efficiency and motivation and, not least, helps reduce absenteeism caused by ill health.

## **Enhanced cornering: leading and trailing axles**

With the optional electronically/hydraulically steered leading and trailing axles, active steering of the wheels ensures a minimal turning circle, and the ease of steering simplifies handling when at a standstill, making it easier to manoeuvre in the tightest of spots.



A top performer when space is at a premium: thanks to its low frame height, agile leading and trailing axles and the raising/lowering function, the Econic can get you in – and back out again – even when things get really tight

# The BlueTec 5 engines for the Econic: reliable, clean and economical

**Mercedes-Benz adopted a future-compatible solution at a very early stage:**

SCR diesel technology permits extremely cost-effective driving and moreover complies with regulations governing the use of vehicles in many inner-city areas.

## **BlueTec in day-to-day operation**

In the modern-day municipal services sector there's simply no time to lose. Which is why you can rest assured that BlueTec is the right choice. Thanks to their increased injection pressure, BlueTec engines not only reduce the particulate emissions – depending on the engine variant, power is upped too and fuel consumption reduced. What's more, the technology's robust, low-maintenance design keeps workshop visits to a minimum, creating the ideal basis for uninterrupted and hitch-free municipal-service operation. There are yet more financial benefits for BlueTec customers though: tax breaks can be expected throughout Europe, as can a high resale value. Plus, BlueTec counts in your favour when tendering for a public contract in several

European states. Which all means that an investment in BlueTec can pay for itself quicker than you might think.

## **Three 6-cylinder engines, for every eventuality**

The Euro 5 diesel engines which are available with output ratings of 175 kW (238 hp), 210 kW (286 hp) and 240 kW (326 hp) for the Econic distinguish themselves with performance characteristics that have been specially geared towards municipal applications. Peak torque of as much as 1,300 Nm, for instance, is on tap at low revs where fuel consumption is low.

## **Intelligent management that pays for itself**

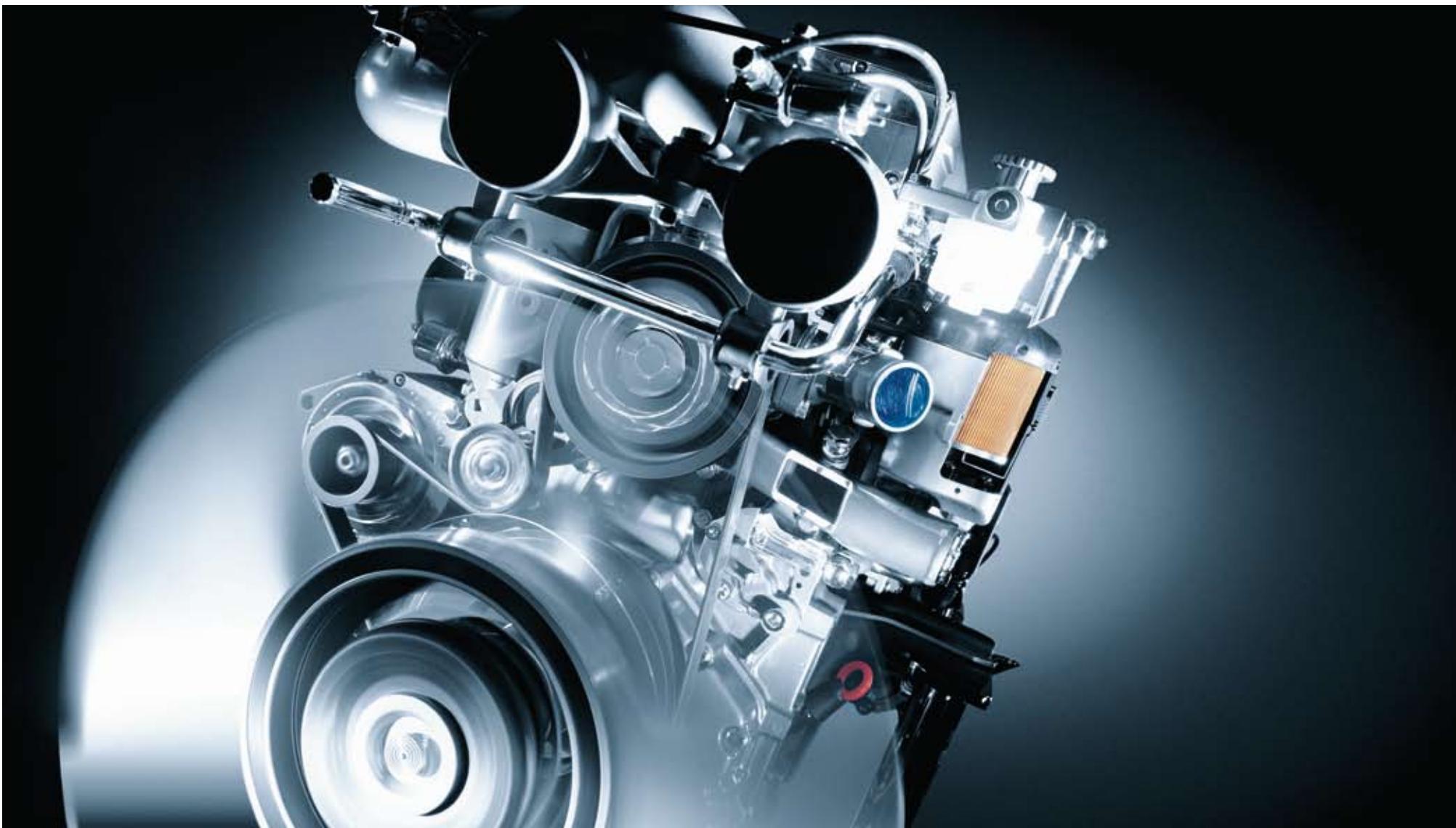
The standard Telligent engine management system calculates the correct injection timing, the optimal injection metering and the precise injection period for the current driving situation based on the continuous input of all relevant data, such as air and boost pressure as well as engine, fuel and charge air temperature. The result is lower fuel consumption as well as less nitrogen oxide and particulate emissions. Not to mention

a level of power delivery that will impress even the most experienced of drivers. The long servicing intervals and the smooth transfer of power through the standard-fit automatic transmission add up to even greater cost effectiveness and low wear.

## **Less noise as standard**

In the Mercedes-Benz Econic, the engine and transmission are shrouded by the cab and an encapsulation system to reduce noise emissions.





# No smog, no CO<sub>2</sub> and less noise: the Econic with natural-gas drive for a clean environment

## No compromises

The increasing density of traffic on our roads and the spiralling levels of noise and exhaust emissions call for more ecological drive technologies, both in the municipal and distribution sectors as well as in the field of city logistics. The Econic with natural-gas engine fits the bill perfectly and therefore has a valuable role to play in cleaning up the environment. The natural-gas Econic also shows the way forward where cost efficiency and durability are concerned by successfully blending the technical mastery of Mercedes-Benz with environmentally friendly engine technology and all the strengths of a specialised solution that has been purpose-developed for the municipal sector.

## Zero emissions, lower fuel costs

Thanks to its extremely low particulate and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the natural-gas-powered Econic already complies with the strict EEV (Enhanced Environmentally-friendly Vehicle) emissions standard. This remarkable performance is down to its innovative electronic engine management system, the integral oxidising catalytic converter and the natural combustion properties of natural gas, which contains virtually no pollutant-forming constituents, so combustion is extremely clean with practically no residues. And with noise emission levels that are up to 50% lower than those for a diesel engine with noise encapsulation, the Econic also plays an active role in easing the burden on the environment in areas with a high population density. What's more, those who invest in the future are rewarded with significantly reduced fuel costs.

## Natural gas not the only option

Regenerative biogas (e.g. from sewage) or cleaned and conditioned landfill gas can be used as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels such as natural gas. Opting for these fuels allows you to achieve a zero CO<sub>2</sub> footprint and frees you from a dependency on finite fossil fuels.

## Economical yet powerful

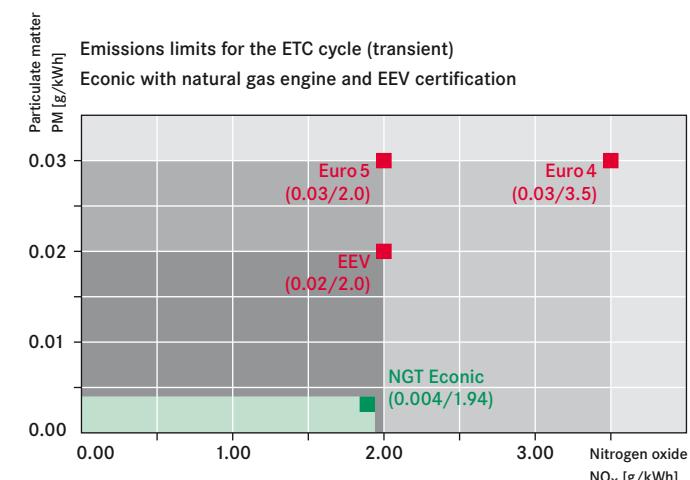
Developing 205 kW (279 hp) and a peak torque of 1,000 Nm, the natural-gas engine is ideal for municipal applications. The fully electronic engine management system optimises mixture formation and features innovative combustion technology based on the lean-burn concept, thus ensuring that the powerplant develops its full output extremely economically.

## Optimum teamwork

As the torque and output characteristics are virtually identical to those of the diesel units, identical components can be used for both the engine and powertrain. This saves money when it comes to servicing and maintenance and ensures the greatest possible reliability. It also makes for a manufacturing process that is kinder to the environment by allowing more sparing use to be made of resources.

## Use of CNG or LNG

LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) can be used as an alternative to conventional CNG (Compressed Natural Gas). Because LNG only requires half as much space in the tank, using it doubles the vehicle's range. There are several types of CNG gas tank available, depending on the application and requirements: the NGT Econic features 640-litre CNG tanks as standard. Further variants are also available, with capacities ranging from 560 litres to 1,120 litres. So you can always count on having sufficient fuel reserves.



■ Natural gas produces virtually no particles or fine dust (PM 10 and smaller) when it combusts. The natural gas Econic clearly undercuts the EEV and Euro 5 particulate limits (0.004).



# Tailored to your exact requirements: our bespoke solutions

## Just as tough as the daily routine

Anyone working in the municipal services sector who is out on the road on a daily basis needs one thing above all else: a reliable vehicle that is designed to last and performs the tasks expected of it without any compromises. This applies to ergonomics and cost effectiveness just as much as it does to criteria such as occupational safety and environmental protection. There are many reasons why the Econic measures up to such tough demands: for one thing, there's the exhaustive, rigorous testing of all components and the use of identical components taken from the Mercedes-Benz high-volume models which have been tested thousands of times over.

## Star support for your star vehicle:

### Mercedes-Benz Genuine Service

The operational readiness and availability of a vehicle is also very much dependent on efficient servicing, however. Whether it's the network of work-shops, Service24h or CharterWay, for example, Mercedes-Benz provides the back-up required to keep you fully mobile at all times.

If you are looking to enhance cost effectiveness, there's FleetBoard, the web-based service for controlling and

optimising fleet management. And there are Mercedes-Benz training programmes to teach drivers everything they need to know for saving fuel without sacrificing power – or for handling hazardous and extreme situations with consummate ease. As you can see: with the Econic, you get so much more than just a truck.

## Special-purpose trucks with a manufacturer's seal of quality

From the special arrangement of components and detachable parts to special wheelbases and body solutions – Mercedes-Benz Custom Tailored Trucks (CTT) transforms customer requests into practical vehicle solutions. The Econic you receive is sure to meet your specific requirements. All built to Mercedes-Benz standards of quality so that you can be sure that your Econic will be capable of doing exactly what you expect of it.

## Quality and safety. Practical experience sets the standard

That's why our tests are tougher and longer, whether it's winter testing in the freezing temperatures of Rovaniemi in Finland or summer testing in the merciless heat of the Sierra Nevada. Before we get to that stage, however, all of the components have to pass extreme individual

tests, many of which go far beyond the specifications required by law. The engines, for example, have to withstand stresses which in reality would correspond to a distance of 3,600,000 km. The extreme torsion and vibration testing of the frame on the hydropulse test rig is standard, as is the corrosion test in the salt spray chamber and various crash tests, which far exceed the ECE R29/2 European safety requirements and the Swedish cab strength test. **All of which ensures that the Econic lives up to all our promises.**



Lightweight and safe: the lightweight-aluminium Econic cabs are fully crash-tested and meet the requirements of the European crash-test standard ECE R29/2

