



## Michael McElchar

Managing Director  
Lifford Coachworks  
Co. Donegal, Ireland

“Everyone wants to cut down on workload, and using TruckScience saves us time.

Compared with the spreadsheets we had in place, it’s faster, more efficient and easier to use.”

Founded in 1977, Lifford Coachworks is recognised as one of the leading manufacturers of high-quality truck bodies in Ireland and the UK. Their range of bodies includes refrigerated bodies, curtainsiders, GRP box bodies and live chick & egg carrying bodies, on vehicles from 3.5 to 26 tonnes.



Lifford Coachworks caters for a wide range of customers, from single vehicle operators up to large fleets.



### Before TruckScience

Before TruckScience, Michael McElchar had been using a spreadsheet for axle weight calculations. While this method was accurate, it was time-consuming. Unlike large companies, Lifford Coachworks didn’t have the luxury of a full time draftsman, and Michael needed to save time.

When ‘Whole Vehicle Type Approval’ regulations were introduced by the Irish and UK authorities, Michael welcomed the opportunity to formalise the Quality Control he already had in place.

Michael evaluated TruckScience’s Axle Weight Calculator to assist with truck body design, legislation compliance and record keeping, and Michael subscribed to the program in 2014.



### Implementing TruckScience

Michael found it very easy to get up to speed with the Axle Weight Calculator.

“I go out with a clipboard and take a few measurements. 15 minutes later, I have an axle weight distribution calculation printed on a report customised with our logo. Even someone with no prior experience in design and drawing can get to grips with it quickly.”

“I’ve recommended the program to many other body builders. We’re happy to help each other out. With the great service I receive from TruckScience, I have no hesitation in recommending them to my friends in the business.”



### Impact of TruckScience

Everything that is manufactured at Lifford Coachworks is produced with the greatest attention to detail. Michael keeps a report on file for every truck they produce. The reports prove compliance with weights and dimensions legislation, and may be used to prove the quality of the build if ever there is a need.

These records are also necessary for EC Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA). The NSAI, Ireland’s approval authority, are responsible for issuing all national approvals under IVA and NSSTA. The NSAI are happy that the TruckScience reports meet their requirements for drawings and mass distribution sheets.



### Favourite Feature

“My favourite feature is being able to have vehicles added to the TruckScience database on demand. When vehicles are added for other users, they are made available to all, so the database is growing all the time.”