The heavy vehicle health check

The NHVR coordinated a National Roadworthiness Baseline Survey (NRBS) of 7,130 heavy vehicles across Australia during August to November 2016. Throughout the survey period 364 transport inspectors inspected rigid trucks, semi-trailers, B-doubles, road trains, buses and special purpose vehicles (SPV) at 168 inspection sites, including roadside check points and in state inspection facilities and transport operator depots.

Overall scheme participation

Maintenance schemes, including NHVAS, TruckSafe and CraneSafe, provide operators with a way to accredit maintenance practices as sufficient to ensure their vehicles meet the heavy vehicle safety standards. The NHVAS maintenance scheme holds the highest participation for freight vehicles and CraneSafe has the highest participation for non-freight vehicles (see Figure 1).

Non-conformity by scheme participation

A non-conformity describes an item that does not meet the heavy vehicle safety standards. Non-conformities can be classified as minor, major or major (grounded). Major non-conformities create a significant concern over the safety of a vehicle, and subject to conditions and restrictions of use, do not prevent the vehicle from being used on the road. Examples of major non-conformities include when a vehicle falls short of the brake performance required when tested on a roller brake tester.

The overall occurrence of major non-conformities was lower for rigid truck, semi-trailers and B-double hauling units participating in either NHVAS or TruckSafe. Cranes participating in the CraneSafe scheme were less likely to have a major non-conformity (see Figure 2).

Figure 1: Overall scheme participation of vehicles surveyed

1 IN 8 FREIGHT VEHICLES PARTICIPATE IN A MAINTENANCE SCHEME

1 IN 2 CRANES PARTICIPATE IN A MAINTENANCE SCHEME

Figure 2: Percentage of major non-conformities of vehicles in a scheme and not in a scheme

MAINTENANCE SCHEME MAJOR NON-CONFORMITIES

FREIGHT HAULING VEHICLES
NHVAS OR TRUCKSAFE 9%
NONE 13%

CRANES
CRANESAIFE 1%
NONE 2%