



Message from the CEO

Welcome to this fortnight's edition of On the Road.

One of the regular questions the NHVR receives from operators relates to the differing compliance standards and procedures between states.

Development of the *National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual* in 2016 and closer liaison between police and state compliance agencies has led to greater awareness of procedures.

Over Easter our Operation Kingsize involved cross-border compliance with officers from South Australia, NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

Achieving greater consistency across Australia will be supported by a camera network with the first of five cameras delivered in Victoria earlier this month. (see story on this page)

Agencies working together and sharing data and information will provide certainty to industry, particularly for operators that travel across state borders. It will also allow better and smarter use of resources to target those doing the wrong thing.

This means more certainty for heavy vehicle drivers and operators as well as improved road safety.

Regards
Sal Petrocchio
National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

Victorian cameras first in national heavy vehicle network

The NHVR is rolling out new automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras to five sites across Victoria's major freight networks.

NHVR CEO Sal Petrocchio said putting more cameras on the ground was a critical step towards better detection of risky behaviour and unsafe practice on our roads.

"These cameras reinforce our efforts to make our national freight networks safer," Sal said.

"It will allow the NHVR and other enforcement agencies to identify drivers and operators who systematically flout fatigue laws."

The five Victorian camera locations are:

- Hume Highway at Wallan
- Calder Freeway at Gisborne
- Western Freeway at Ballan
- Goulburn Valley Freeway at Murchison
- Princess Freeway at Yarragon

The NHVR is currently working with other state road transport authorities to identify additional camera sites which are located within the busiest freight routes to maximise heavy vehicle monitoring capability.

The cameras are part of the NHVR's broader plans for a national compliance and information system which will support real time, agency linked, data collection used by Authorised Officers throughout Australia.

Announcing the rollout of the ANPR scheme at Wallan, Commonwealth Infrastructure and Transport Minister Darren Chester said the new cameras would focus on Australia's key heavy vehicle corridors and black spots.

"These types of high-tech monitoring cameras have been very useful in encouraging safe driving practices, and in the future they will

be linked to other Australian states through the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator as part of a national effort to improve heavy vehicle safety," Mr Chester said.

"The reasons behind road accidents are complex and require a multifaceted approach to improve safety.

"Every dollar invested in safer roads and drivers today means lives saved in years to come."

You can find more on the NHVR's National Compliance Information System [here](#).



Minister Darren Chester and Sal Petrocchio at Wallan

NHVR Portal delivers productivity benefits

The NHVR Portal – Customer module has now processed more than 15,000 applications since being launched in 2016.

NHVR Director Access David Carlisle said the Portal was developed to improve the customer experience in lodging and tracking heavy vehicle permits.

“What was once a complex, paper-based process is now a streamlined few ‘clicks of the button’ in the online Portal,” David said.

“Customers can now manage their account and fleet, lodge and track the status of their permits and correspond with NHVR Access staff in one online location.”

With more than 15,000 applications now lodged and processed through the Portal, it is clear that the Portal is now the preferred lodgement channel choice of NHVR’s customers.

Indeed more than 95 per cent of all applications received by the NHVR are now through the Portal.

The Program is now focused on finalising the development of the NHVR Portal to deliver benefits to all road managers and NHVR Access Operations.

Find further information on the AccessCONNECT Program [here](#).

Chain of Responsibility It's your business

New Chain of Responsibility laws are coming in mid 2018.

These laws affect everyone in the supply chain, including fleet managers.

For more information or to register for a forum visit www.nhvr.gov.au/cor

Red tape reduced for truck-mounted attenuators

Crash attenuators are becoming a standard safety feature of many heavy vehicles engaged in road construction and maintenance.

They protect both the vehicle occupant and road workers by acting as cushioning in rear-end collisions.

To cater for these safety systems, the NHVR has developed a single national Notice allowing their use in all jurisdictions under consistent conditions.

The NHVR’s Director Safety Daniel Elkins said the *National Heavy Vehicle Standards (Truck-mounted attenuator) Exemption Notice 2017 (No. 1)* builds on the NHVR’s safety improvement projects, and is intended to ensure attenuators are fitted and used safely and efficiently.

“This Notice will save time and minimise red tape by eliminating the need to apply for a permit,” he added.

Fitting an attenuator unit

Fitting an attenuator unit to a heavy vehicle is a modification under the Heavy Vehicle National Law and will require certification by an approved vehicle examiner.

“Modifications can include body fitment, chassis and brake modifications, warning lights and patterns,” Daniel said.

“*The Vehicle Standards Guide (VSG-12)* that accompanies the Notice provides further guidance and information for heavy vehicle owners, operators and modifiers on the modification requirements when fitting a vehicle with an attenuator.”

Using an attenuator

The Notice only allows the attenuator to be deployed when the vehicle is actively engaged in road construction, repair or maintenance, traffic control operations or road incident response.

Conflict with other instruments

National guidelines for the use of truck and trailer mounted attenuators were developed but only adopted by some jurisdictions.

With the publication of the Notice, if a requirement of the national guidelines is inconsistent with the Notice or Heavy Vehicle National Law, the Notice and Law are to apply.

The NHVR has reduced the number of Vehicle Standards permits issued this year by 50 per cent (compared to 2015-16), and will continue to develop more Notices for common vehicle types.

A dedicated Vehicle Standards team can help with modification applications and advise on any technical aspects.

For more information go to:

www.nhvr.gov.au/hvmodifications

or email vehiclestandards@nhvr.gov.au

Check out the full Notice [here](#).



Photo courtesy VicRoads

NHVR 2017 Meetings and Events Calendar

| DATE | EVENT TITLE | LOCATION |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| 3 May | NHVR Chain of Responsibility Forum | Shepparton VIC |
| 4 May | NHVR Chain of Responsibility Forum | Albury NSW |
| 10 May | NHVR Chain of Responsibility Forum | Blacktown NSW |
| 11 May | NatRoad Chain of Responsibility Forum | Newcastle NSW |
| 16 May | QTA/NHVR Chain of Responsibility Forum | Townsville QLD |
| 25 - 28 May | Brisbane International Truck Show | Brisbane |

* For more information on up-coming Chain of Responsibility forums [click here](#)

For further information about the NHVR’s activities, functions and services, please visit www.nhvr.gov.au

or contact us via:

Ph: 1300 MYNHVR (1300 696 487)

Email: info@nhvr.gov.au



Enjoying *On the Road?*

Subscribe to future fortnightly issues [here](#)