



Electronic Work Diaries



What does an Electronic Work Diary mean for heavy vehicle drivers?

Drivers and operators have a choice of using either a Written Work Diary (WWD) or an approved Electronic Work Diary (EWD) to record their work and rest, to show that their fatigue is being managed in accordance with the law.

What is an EWD?

An EWD can be any electronic recording system that meets the EWD Standards and is approved by the NHVR for use as an alternative to a WWD. This could include portable devices, like mobile phones or tablets, or more traditional telematics devices.

What's the difference between an EWD and a WWD?

In many cases, there's very little difference between the two, and policies are in place to ensure a consistent approach to compliance. An EWD takes less time to fill out, provides alerts when a driver is approaching a work limit and/or has not had enough rest, and can record time more accurately – to the nearest minute.

Is the law changing?

No, it's not. The law already provides for an EWD, provided it meets essential requirements and is approved by the NHVR. There are no changes to the work and rest hour provisions in the law.

Are EWDs voluntary?

Yes, they are. Drivers have can choose to use either a WWD or an FWD.

Will there be more than one type of EWD?

Yes, there will be a variety of EWD products. While all EWDs must meet the requirements of the EWD Standards, different EWDs may have additional functionality to meet business needs.

Does an EWD have to be fitted to a heavy vehicle?

No, it doesn't. The EWD Standards require an EWD be suitable for use in, or fitting to, a fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle. This may include mobile devices that are not permanently fixed to the vehicle.

Why does the NHVR want to approve EWDs for use as an alternative to a WWD?

Many operators and drivers already use an electronic system in addition to the paper-based system.

Approving EWDs for use as a work diary means drivers or operators won't have to pay for both, and they have the option to use whichever system best suits their needs.

Will an EWD start recording work when the engine is turned on?

No, it won't. Drivers must log into the EWD and agree to record an activity as work or rest.

Will an EWD automatically make records?

No, it won't. Once the driver has logged in, they will need to select when they are working and resting. The EWD may provide suggestions on what to record, such as place names and odometer readings.

What if an automatic location suggestion made by an EWD is wrong?

An EWD will present a driver with a suggested place name based on the GPS location. The driver can change the name of the place if it's incorrect or if they want to add additional information for clarity. For example, a driver may change 'Newstead' to '76 Skyring Terrace, Newstead'. If a driver does change a place name, the original latitude and longitude location identified by the EWD via GPS will be retained.



What if I've logged in to an EWD and the vehicle is moved (e.g. during loading/unloading)?

EWDs are not linked to the ignition or odometer of a fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle, and cannot automatically make entries if a vehicle is moved. If a record is made accidentally, the EWD Standards require that the driver can correct the information.

Will an EWD warn of potential breaches?

Yes, it will. The EWD Standards require all EWDs to alert the driver of potential work and rest hour breaches before they occur.

Can I make corrections if I forget to log off?

Yes, you can. A driver can correct an entry as long as the new information being recorded is accurate and the driver hasn't previously confirmed the entry as being correct.

Will I get training on EWDs before I have to use one?

Yes, you will. The technology provider and transport operator must provide drivers with training on their regulatory obligations and how to use the EWD before they begin using the system.

Can I swap between different EWDs?

Yes, you can. If a driver moves from a business with one EWD to another business with a different EWD, the EWD Standards require that previous EWD information is automatically transferred to the new EWD when the driver logs on. You cannot, however, make different entries in two different EWDs at the same time.

What if I break my EWD or I think it isn't working?

If, at any time, you're not sure that your EWD is working properly, you can make work and rest records using supplementary records. You must contact your record keeper as soon as you can to report the issue.

Will EWDs record in 15 minute blocks, like the WWD?

No, they won't. Under the EWD Standards, EWDs will round time to the last full minute.

Will I be penalised for exceeding my work limit by one minute?

No, you won't. The EWD Standards require that EWDs will not show any potential breaches of less than 15 minutes in the compliance view. The law allows up to eight minutes work time leeway in a day to account for the one minute rounding.

Will authorised officers (including police) be able to monitor my work and rest remotely?

No, they won't. The EWD Standards require that all relevant information is contained in the EWD itself and only transmitted to the driver's record keeper. The NHVR and other authorised officers will only see driver information from an EWD during an intercept or if the information is requested as part of an investigation. The NHVR does not automatically receive the work and rest data entered in EWDs.

Can I backdate an entry if I start "work" outside the vehicle and don't log on until later?

Yes, you can. Drivers can add work done outside of the fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle at any time. Alerts and compliance checks will be based on the work time and rest time declared by the driver. An EWD will record both the time you declare the activity occurred and the time you actually made the entry in the EWD.

Do I have to give authorised officers my EWD during an intercept?

Yes, you do. The EWD Standards require a standard Compliance View that looks similar to a WWD daily sheet. During an intercept, a driver will be asked to switch the EWD into the Compliance View and hand the display to the Authorised Officer for viewing.

Can I swap between using an EWD and a WWD?

Yes, you can. Drivers can swap between the two types of work diary as required. However, if you do this, you must carry both your EWD and WWD information with you.

Know the signs of fatigue

Drivers may be impaired by fatigue even when complying with work and rest limits. It's important to spot the signs of fatigue and take a break.

Your body

- A lack of alertness
- Inability to concentrate
- Making more mistakes than usual
- Drowsiness, falling asleep or microsleeps
- Difficulty keeping your eyes open
- Not feeling refreshed after a sleep
- Excessive head nodding or yawning
- Blurred vision
- Mood changes
- Changes to personal health or fitness.

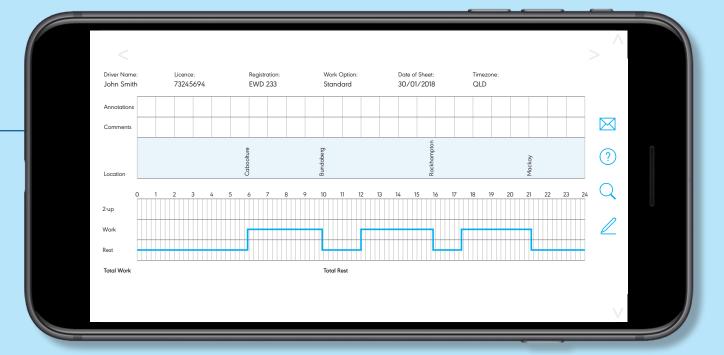
Your vehicle

- Near miss or incident
- Not keeping in a single lane
- Not maintaining a constant speed
- Overshooting a sign or line
- Poor gear changes.

For more information, visit www.nhvr.gov.au/ewd or email fatigue@nhvr.gov.au

When presenting an EWD for inspection by an Authorised Officer, it must be put into Compliance View. It will have a graphical grid with the driver's name and other details, similar to a WWD.

When in Compliance View, an EWD will also have tabular views of work and rest times. While an EWD will record times in minutes, it will not highlight potential breaches under 15 minutes.



Tabular view

Activity	Time of Activity	Location	Odometer	Work and Rest Option	Comments	Origin
Rest	2108	Mackay	154244	Standard		EWD
Work	1722	Rockhampton	153903	Standard		EWD
Rest	1551	Rockhampton	153903	Standard		EWD
Work	1200	Bundaberg	153620	Standard		EWD
Rest	0957	Bundaberg	153620	Standard		EWD
Work	0554	Caboolture	153282	Standard		EWD

Work 11 hrs, 40 min

Rest 12 hrs, 20 min