

Heavy Vehicle Industry Safety Survey 2020

Safety for all involved in heavy vehicle road transport activities is the number one priority for the NHVR, and one of the best ways to manage hazards and risks for improved safety is by having a Safety Management System (SMS) in your business. We conducted this survey to better understand SMS implementation in our industry.

Insights into respondent profile

There were **3,972** survey responses, with the most responses from:

	Role	Management 42% Owner driver 26%
	Based in	VIC 48% NSW 17% QLD 15%
	Industry sector	General freight 20% Construction 17% Primary production/farming 15%
	Working in heavy vehicle industry	20+ years 50%
	Business size	1-10 heavy vehicles 51%

Implementation of a basic SMS

A basic SMS is where businesses have, as a minimum, risk management processes in place and these processes have been put into operation.

62%

of the industry have a basic SMS

- ▶ **66%** if in a heavy vehicle accreditation scheme
- ▶ **67%** if businesses operate vehicles in the Performance Based Standards (PBS) scheme
- ▶ **56%** for businesses with 101-200 vehicles

Safety communications and training

Regular and relevant safety communication and training are key elements of an SMS.

- ▶ **76%** of respondents agreed that relevant safety training was provided on an ongoing basis.

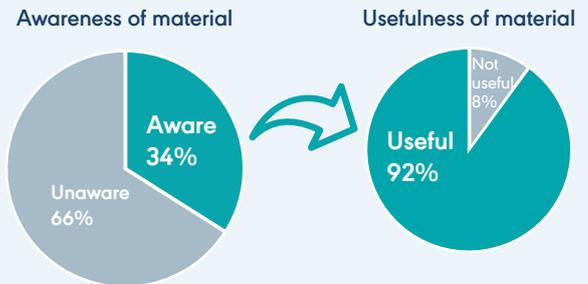
Safety communications are not as effective at reaching drivers and loaders as they are other staff.

- ▶ While **78%** of managers agree that there is an ongoing program of safety promotions and communication, only **52%** of drivers and **71%** of loaders agreed.

NHVR SMS guidance materials

The NHVR has developed core SMS guidance materials to help businesses implement an SMS.

- ▶ **34%** of respondents said that they were aware of the materials, however **9 in 10 (92%)** respondents who had used the materials found them useful.



You can find these materials on the [NHVR website](#)

Reporting of safety events within the business

Identifying hazards and reporting safety incidents and near misses are important steps in risk management.

- ▶ While **90%** of respondents said incidents are reported, only **60%** said they report safety related near misses.

Vehicle safety technologies

Each survey we ask topical questions, and this year we asked about understanding of vehicle safety technologies.

Technologies most understood	Technologies least understood
 Antilock Braking 86%	 Features that reduce blind spots 67%
 Daytime Running Lamps 80%	 Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) 62%
 Reversing Safety Systems 77%	 Side and rear underrun protection systems 60%

Safety insights from owner drivers with one vehicle

The most frequent safety practice of owner drivers was to inspect their vehicle prior to operating.

- ▶ In comparison, only **62%** of owner drivers reported that they frequently kept informed of safety issues and information.



These results were independently collected through a survey by Insync.