

Heavy Vehicle Industry Safety Survey 2020

Focus on the General Freight Sector

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. General Freight Sector results are shown.

Insights into respondent profile

Respondents from this sector were less likely to be owner drivers, more likely to transport goods interstate and more likely to be in an accreditation scheme, compared to other industry sectors

There were **807** survey responses from people working in the general freight sector, with the most responses from:

	Role	Owner driver 55% Management 42%
	Based in	VIC 43% NSW 18% QLD 17%
	Working in heavy vehicle industry	20+ years 53%
	Business size	1-10 heavy vehicles 40%
	Transporting goods	Interstate 41% Local 38% Intrastate 21%
	In an Accreditation Scheme	52%

Safety communications and training

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

▶ **74%** of respondents agreed that relevant safety training was provided on an ongoing basis.

Safety communications are not as effective at reaching operational staff as they are other staff.

▶ While **79%** of managers agree that there is an ongoing program of safety promotions and communication, only **47%** of drivers agreed.

Reporting of safety events within the business

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

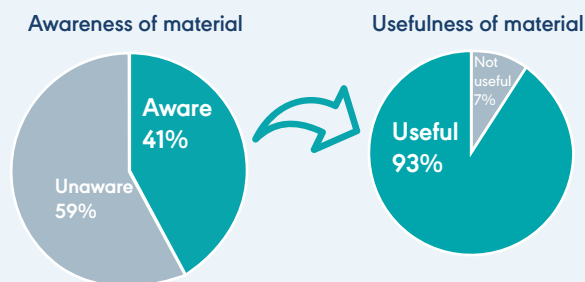
- ▶ **88%** of respondents said that incidents are reported
- ▶ **62%** of respondents* report safety related near misses

*Asked of management and drivers

NHVR SMS guidance materials

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

▶ **41%** of respondents said that they were aware of the materials, however over **9 in 10 (93%)** respondents who had used the materials found them useful.



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

Safety insights for the general freight sector

In the business

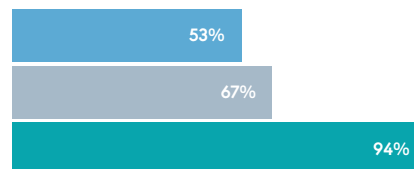
- ▶ Over **8 in 10 (86%)** people reported feeling safe at work
- ▶ **88%** of businesses actively consider safety risks
- ▶ **84%** ensure risk controls are communicated to staff
- ▶ **74%** monitor safety performance

Driver safety practices

53% often/always attend safety training related to their roles, but 23% rarely or never do

Undertake regular personal health check up

Inspect the vehicle prior to operating



Vehicle safety technologies

Each year we ask topical questions, and this year we asked about understanding of vehicle safety technologies. This sector demonstrated a higher level of understanding of these technologies compared to other sectors.

Technologies from most to least understood



These results were independently collected through a survey by Insync.