

NHVR Technical Working Group

Communique

8 November 2016 – Meeting 1

The NHVR has developed the Technical Working Group (TWG) as a key part of its strategies to improve the uptake and deployment of advanced technologies and safety management systems with and within the heavy vehicle road transport industry.

The TWG will provide technical advice for research, development and formation of policy and project guidance on the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of NHVR strategies in relation to technology and safety that also encourages advances in productivity and protects the environment.

This communique highlights key outcomes from the November 2016 meeting. This meeting was attended by:

- Australian Road Transport Suppliers Association
- Australian Trucking Association
- Commercial Vehicle Industry Association of Australia
- Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
- Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia
- Truck Industry Council.

At this meeting, the TWG discussed and considered a number of matters, including; Terms of Reference, membership and a number of proposals in regards to brakes, couplings and tyre inflation.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference were accepted with some minor amendments to the role of the group to include reference to influencing NHVR policy. The clarity and brevity of the terms of reference were appreciated as well as the clear focus on technology solutions and their uptake to enhance outcomes for productivity, the environment and safety.

Membership

The members agreed that the present membership would benefit from the inclusion of the Bus Industry Confederation and that they should be invited to become a member. The ability to co-opt on scientific or other subject matter expertise as required was seen as a flexible and appropriate approach to the management of the group.

New Initiative Proposals

Members are offered the opportunity to submit proposals to be considered at meetings. It was agreed that prior to submitting any proposals to the NHVR that members will canvas a proposal with the TWG membership prior to their submission for review by the NHVR. This was to ensure multiple submissions on the same topic were not made and to socialise proposals and agree on a single industry position, as far as possible.

The step of the NHVR reviewing proposals prior to submitting them to formal discussion by the TWG was seen as valuable. It will ensure proposals are well developed and clearly scope what was being asked to be actioned by TWG. It also allows the NHVR to assess if proposals are being addressed through other forums or project work either by the NHVR or other organisations or agencies.

The following proposals were submitted to the NHVR by members:

Australian Road Transport Suppliers Association

- A Proposal for Additional Brake Codes in VSB6

This proposal was not tabled at the meeting as the NHVR is of the view these matters are adequately dealt with in existing business-as-usual, process improvements or project work in the NHVR's forward work program. In particular, the development of an NHVR Approved Vehicle Examiner scheme and within the current NHVR review of Vehicle Standards Bulletin 6. The NHVR suggested the proposal may be more amenable to being incorporated into an Industry Code of Practice on maintenance.

- Coloured Indicator Lamps

This proposal was not tabled at the meeting as the Australian Design Rules and the Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Regulation prohibits use and there are other means to provide in cabin indicators for trailer equipment. The NHVR has referred the matter to the Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board Technical Liaison Group for further work.

Australian Trucking Association

- Tyre Pressure Monitoring

This proposal was not tabled at the meeting as the NHVR had a proposal on this matter.

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

- Tyre Pressure Monitoring Systems

This proposal was not tabled at the meeting as the NHVR had a proposal on this matter.

Heavy Vehicle Industry Australia

- Consolidate work on the NHVR Approved Vehicle Examiner scheme

This proposal was not tabled at the meeting as the NHVR is at present creating a project plan to deliver a national Approved Vehicle Examiner scheme on behalf of the Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board. This national scheme will be for both a heavy and light vehicle Approved Vehicle Examiner scheme.

- Improve Performance Based Standards Certification Processes
- Performance Based Standards Policy

These proposals were not tabled as the NHVR is completing an extensive planning process to deliver a five year Performance Based Standards plan.

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator

- Brake Testing Proposal
- Tyre Inflation Proposal
- Impact of Safety Chains during Coupling Separation

All proposals were accepted and the NHVR will create sub-groups to progress them.

Other Business

The NHVR was requested to provide the TWG with the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development position on forward facing coloured indicator lamps for equipment on heavy trailers.

The Truck Industry Council tabled feedback on the National Driver Vehicle Work Diary identifying a number of matters they were seeking clarity on. The NHVR will review and respond to TIC and TWG on progress.

The Australian Trucking Association agreed to share with TWG information and its work on PBS Stability Control.

The Commercial Vehicle Industry Association of Australia will share with TWG information on landing gear and offences being identified under Dangerous Goods Act in relation to the term 'equipment'.

TWG members requested that the NHVR provide them early visibility of the NHVR Approved Vehicle Examiner scheme project details.

The terms of reference are very clear about the confidentiality of TWG meetings and discussions, members felt that further clarity was required. Where a proposal was considered extremely sensitive it will clearly indicate that it is confidential by embedding a CONFIDENTIAL watermark.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 14 February 2017

Sal Petrocchio
CEO
[National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](#)

DRAFT