

Training in Heavy Vehicle **Speed** Legislation



Government of South Australia
Department for Transport,
Energy and Infrastructure



From **1 February 2010**, new nationally consistent Heavy Vehicle Speeding Compliance laws come into effect in South Australia. If you use, operate or manage heavy vehicles (including buses) with a gross vehicle mass of more than 4.5 tonnes these laws apply to you.

Heavy Vehicle Speed Compliance legislation is the third tier of the Compliance and Enforcement road safety reform and is another step in reducing road trauma by stamping out speed in the heavy vehicle industry.

They require better management of heavy vehicle speed and you must take responsibility for the speed of heavy vehicles. The aim of the new laws is to reduce heavy vehicle speeding making the roads safer for everyone.

It is up to everyone to help stamp out heavy vehicle speeding.

Why do we need the new laws?

Heavy Vehicles represent 2% of the total number of vehicles on our roads. They are responsible for only 6% of travel time on our roads and yet heavy vehicles are involved in 19% of all fatal crashes.

LET'S STAMP OUT **HEAVY VEHICLE** SPEEDING

FACT SHEET **3**

A National Transport Commission (NTC) Study in May 2007 identified that:

- a quarter (25%) of drivers felt pressured to speed to meet deadlines
- 20% had been booked for speeding in the previous year
- 30% of drivers believed an experienced driver could safely drive up to 10 km/h over the limit
- 1 in 5 drivers reported speeding even though the vehicle was meant to be speed limited.

Even with confident or experienced drivers, the risks of having a crash are much higher when speeding, whether in a town or on the open road.

245 heavy vehicle drivers across Australia died in crashes while at the wheel in 2008. These laws are designed to reduce this number of deaths significantly - aiming to make sure drivers return home safely.

Business practices

As a transport operator, employer or prime contractor you now have a legal requirement to make sure that your business practices deal with speed management of heavy vehicles and drivers. You should regularly review and update your business practices to make sure the steps you are taking are reasonable at all times.



Some of the steps include:

- ensuring your work practices do not contribute to or cause on-road breaches of speed limits by your drivers
- training staff to make sure they understand their obligations under the Chain of Responsibility
- audits/spot-checks to make sure of compliance (for example, monitoring of on-board speed devices, checking schedules and loading arrangements)
- reviewing contracts and commercial arrangements to make sure they do not directly or indirectly encourage breaches of speed law
- having documented contingency plans to manage operational issues (like loading/ unloading or traffic delays) within the law.

Training staff

There is no specific legal obligation for you to train staff (schedulers and loading managers), but you do have a requirement to demonstrate that you took reasonable steps to make sure everyone in the Chain of Responsibility did everything they could to prevent heavy vehicle speeding.

Providing training to relevant staff in your business and communicating with those that you do business with is one way to demonstrate that you have taken reasonable steps. Your business will need policy and business practices in place to manage speed, describing what steps individual parties must take to effectively prevent speeding. Training may include formal internal instruction, newsletters, toolbox sessions or information sent out with pay slips.



Further information

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