

Managing heavy vehicle safety

QFleet driver safety fact sheet

The size and mass of heavy vehicles add to the severity of any crash they are involved in.

Road safety management for heavy vehicles should be implemented in a similar manner as applies for other vehicles, with some additional responsibilities. These additional obligations and responsibilities are detailed in the Heavy Vehicle National Law 2012.

Heavy Vehicle National Law

Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) applies to heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonne gross vehicle mass. The law covers matters relating to:

- vehicle standards
- mass dimensions and loadings
- fatigue management
- the Intelligent Access Program
- heavy vehicle accreditation and on-road enforcement.

Chain of responsibility

The HVNL also introduces the Chain of Responsibility (COR) legislation. COR outlines obligations for all persons involved in heavy vehicle operation and processes. This legislation places responsibility on everyone in the supply chain, not just the driver or operator. Therefore corporate entities, directors, partners and managers are all accountable for the actions of people under their control. For more information about COR legislation, visit the NHVR's [compliance, enforcement and chain of responsibility website](#).

Operator/manager/scheduler responsibilities

Duty holders need to make sure that their action or inaction does not contribute to or encourage breaches of the HVNL. An operator, manager or scheduler of a business involved in road transport, must ensure that:

- rosters and schedules do not require drivers to exceed driving hour regulations or speed limits
- schedules allow sufficient time for correct packing, loading and unloading of freight
- vehicles are not loaded in a way which exceeds mass or dimension limits
- accurate records are maintained of drivers' activities, including work and rest times
- all reasonable steps to ensure drivers do not work while impaired by fatigue or drive in breach of their work or rest options are taken
- vehicles are regularly maintained, and if speed limiters are fitted they are functioning properly
- drivers moving freight containers have a valid [container weight declaration](#).
- loads are appropriately restrained with appropriate restraint equipment (see the [load restraint guide](#) for more information)
- drivers are medically fit and have the ability to maintain constant attention, make responsive and appropriate judgments and be physically capable of operating the vehicle.

For the full suite of QFleet Driver Safety Fact sheets visit qfleet.qld.gov.au