

Motor Vehicle Registry Information Bulletin

V67 - National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme

Effective Date: 26 September 2008

Introduction

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure administers the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) in the Northern Territory. NHVAS is a voluntary scheme which allows heavy vehicle transport operators to demonstrate high levels of compliance with road transport law through audit of their transport management systems. In return accredited operators may gain benefits through greater flexibility in the management of their transport business and access to regulatory concessions.

The long term objectives of NHVAS are to:

- increase the productivity of the transport industry through adoption of good management practices;
- improve road safety;
- reduce wear on road infrastructure; and
- improve efficiency and levels of compliance within the heavy vehicle transport industry.

NHVAS also offers variations in some aspects of enforcement practice in exchange for audited performance. However, it does not exempt scheme members from the requirements of applicable road transport legislation.

Membership into NHVAS is offered subject to the conditions contained in the NHVAS Business Rules produced by the National Transport Commission (NTC). The Business Rules and other relevant documentation including Accreditation Standards and Audit matrices are available on the NTC website at: <http://www.ntc.gov.au>

NHVAS offers Mass Management, Maintenance Management and Fatigue Management Modules. Accreditation in these modules is mutually recognised by all participating states and territories.

Mass Management

To gain accreditation in Mass Management an operator must have implemented a management system that is designed to prevent a vehicle from operating in excess of applicable mass limits and which complies with the Mass Management module standards.

The management system must include procedures and processes which produce documentary auditable evidence to demonstrate that each vehicle journey complies with the applicable legal mass limits.

Operators accredited in Mass Management may enjoy the benefits of being able to access Concessional Mass Limits (CML) or Higher Mass Limits (HML) including access to interstate higher mass limit routes.

For additional information relating to the Mass Management module, please refer to:

[Information Bulletin V68 – Mass Management \(NHVAS\)](#).

Maintenance Management

To gain accreditation in Maintenance Management an operator must have implemented a management system which complies with the Maintenance Management standards and is designed to ensure that nominated vehicles are appropriately maintained in a roadworthy condition at all times.

The management system must include procedures and processes which produce documentary auditable evidence to demonstrate that each nominated vehicle is appropriately maintained.

Operators accredited in Maintenance Management enjoy the benefits of having a system which ensures vehicles are regularly serviced and maintained, reduces down-time from unscheduled repairs and enforcement practices and eliminates the requirement for annual roadworthy inspections.

For additional information relating to the Maintenance Management module, please refer to: [Information Bulletin V69 – Maintenance Management \(NHVAS\)](#).

Fatigue Management

There are two Fatigue Management modules available:

- Basic Fatigue Management (BFM); and
- Advanced Fatigue Management (AFM).

To gain accreditation in either module an operator must have implemented a management system which complies with the BFM or AFM standards and is designed to ensure that the effects of driver fatigue are appropriately managed for nominated drivers.

The management system must include procedures and processes which produce documentary auditable evidence to demonstrate that driver fatigue is appropriately managed.

Operators accredited in Fatigue Management may benefit from greater flexibility in how they manage work and rest hours and encourages operators to take more responsibility for the safety and well being of drivers.

For additional information relating to BFM, please refer to: [Information Bulletin V72 – Basic Fatigue Management](#).

For additional information relating to AFM, please refer to: [Information Bulletin V73 – Advanced Fatigue Management](#).

Entry Requirements

Any business entity operating with at least one registered vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Mass over 4.5 tonnes may apply for access into the Scheme. Nominated vehicles are identified by an attached label and may include subcontractors (nominated subcontractors operating under CML or HML must work solely for the applicant).

Companies must seek accreditation in the jurisdiction where its registered office is located and can only be accredited once under any one ACN/ABN.

To apply for entry into one or more modules of the NHVAS the applicant must provide the following information:

- completed application form;
- certification of the relevant management systems in place from an approved auditor (Entry Audit);
- payment of prescribed administration charge; and
- Evidence of Identity (EOI) must be provided (e.g. NT Drivers Licence).

Maintaining Accreditation

Successful applicants (scheme members) are accredited for two year periods. The performance of the management systems are monitored through various mechanisms such as compliance audits, investigation of complaints, random compliance checks and on-road intercepts.

Where a scheme member's performance is not considered satisfactory in a module or modules, the Department may choose not to renew operator accreditation or apply various sanctions such as; issuing a notice to take corrective action within a specified period; increasing the frequency of scheduled compliance audits; or issuing a show cause why accreditation should not be cancelled.

A scheme member may voluntarily leave the scheme or a particular module at any time. The scheme member must notify the Department in writing that they wish to leave the scheme and must return identification labels or provide written advice that they have been destroyed.

Auditing

To become accredited, operators must be able to provide documentary auditable evidence that demonstrates they are complying with the NHVAS standards. Accredited operators need to:

- develop an in-house assurance system;
- document the procedures that staff must follow to achieve compliance;
- produce (and keep for audit) sets of documents that prove compliance; and
- undergo periodic independent audits.

Once an operator has developed a Mass, Maintenance or Fatigue Management system, the system needs to be assessed by a System Accreditation or Entry Audit. If the results are satisfactory the operator may receive accreditation.

Periodic scheduled audits are conducted by Independent auditors. These auditors will confirm to the Department that there is continued compliance with the standards prior to the renewal of accreditation.

Triggered or periodic audits may also be carried out at any time by Departmental Officers to ensure continuing and ongoing compliance.

Further Information

For further information regarding NHVAS and its modules contact the Department's Accreditation and Audit Unit or from the Departments NHVAS webpage at: <http://www.nt.gov.au/transport/mvr/nhvas>

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