

Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue Victorian Transitional Arrangements

Introduction

New heavy vehicle driver fatigue laws commencing on 29 September 2008, set revised work and rest limits for heavy vehicle drivers and require better management of driver fatigue. To assist fatigue regulated heavy vehicle operators and drivers with the changes to the new laws, the following transitional arrangements have been put in place.

Log Books to Work Diaries

Drivers working under Standard Hours, engaged in work more than 100km from their driver base can continue to use a log book for 90 days after implementation of the new laws on 29 September 2008.

At the end of this period, all fatigue regulated heavy vehicle drivers engaged in work more than 100km from their driver base will need to carry and complete the new work diary.

Drivers making use of the transition periods for Transitional Fatigue Management Scheme (TFMS), Fatigue Management Pilot (FMP) or operating in Basic Fatigue Management (BFM) or Advanced Fatigue Management (AFM) are required to complete a work diary from the 29 September 2008. Drivers making use of the transition period for TFMS or FMP will have a 14 day grace period until Monday 13 October 2008 to obtain a work diary. Work diaries will be available from VicRoads' Customer Service Centres from 29 September 2008.

Transitional Fatigue Management Scheme Drivers

When the new laws come into effect the TFMS will cease to exist. However, there is a six month transition period for drivers working under the TFMS prior to the 29 September 2008, where they can access the BFM work and rest hours option while heavy vehicle operators apply for and obtain BFM accreditation.

During the transition period the TFMS driver must carry the driver certification manual and record the operator's TFMS number in the work diary in the space provided for the operator's accreditation number. In order to continue accessing the BFM work and rest hours beyond the 6 month transition period, the heavy vehicle operator must become accredited in the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) fatigue module. At the end of the transition period, anyone who is not operating under accreditation will default to the Standard Hours work rest option.

Work Diary Exemptions

Any current exemptions issued to heavy vehicle drivers from the log book requirements due to literacy reasons will continue after 29 September 2008 up to the expiry date prescribed in the exemption. Similar exemptions will continue to be available under the new laws to assist those who drive under Standard Hours who experience difficulties with literacy.

Other States

There will be some variations in the transitional arrangements between the states. Victoria has implemented the transitional arrangements that have been agreed to by Australian Transport Council Ministers in February 2007. If you intend to travel interstate, check with interstate authorities for information about their transitional arrangements.

For further information on managing driver fatigue contact VicRoads on 1300 360 745 or visit the VicRoads website:

www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

