



**MEDIA RELEASE** 26 May 2008

## **HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER FATIGUE INFORMATION SESSIONS – A “MUST ATTEND” FOR ALL IN THE ROAD TRANSPORT CHAIN**

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The Victorian Transport Association (VTA) has announced support for the VicRoads Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue Reform Information Sessions to be held across Victoria from 28<sup>th</sup> May to the end of July 2008 and has urged ALL participants in the road transport “chain of responsibility” to attend.

If you use road transport as a part of your business, then you need to know about new laws concerning heavy vehicle driver fatigue (HVDF). The new laws apply not only to those that run transport companies, but also people such as schedulers, consignors/consignees, and those involved in loading and unloading activities. The free information sessions, to be held in 14 regional and metropolitan locations across Victoria and will provide an overview of the new fatigue management laws and what is required to comply.

VTA Deputy CEO, Neil Chambers will be participating in all of the Sessions to provide advice on the practical aspects of meeting the new fatigue management requirements. Mr. Chambers said, “There are only 18 weeks to go before the new laws come into force in Vic, SA, NSW and QLD on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008. But there is considerable work still to be undertaken before individuals, companies and, in fact, the whole industry, will be able to comply.”

For transport operators and drivers, there are fundamental decisions to be made about which work & rest hours “options” contained in the new laws are best suited to their operations. If more flexible options are required to meet the operator’s needs, then accreditation under the Basic Fatigue Management (BFM) or Advanced Fatigue Management (AFM) will be required.

BFM or AFM standards require:

- All drivers, schedulers and those involved in managing driver schedules and the fatigue management system to be assessed formally by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO);
- Drivers to be certified as fit to drive by a medical practitioner;
- Work diaries to be used to record work / rest hours (irrespective of distance travelled); and
- The policies & procedures of the company must meet audited fatigue management standards under the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS).

However, the obligations in the new laws to manage heavy vehicle fatigue don’t just stop at drivers & transport operators. **ALL** other parties in the transport chain have obligations, and increased penalties apply for breaches of the new laws.

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For example, if a premises is involved in loading or unloading five (5) or more heavy vehicles in a day, then they fall within the definition of a “loading manager” and have obligations to assist in managing driver fatigue, including the provision of adequate facilities for drivers to rest, and systems to notify loading & unloading times.

Also, there are heavy penalties if an contractual arrangement between a transport operator and its customer is deemed to have caused or contributed to driver fatigue, or the breach of other road laws.

Mr. Chambers urged “everybody who interacts in any way with heavy vehicles in the course of their business to attend at least one of the VicRoads Information Sessions. Ignorance of the new laws will be no excuse come September this year – and not complying might just cost you, and your business, dearly.” he added.

A copy of the Registration flyer for the VicRoads Information Sessions is attached. To attend these FREE forums you can register online at [www.freightforums.com.au](http://www.freightforums.com.au)

For further information on the Fatigue Reforms please visit the National Transport Commission website at [www.ntc.gov.au](http://www.ntc.gov.au)

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For further media information contact:

Philip Lovel, Chief Executive, VTA or Lucille Bolger, Communications Manager, VTA, on Ph: (03) 9646 8590

# Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue Reform Information Sessions



If you use road transport as part of your business then you need to know about new laws concerning heavy vehicle driver fatigue (HVDF). The new laws apply not only to those that run transport companies, but also people such as schedulers, consignors/consignees, and those involved in loading and unloading activities.

To help you understand heavy vehicle driver fatigue and how it may affect you, a series of **free** information sessions are being run by VicRoads across Victoria. The sessions will provide an overview of the heavy vehicle driver fatigue reform, and an opportunity to ask questions.

Please choose a location and date that suits you, and your customers/suppliers/contractors.

<b>Ballarat</b>	<b>28 May</b>	Doherty's Ballarat Lodge 613 Main Road, Ballarat
<b>Horsham</b>	<b>29 May</b>	Horsham Golf Club 304 Golf Course Road, Haven
<b>Bendigo</b>	<b>4 June</b>	The Capital-Bendigo Performing Arts Centre 50 View Street, Bendigo
<b>Moonee Valley</b>	<b>11 June</b>	Moonee Valley Raceclub Meeting Place McPherson Street, Moonee Ponds
<b>Noble Park</b>	<b>12 June</b>	Sandown Regency, 477 Princes Hwy, Nobel Park
<b>Mildura</b>	<b>18 June</b>	Alfred Deakin Centre 180-190 Deakin Avenue (cnr Twelfth Street) Mildura
<b>Swan Hill</b>	<b>19 June</b>	Best Western Swan Hill Resort 405-415 Campbell Street, Swan Hill
<b>Traralgon</b>	<b>25 June</b>	Century Inn 5 Airfield Road, Princes Highway, Traralgon
<b>Bairnsdale</b>	<b>26 June</b>	The Colosseum (Italian Australian Social/Sporting Club) 117 The Great Alpine Road, (Omeo Highway), Bairnsdale
<b>Portland</b>	<b>2 July</b>	Portland Football Netball Cricket Club Inc Hanlon Park, Henty Street, Portland
<b>Geelong</b>	<b>9 July</b>	National Wool Museum 26 Moorabool Street, Geelong
<b>Laverton</b>	<b>24 July</b>	Laverton Civic Complex Cnr Railway Avenue and Crown Avenue, Laverton
<b>Wodonga</b>	<b>30 July</b>	Wodonga Civic Centre 106 Hovell Street, Wodonga
<b>Shepparton</b>	<b>31 July</b>	Best Western The Carrington Hotel 505 Wyndham Street, Shepparton

**All information sessions will commence at 5.30pm and conclude around 7.30pm. A light supper will be served.**

## Registration form

To attend this forum, you must pre-register.  
You can do this via:

Online: [www.freightforums.com.au](http://www.freightforums.com.au)

Fax: 03 9818 6534, or

Post: HVDF Info Sessions, PO Box 2230,  
Hawthorn LPO 3122, or

For any queries, contact the HVDF Info Session  
organiser, Rob Perkins on 0411 402 832.

Name(s): .....

Organisation: .....

Address: .....

Phone No: ..... Fax: ..... E-mail: .....

Please specify session you will be attending: .....

For any queries, contact the Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue Information Session Organiser, Rob Perkins on 0411 402 832