

IAP the road forward //

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 16 December 2009

TCA PARTICIPATING IN HEAVY VEHICLE ROAD SAFETY RESEARCH PROJECT

Transport Certification Australia Limited (TCA) has been invited to participate in a heavy vehicle road safety research project led by the Injury Risk Management Research Centre (IRMRC) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). Other collaborators include the NSW Centre for Road Safety RTA, Motor Accidents Authority of NSW and Zurich Insurance. Recently IRMRC has received a grant from the Australian Research Council to develop a new Safety Management System (SMS) for heavy vehicles. The grant includes a budget for IAP in-vehicle units for data collection and TCA has committed to provide technical and operational advice throughout the project.

Research has identified that vehicle crashes are largely caused by speeding, driver fatigue, alcohol and other factors. This project will examine systematic factors that lead to such crashes and injury factors and explore the associated interventions practised by transport companies.

The project will be carried out over five years starting from January 2010 to December 2014. The first phase, which spans the first two years, will investigate the SMS in transport companies and identify key factors that differentiate their relative safety performance. This information will be used to construct a model SMS.

The second phase of the project will involve the implementation and testing of the model SMS and validation of a new SMS that provides the best practice in heavy vehicle transport safety. The IAP in-vehicle units will be used to collect data throughout the project to monitor the effects of the new SMS on transport operations through measuring risk factors such as speeding and other driver and vehicle errors.

Dr Charles Karl the General Manager Development Services at TCA, has been appointed as one of the partner investigators to assist with the usage of in-vehicle units and develop strategies for the use of telematics for transport safety. TCA Chief Executive Officer Mr Chris Koniditsiotis said "TCA is delighted to be part of this heavy vehicle road safety research project. The appointment of Dr Charles Karl to assist in the initiative is a great outcome for all".

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