



SAFETY ALERT

Non-Conforming Sleeper Cabs in Trucks

Background

An investigation into a recent workplace incident revealed an unrelated potential risk for drivers of commercial vehicles. It has been identified that some commercial vehicle drivers have been undertaking periods of non-work time in a moving vehicle in which the cab does not meet the design requirements of Australian Design Rule 42/04. This increases the risk of driver fatigue when non-work time is taken by commercial vehicle drivers (two-up driving team) in a moving vehicle that does not meet those design requirements.

Contributing factors

The risk of driver fatigue can increase if the cab is uncomfortable or does not provide adequate space and support for the commercial vehicle driver to obtain quality sleep during periods of non-work time. This particularly applies in a two up driving scenario.

Action required

Employers must provide a safe working environment for employees. A commercial vehicle that operates north of the 26th Parallel in WA between October 1 and March 31 should be air conditioned. If used as an alternative for sleeping accommodation, the air conditioning should be able to run continuously while the vehicle is stationary.

The responsible person at the workplace, in consultation with drivers, should ensure that the working environment assists in the prevention of driver fatigue as far as practicable by providing sleeper cabs that meet the requirements of Australian Design Rule 42 /04 as a minimum requirement for both two-up and single driver operations.

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Legislative Requirements:

Pursuant to the WA Code of Practice on Fatigue Management for Commercial Drivers an employer must establish and maintain appropriate workplace conditions (Section 5.6). Also of note is the Vehicle Standard (Australian Design Rule 42/04 – General Safety Requirements) 2005.

Barbaro Group:

Barbaro Group is a subject matter expert in all aspects of land transport, vehicle management and road safety.

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