

# Imagine a world without trucks...

Across the nation, door to door, every day, hundreds of thousands of heavy vehicles are delivering everything Australians need to keep their lives and businesses running smoothly. There are probably lots of things you didn't even realise we'd be without if it weren't for truck drivers. In fact, you can thank a truckie if you've bought, used or received any of the following this week...



Food and Groceries



Medicine



Fuel



Cleaning products



Clothing



Mail



Rubbish Collection



ATM

**FACT: Just 2–3 days without trucks and major cities would run out of food.**

## Did you know?

The NHVR has a direct regulatory relationship with approximately:

- **41,000 road freight businesses, large and small**
- **257,000 people working in the freight and logistics sector**
- **520,000 vehicles registered across the country**
- **400 road managers to look after Australia's road network**
- **1,000+ government officers who ensure compliance with the law**

Want to know more?

Visit our website: [www.nhvr.gov.au](http://www.nhvr.gov.au)

## Contact us

For further information about the NHVR's activities, functions and services, please visit our website or contact us via:

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<https://draketraillers.com/news/88-what-if-australian-trucks-stopped-for-a-week>

<https://www.nti.com.au/document/nti-guide-to-the-trucking-industry-2016.pdf>

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# NHVR safely driving Australia



# Safety first – top tips for drivers

Heavy vehicle drivers are proud of their safe driving records, but at the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, we know some people might still feel a little intimidated by sharing the road with them. If you follow these ten tips, everyone's precious cargo should arrive safely!

- 1 Patient drivers are safe drivers.** Trucks can't help accelerating slowly as they have to move through ten or more gears and weigh more than cars, so try to stay patient as they get up to speed.
- 2 Tailgating gets you nowhere.** It's dangerous, stresses you and other drivers out and puts your car in the firing line for any rocks thrown up by the truck's wheels. Oh, and if you're caught tailgating, you can cop a fine too!
- 3 They just need space.** Heavy vehicles need twice as much room to brake as a car. So it's safest to give them plenty of space and try not to cut too close in front.
- 4 It takes two to turn.** If a truck is turning, sit back and don't overtake. Trucks are allowed to (and need to) use two lanes when turning corners or going through roundabouts safely.
- 5 Can you see their mirrors?** It's safest to pass on the right when overtaking as a heavy vehicle's blind spot is smaller there. If you can see their mirrors, they can see you.
- 6 No sudden moves!** When overtaking and pulling in front of a truck, keep your speed consistent and predictable. Try to avoid drastic changes in speed that might force a heavy vehicle to brake suddenly or lose momentum.
- 7 Buses first.** It's always nice when a polite driver lets a truck merge, but did you know by law you must give way to buses leaving the bus stop on roads zoned 70km/h or slower?
- 8 Distracted drivers die.** Studies show 80% of collisions are caused by distractions like your mobile phone, GPS, radio, eating, drinking and smoking. Stay alert, get enough sleep and take plenty of breaks on road trips.
- 9 Give them a rest!** When stopping for the night, please leave truck rest bays clear for trucks. Remember an RV is not an HV and should never park in the HV rest area! Heavy vehicle drivers' rest hours are strictly regulated, so they need those spaces left empty for them to follow the rules, get enough shut-eye and drive safely on their next shift.
- 10 A bit extra.** If you come across an extra large load, especially one escorted by police or pilot, take a bit of extra care. Stay well clear of the vehicles and pay special attention to instructions and signs.

**FACT: Heavy vehicle drivers are some of the most highly-trained, safe and regulated drivers on our roads.**

## Safely driving Australia

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is keeping Australian roads safe by regulating where heavy vehicles can go and how they're operated. The laws and regulations set standards for size and weight limits for heavy vehicles, secure loads, working hours for drivers, vehicle maintenance and repair, and where heavy vehicles can travel.

The NHVR is Australia's dedicated, independent national regulator for the road transport industry's vehicles over 4.5 tonnes of gross vehicle mass (GVM). This includes semi-trailers and B-double freight trucks, tractors and other agricultural vehicles, mobile cranes and other special purpose vehicles, and passenger buses. We work closely with our industry and government partners to build a safe, productive and innovative heavy vehicle industry.

