

Transition to the revised NHVAS Business Rules and Standards

What are the changes?

The November 2019 meeting of the Transport Infrastructure Council endorsed the changes to the NHVAS Business Rules and Standards that encourage further alignment with Safety Management System principles as well adding clarifications to avoid misunderstandings.

The revised NHVAS Business Rules & Standards apply from 22 February 2021.

Business Rules changes and amendments

- Registration status for nominated vehicles clarified – vehicles must be registered to be nominated
- Assessment criteria as fit and proper to participate in the scheme added
- Timeframe to reapply after accreditation has been refused or cancelled is six months
- Clarification of the criteria to be able to be granted the maximum three years of accreditation added
- Inclusion for operators to report significant crash or incident as a Notifiable Occurrence
- Owner of a sub-contractor vehicle has the right to remove the vehicle from an accreditation
- *Advanced Fatigue Management (AFM) Business Rules* and standards are now included as part of a single document covering all modules.
- References to Fatigue Expert Reference Group (FERG) replaced with advice from jurisdictions and third parties
- FERG requirements replaced with ability for NHVR to seek external specialist advice.

Standards – Major Changes

- Vehicles declared “safe” not “roadworthy” after the maintenance daily check
- Tow couplings to be checked daily
- Vehicles to be inspected by a qualified person annually
- Register of infringements and defects to be kept
- Mass management nominated vehicle loaded mass to be verified twice per year
- AFM & BFM use the same seven standards
- Ensuring the vehicle as a workplace meets with workplace safety legislation (fatigue modules)
- Vehicle statement of compliance no longer required to be carried.

What do I need to do?

Existing NHVAS accredited operators will need to:

- Become familiar with the new requirements
- Review and update policies and procedures where needed
- Educate affected staff about the changes
- Implement the changes made to your management system

When do I need to do it?

Amended business rules and changes take effect from Monday 22 February 2021

The first Audit required after 22 February 2021 will identify any changes needed. Transitional Corrective Action Requests (TCARs) issued at that audit will need to be addressed by the end of your next accreditation cycle.

Existing NHVAS accredited operators will have one accreditation cycle after 22 February 2021 to identify any changes needed and then have until the following audit to implement the changes or sooner should they wish to do so.

How do I know what changes I need to make?

Guides for each module will be available on our website that cover all the new requirements.

By comparing the guide for the relevant module against your current system you will find the gaps for any changes needed.

NHVR approved auditors can assist while conducting NHVAS audits with identifying any gaps or amendments that may be needed.

Gaps identified by NHVR approved auditors will be identified by issuing a TCAR.

FAQs

While implementing the changes, will my accreditation be affected?

No. However compliance to existing standards is still required while transitioning to the revised Business Rules & Standards.

Where can I get help with the changes?

The NHVR website will provide guidance material for all NHVAS modules.

The NHVR call centre can be contacted on 1300 696 487 or email enquiries can be sent to info@nhvr.gov.au

Independent industry consultants also operate businesses that offer their services.

What records of any changes need to be kept?

The amendment section of your policy and procedure manual is used to record any individual changes or you can adopt a new version of the manual with changes included.

Training records that show all affected staff have been updated with any new procedures affecting their role.

What is a TCAR?

TCAR is the Transitional Corrective Action Request.

Auditors issue these to identify changes that are needed to an operator's system for it to align with the revised Business Rules and Standards.

When does a TCAR need to be closed out?

Actions identified in the TCARs need to be implemented and closed out by the next audit after it has been issued.

About the NHVR

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) is Australia's dedicated independent regulator for heavy vehicles over 4.5t gross vehicle mass. The NHVR was created to administer one set of rules for heavy vehicles under the Heavy Vehicle National Law, improve safety and productivity, minimise the compliance burden on the heavy vehicle transport industry and reduce duplication and inconsistencies across state and territory borders.

For more information:

Visit: www.nhvr.gov.au

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