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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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PBS Directional Stability Under Braking Standard Open for Consultation Says NHVR

Adapted from media release, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, 15 January 2021

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has opened consultation on the implementation of amendments to the PBS Directional Stability Under Braking Standard.

NHVR Chief Engineer Les Bruzsa said the amendments would increase the requirement for newly built or newly approved PBS vehicle units to be fitted with the latest safety technologies and remove the option for Load Proportioning Brake Systems from the deemed to comply provision.

He said new technologies are now readily available which will ensure that the original intent and principles of the scheme are met and that PBS vehicles continue to be the safer heavy vehicle alternative.

Mr Bruzsa said the NHVR is proposing to use a staged approach to the implementation in order to provide sufficient time to allow for business changes as a result of the DSUB Standard amendments.

The purpose of the DSUB Standard is to manage the safety risk of vehicle instability when braking in a turn or on pavement cross slopes.

For additional information or to provide feedback, please review the PBS Directional Stability Under Braking Transitional Arrangements Discussion Paper at www.nhvr.gov.au/consultation

Feedback on the paper is open until 12 February 2021.

Safety Alert Issued for Refrigeration Equipment Following Truck Cab Explosion

Adapted from article 'OHS Alert', 20 January 2021

Employers have been urged to ensure all refrigeration equipment, including air-conditioning units on mobile plant, comply with manufacturers' guidance on refrigerants, after a mine truck driver sustained serious face, hand and chest burns in an explosion in the cabin.

Resources Safety and Health Queensland says it was fortunate that the worker's eyes were protected from the blast by safety glasses.

Preliminary investigations by RSHQ suggest the truck's AC unit released hydrocarbon refrigerant into the cabin, creating an explosive atmosphere that was ignited by an unknown source and blew out some of the cab's windows, the alert says.

It says the AC unit was charged with a refrigerant containing propane and isobutane instead of the refrigerant required by the original equipment manufacturer, and the personnel who serviced and charged the unit did not hold the necessary gas work licences.

"Any refrigerants may only be charged or drained by persons that are specifically licensed for those refrigerants," the document says.

A copy of this safety alert is available from www.rshq.qld.gov.au/safety-notice/mines/explosion-in-truck-cabin-from-air-conditioning-system.

SafeWork NSW Offering Free Online Forms on Noise Induced Hearing Loss

SafeWork NSW is offering free online forums about noise safety in transport workplaces.

According to SafeWork NSW, its Noise Management Program will educate NSW businesses on managing hazardous noise in the workplace, keeping compliant, and raising awareness of safety.

Their next forum will be held in February and will be about noise in the transport industry.

SafeWork NSW says the session will run for 90 minutes.

Small business owners attending the session may be eligible for a small business rebate of up to \$500.

To register go to <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/events/safework-events/ask-an-inspector-about-noise-safety-in-transport>.

Please contact workingenvironment@safework.nsw.gov.au if you would like more information about the Noise Management Program.

Road Works Update

Road Works, Hume Hwy, Berrima from 18 January

Road works are underway on the Hume Hwy between Mereworth Rd and Medworth Rd from 18 January.

Work will be carried out from Monday 18 January between 7am and 5pm on weekdays and is expected to be completed in about three weeks.

Single-lane closures and a reduced speed limit of 80 km/h will be in place during and after work hours.

Road Works, Raymond Terrace Rd

Road works have commenced on Raymond Terrace Rd, which links Raymond Terrace with East Maitland.

Work will take place between Irrawang Bridge and McFarlane's Rd and is expected to be completed in about two years.

Road Works, Pooncarie – Menindee Road

Work has commenced on completing the sealing of the Pooncarie – Menindee Road.

A total of 87.5kms will need to be sealed on the road which is 122kms long.

The work is expected to take three years to be completed.

Planning Approval for Western Harbour Tunnel

The Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade has received planning approval from the NSW Government, in a major step towards delivering the third road crossing of Sydney Harbour.

The project includes a 6.5 km tunnel with three lanes in each direction, which will start at the new Rozelle Interchange and head under the Harbour to the Warringah Freeway, and will integrate new and existing public transport connections.

Construction is expected to start in the first quarter of 2021.

Other Road Works

Suburb/ Town	Road	Date/s	No of Shifts	Work Times
Alexandria	Botany Rd between Hughes Ave and Gillespie Ave	17/1-12/2/21	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Arncliffe	Forest Rd westbound, cnr Wardell St	17/1-26/2/21	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Banksia	Princes Hwy between Taylor Ave and Subway Rd	20/1-19/2/21	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Banksmeadow	Botany Rd westbound between Penryhn Rd and Beauchamp Rd	17/1-26/2/21	5	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Banksmeadow	Foreshore Rd eastbound between Sirius Rd and Penrhyn Rd	17/1-26/2/21	5	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Carss Park	Princes Hwy between Dwyer Ave and Lower West St	17/1-26/2/21	5	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Kogarah	Princes Hwy northbound between Gray St and Rocky Point Rd	17/1-26/2/21	4	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
Rockdale	Princes Hwy northbound opposite Bryant St intersection	17/1-19/2/21	6	8pm-5am Sun-Fri
St Peters/ Mascot	Ricketty St bridge over Alexandria Canal	18/1-26/3/21	59	6am-6pm Mon-Sat 6pm-6am Sun-Fri

2021 Functions and Events

ARTIO NSW is pleased to invite you and your colleagues to the next ARTIO NSW Breakfast Briefing to be held at the Rooty Hill RSL Club on 16 February, 2021.

Guest speakers and the issue to be discussed are: National Heavy Vehicle Law – An Essential Guide for Transport Companies and Other Supply Chain Parties, with John Makris, Partner, Kingston Reid, Lawyers and Maurice Baroni, Barrister.

Cost, including breakfast, is \$60 including GST (Members) and \$90 including GST (non-Members).

Please contact the ARTIO NSW secretariat, email, hughmc@artionsw.com.au, or telephone 0412 880861, if you require further information or wish to register.

Economic and Industry Indicators

Indicator/Source ¹	As at	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Annual % Variation
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¹ ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics; RBA – Reserve Bank of Australia; AIP – Australian Institute of Petroleum; FCAI – Federated Chamber of Automotive Industries

GDP latest quarter (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	\$m	476,043	-3.8
CPI (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	Per cent		0.7
Cash rate (RBA)	Current	Per cent	0.1	
Household savings ratio (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	Per cent	18.9	304.8
Retail turnover (ABS)	Nov 2020	\$m	31,654	13.3
Actual new capital expenditure (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	\$m	25,850	-13.8
Inventories held by private business (ABS)	Sep 2020	\$m	163,905	-4.6
Dwelling unit approvals (ABS)	Nov 2020	Number	17,205	15.0
Manufacturers Income (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	\$m	86,304	-1.6
TEUs Port Botany (NSW Ports)	6 months to Dec 2020	Number	1,338,797	2.1
Employed persons (ABS)	Dec 2020	Million	12.911	-0.5
Unemployment rate (ABS)	Dec 2020	Per cent	6.6	1.5
Wage price Index (ABS)	Sep Qtr 2020	Per cent		
All employees				1.4
Transport, postal and warehousing				1.4
New motor vehicle sales (FCAI)	12 months to Dec 2020	Number	916,968	-13.7
Heavy commercial vehicle sales (FCAI)	12 months to Dec 2020	Number	13,812	-22.0
Light commercial vehicle sales (FCAI)	12 months to Dec 2020	Number	8,934	-6.7
AIP Terminal Gate Price-Diesel-Sydney	22 Jan 2021	Cents/litre incl. GST	112.2	-20.9

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