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DRAFT ELECTRONIC WORK DIARY (EWD) SPECIFICATION RELEASED

Transport Certification Australia (TCA), on behalf of Austroads, has today released the draft *Performance-based Specification for Electronic Work Diary and Heavy Vehicle Speed Monitoring* (draft specification).

The draft specification was developed by TCA for Austroads to address the Australian Transport Council November 2008 initiated project to facilitate the adoption of electronic systems, namely, ‘Australian performance-based specification for electronic devices to monitor heavy vehicle speed and fatigue.’

The *Electronic System for Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue and Speed Compliance* draft policy has also been released by the National Transport Commission (NTC).

The draft policy and draft specification are consistent and supportive of each other, whilst addressing different audiences. The specification is very much a technical document for developers of electronic systems.

The draft policy and specification also identified a small number of areas requiring further work that will be informed as part of the recommended operational pilot.

Chris Koniditsiotis, Chief Executive Officer at TCA, stated that, ‘The development of the draft specification came about in recognition of the burgeoning use of telematics and in particular fatigue management systems, by the transport industry.

‘The transport industry has told us time and again that it wants to lift productivity, efficiency and safety by streamlining the collection and use of information so that costly and unnecessary duplication can be avoided. Elements of the industry have sought the recognition of electronic fatigue management systems as electronic work diaries, thus being able to forgo the written paper work diary.

‘The heavy vehicle fatigue legislation permits electronic fatigue management systems but to date there has been no specification to create let alone assess such systems. There is no doubt that the draft specification presents for the first time the approach and rationale to this important area,’ said Mr Koniditsiotis.

Mr Koniditsiotis continued to say, ‘The brief given to Austroads and TCA was very explicit; to develop a draft performance based functional and technical specification for electronic work diaries through the enhanced use of in-vehicle telematics. This work did not change the policy settings or rules surrounding fatigue management. Rather it sought to provide an electronic version of the written paper work diary.’

Importantly, the draft specification has had significant input from possible users and providers of fatigue and speed management systems, the transport and telematics industries and governments. This has helped shape many of the key principles contained in the draft specification including:

- consideration of commercially available fatigue and speed management systems
- recognition of in vehicle units able to provide services additional to fatigue and/or speed management
- recognition that governments and industry require robust, tamper evident systems and associated processes delivering authenticated information with integrity
- realisation that whilst the technology and systems are well proven, the institutional and business operational dimensions necessitate piloting.
Consultation sessions on the draft policy and draft specification will be held collectively by representatives of Austroads, NTC and TCA, in late November or early December 2010.

Submissions on the draft documents can also be made. The process is managed through the NTC and is outlined here.

The draft policy and draft specification can be found at the following:

Performance-based Specification for Electronic Work Diary and Heavy Vehicle Speed Monitoring (Draft) – TCA Website

Electronic System for Heavy Vehicle Driver Fatigue and Speed Compliance (Draft) Policy – NTC Website

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Media enquiries
Matthew Koce
Communications Manager
(03) 8601 4671