



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>MANAGING SPEED</b>

## HOW CAN YOU MANAGE YOUR SPEED

**Facilitator:**

**This is to help reinforce what they learnt previously on the risk of speeding.**

**Remember:**

As speed increases, drivers are less likely to recognise unexpected or developing danger and the time available to react and avoid a serious accident or injury.

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### MANAGING SPEED

Managing speed is one element of the Chain of Responsibility (CoR). All companies undertaking transport activities must ensure that there is enough time for a driver to undertake their work safely and without feeling pressured to speed.

Speeding is considered high-risk behaviour. Responsibility for speeding offences extends from the driver at the steering wheel to company management. Heavy Vehicle National Legislation prohibits any person from asking, directing or requiring a driver or other party in the supply chain, to enter into any contract or agreement that would reward, encourage or provide incentives to a driver to exceed speed limits.

If you work anywhere in the supply chain you must take practical steps, within your area of responsibility, to ensure that you do not cause or influence drivers to exceed speed limits. In the removals business this would include employers, operations managers, schedulers, loading managers, consignors and consignees etc.

Speeding heavy vehicles are at a greater risk of being involved in a motor vehicle incident and statistics show more fatal crashes occur on roads where the speed limit is equal to or greater than 100 km/h.

60 metres is needed to safely stop a heavy vehicle being driven at 60 km per hour, and every extra touch on the accelerator adds metres to that distance. As speed increases, so does the time and distance required to stop a heavy vehicle.

Statistics show that speed is a causal factor in 40% of fatal crashes, an aggravating factor in the severity of all crashes, and for every 5 km/h increase over the limit you travel in a 60 km/h speed zone, the risk of involvement in a casualty crash is double.

The faster you drive:

- the less time you have to respond to hazards.
- the impact of the crash is more severe.
- the harder it is to turn or take other evasive action.



- the vehicle travels further and takes longer to stop once you hit the brakes.

It is particularly important for heavy vehicles to reduce their speeds in any lower speed zones, including highways, due to risks such as roadwork sites and increased traffic at intersections.

Aside from offences for exceeding legal speed limits, heavy vehicle drivers may also be subjected to dangerous driving offences if travelling at speeds that are unsafe for the load being carried, or in certain road conditions, such as around corners, on steep descents and in foggy, wet or icy conditions.

Speeding can also affect the heavy vehicle's stability, steering and braking performance resulting in the driver losing control of the vehicle. Excessive or inappropriate speed when cornering or negotiating a roundabout, even at lower speeds, increases the risk of the heavy vehicle losing control and rolling over. Other risk factors include not driving at a safe speed for the conditions or failing to follow advisory and variable speed limits. Motor vehicle incidents involving speeding heavy vehicles can result in serious injuries and fatalities to drivers and other road users, damage to road infrastructure and the environment.

### **Penalties for speeding:**

The consequences of speeding include not only a fine and loss of licence, but also the potential loss of insurance cover and WorkCover. In addition, prosecutions can be commenced because of breaches of the Workplace Health and Safety Act for any worker who has been found negligent in his/her duties.

### **Some Safety Tips for Heavy Vehicle Drivers**

- Monitor your speed.
- Always keeps to a safe speed by keeping to the speed limit. For heavy vehicles over 4.5tones the maximum speed limit in Australia is 100km p/h.
- Remember - for every 5km/h over a 60km/h speed limit, the risk of a casualty crash doubles. Going over the speed limit by more than 10km/h increases your risk of crashing by 4 times.
- All heavy vehicle drivers and passengers must wear a seatbelt.
- When driving always consider the road and visibility conditions, especially in heavy rain and fog.
- For certain road conditions, such as sharp bends, steep descents and winding roads, special speed limit signs may be posted for trucks, road trains and buses. You must not drive at a speed greater than the speed shown on the sign.
- Make sure your load is restrained correctly. Loose or incorrectly restrained load can injure or kill others, damage property or causes hazards.

**Remember: Higher driving speed leads to higher collision speeds and thus to severer injury.**

# MANAGING SPEED TOOLBOX TALK



Items Raised/Corrective Action	Action By	Action completed	
		Sign off	Date

DATE:.....

FACILITATOR SIGNATURE.....