Land Transport Industry – COVID-19 Response Update 21 August 2020

The Land Transport Industry (Industry) is playing a critical role during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, highlighting the importance of the Industry in supporting Australian communities and the economy by providing essential supplies of food, medicine and other goods.

This update is a part of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' (the Department) continuing ongoing engagement with Industry, regulators, other Commonwealth agencies and state and territory governments as we move towards recovery.

As state and territory governments take measures under the Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Australia, the Department has developed the collection of resources in this Update to assist Industry. Industry should however continue to refer to the Australian Government websites at www.australia.gov.au and www.health.gov.au, along with relevant state and territory government websites, for the most up to date advice.

Recent Updates

On 7 August 2020, the National Cabinet agreed to the Freight Movement Code for the Domestic Border Controls—Freight Movement Protocol. The Code details the enforceable measures that all states and territories have agreed to implement from the Domestic Border Controls – Freight Movements Protocol, and will deliver greater consistency between states and territories. The Protocol and Code can be found at: www.infrastructure.gov.au/vehicles/vehicle_regulation/heavy-vehicles/.

Premiers and first ministers committed to implementing the Code by 21 August, however, we understand that while overall implementation of the Code is progressing well, not all measures will be fully implemented in all jurisdictions by the end of today. Jurisdictions and the Commonwealth will notify industry when full implementation has been achieved.

So far, mandatory routine testing has been implemented in Western Australia (WA), South Australia (SA), Tasmania (TAS) and the Northern Territory (NT) and remains voluntary but recommended in New South Wales (NSW), Queensland (QLD) and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Border permits or passes are required in some circumstances for crossing into all jurisdictions except Victoria (VIC). Industry should refer to state and territory websites well prior to crossing the border for information about whether a permit is required and how to apply.

Personal protective equipment (which may include face mask, gloves and/or hand sanitiser) is currently mandated in all jurisdictions except QLD and ACT, though Industry should refer to the latest advice from states and territories for guidance about what must be used and when.

A COVIDSafe Workplan is required for entry into NSW, TAS, VIC and the NT and is recommended for all other states and territories. Check state and territory advice on whether your plan needs approval and how to provide evidence of your Plan.

All jurisdictions have enforceable measures in place to prevent the carriage of passengers in cross-border freight vehicles, unless required for work purposes (for example, a second driver or other required staff).

All jurisdictions have a requirement for heavy vehicle drivers, rail crew and other freight workers not to work if they are unwell and displaying any symptoms, until symptoms have resolved and they have received a negative COVID-19 test result.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) has developed a summary of progress in relation to heavy vehicles, which can be found at: www.nhvr.gov.au/coronavirus.

Heavy vehicle drivers can now receive an asymptomatic COVID-19 test at private pathology clinics across Australia at no cost, due to their inclusion in a new Medicare item for asymptomatic COVID-19 testing (including in Victoria). As detailed in the Code, self-isolation is not required after an asymptomatic test.

The latest updates on the implementation of the Code in each jurisdiction can be viewed on state and territory websites, with links provided below.

State and Territory Government Resources

Jurisdiction	Requirements
Queensland	Border Information: www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/border-closing Queensland Border Declaration Pass (Freight and Logistics): www.qld.gov.au/border-pass/freight-and-logistics COVID Testing Facilities: www.health.qld.gov.au/darlingdowns/includes/covid-19-faq AND www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/stay-informed/testing-and-fever-clinics
Western Australia	WA Government website: www.wa.gov.au Direction: www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/transport-freight-and-logistics-direction Testing Direction: www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/presentation-testing-directions-no-4 FAQ: www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/g2g-pass-travel-exemptions-frequently-asked-questions
South Australia	Border Information: www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/travel-restrictions Remote Communities: www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/restrictions-on-movement-into-aboriginal-communities2 COVID Testing Facilities: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/covid+2019/covid-19+response/covid-19+clinics+and+testing+centres

Jurisdiction	Requirements
Tasmania	Border Information: https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/coming-to-tasmania
	G2G PASS: https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/g2g-pass
	COVID Testing Facilities: https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/essential-travellers
	Quarantine Conditions: www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travellers-and-visitors/essential-travellers/quarantine-conditions-for-essential-travellers
Northern Territory	Border Information: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/community-advice/border-controls
	Border Entry Form: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/travel/interstate-arrivals
	COVID Testing Facilities: https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe/symptoms-testing
New South Wales	Border Information: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/border-restrictions
	COVID-19 NSW Border Entry Permit: www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-covid-19-nsw-border-entry-permit
	COVID Testing Facilities: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others/clinics
Victoria	Victoria COVID-19 webpage: www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus
	Permitted Worker Scheme: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/permitted-worker-scheme-covid-19
	COVID Testing Facilities: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19
Australian Capital Territory	Border Controls: www.covid19.act.gov.au/community/travelling-and-transport
	Exemption Application: www.covid19.act.gov.au/exemption-application
	COVID Testing Facilities: www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/symptoms-and-getting-tested

Australian Government Resources

General COVID-19

- Essential Information updates from the Australian Government are available at: www.australia.gov.au.

- The COVIDSafe app has been released to help speed up contacting people who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Downloading the COVIDSafe app is completely voluntary. Please read the information from the Department of Health at: www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app before downloading.

- Health advice and resources are available from the Department of Health at: www.health.gov.au, including resources on the appropriate use of face masks at: www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/when-should-masks-be-worn-in-the-community-in-australia.

- Safe Work Australia also has information available about the safe use of personal protective equipment, including face masks at: www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/road-freight/masks?tab=tab-toc-employer

- The National COVID-19 Coordination Commission developed a Checklist for a COVID-19 safe and sustainable business available at www.pmc.gov.au/nccc/checklist-covid-19-safe-and-sustainable-business.

Economic Response

- Details of the Australian Government economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic are available from the Treasury at: www.treasury.gov.au, including specific support for affected businesses at: www.treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses.

- On 21 July 2020, the Australian Government announced an extension to the JobKeeper Payment by six months to 28 March 2021 and extension to the temporary Coronavirus Supplement for those on income support until 31 December 2020. Details of the changes can be found at: https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/jobkeeper

Regulator Resources

- The NHVR provides regular updates on their dedicated COVID-19 webpage. Information about the NHVR's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is available at: www.nhvr.gov.au/coronavirus

- The NHVR has updated their COVID-19 map to include heavy vehicle COVID-19 testing sites, available at: COVID-19 map: service centres and roadhouses.

- The Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator has a Fact Sheet on their response to COVID-19 pandemic, available at: www.onrsr.com.au.