



SAFETY AROUND YOUR VEHICLE PROGRAM STAGE 1 (TRANSPORT OPERATORS)

Project Report – March to July 2021

OVERVIEW

Commencing on 1 March 2021, SafeWork NSW inspectors visited transport owners and operators across metropolitan and regional NSW to provide advice, assistance and secure compliance on the WHS risks associated with safety around heavy vehicles as part of the 'Safety Around Your Vehicle Compliance Project – Stage 1'.

Inspectors visited 327 businesses in metropolitan and regional NSW and reviewed the compliance of safety around heavy vehicle activities including loading and unloading, coupling and uncoupling trailers, ancillary tasks and vehicle immobilisation. Construction inspectors also visited various construction businesses and completed 12 verifications and issued two prohibition notices.

BACKGROUND

The hazards associated with safety around heavy vehicles have been highlighted by several fatalities and serious injuries sustained by workers in the transport industry whilst loading and unloading freight, undertaking ancillary tasks including vehicle maintenance and being impacted by unintended vehicle movement. These fatalities and serious incidents have occurred at transport operator depots, as well as other sites in the supply chain including warehousing, logistics and construction sites in NSW.

SafeWork NSW will continue to focus on safety around your vehicle as part of the *Transport Work Health and Safety Sector Plan 2022*.

LET'S TALK SAFETY

NOTICES ISSUED

Inspectors issued a total of 71 notices, including 68 improvement notices, 3 prohibition notices, 1 Section 155 notice and 1 Section 171 notice.

PROHIBITION NOTICES

Table 1. Prohibition Notices

Reason for Issue	Notice issued
Falling objects – PCBU	1
Falls construction – PCBU	1
Traffic control manage risks construction – PCBU	1
TOTAL	3

IMPROVEMENT NOTICES

Table 2. Traffic Control

Reason for Issue	Notice issued
Manage risks – PCBU	15
Manage risks – s19	4
TOTAL	19

Table 3. Plant

Reason for Issue	Notice issued
Maintenance/inspection – PMC	5
Manage risks – PMC	4
Mobile plant – PMC	4
Mobile plant – c214	2
Guarding – PMC	1
TOTAL	16

Table 4. Electrical

Reason for Issue	Notice issued
Inspection / testing – PCBU	5

Table 5. General

Reason for Issue	Notice issued
General Work Health and Safety Notice – management of risks	6
General workplace management – information, training, instruction – PCBU	4
General Work Health and Safety Notice – primary duty of care	2
TOTAL	12

Table 6. Falls

Reason for Issue	Notice issued
Other – PCBU	3

Table 7. Falling Objects

Reason for Issue	Notice issued
Prevention of – PCBU	2

Table 8. Hazardous Chemicals

Reason for Issue	Notice issued
Manage risks – PCBU	1
Manage risks – safety data sheet	1
TOTAL	2

Table 9. Emergency Plan

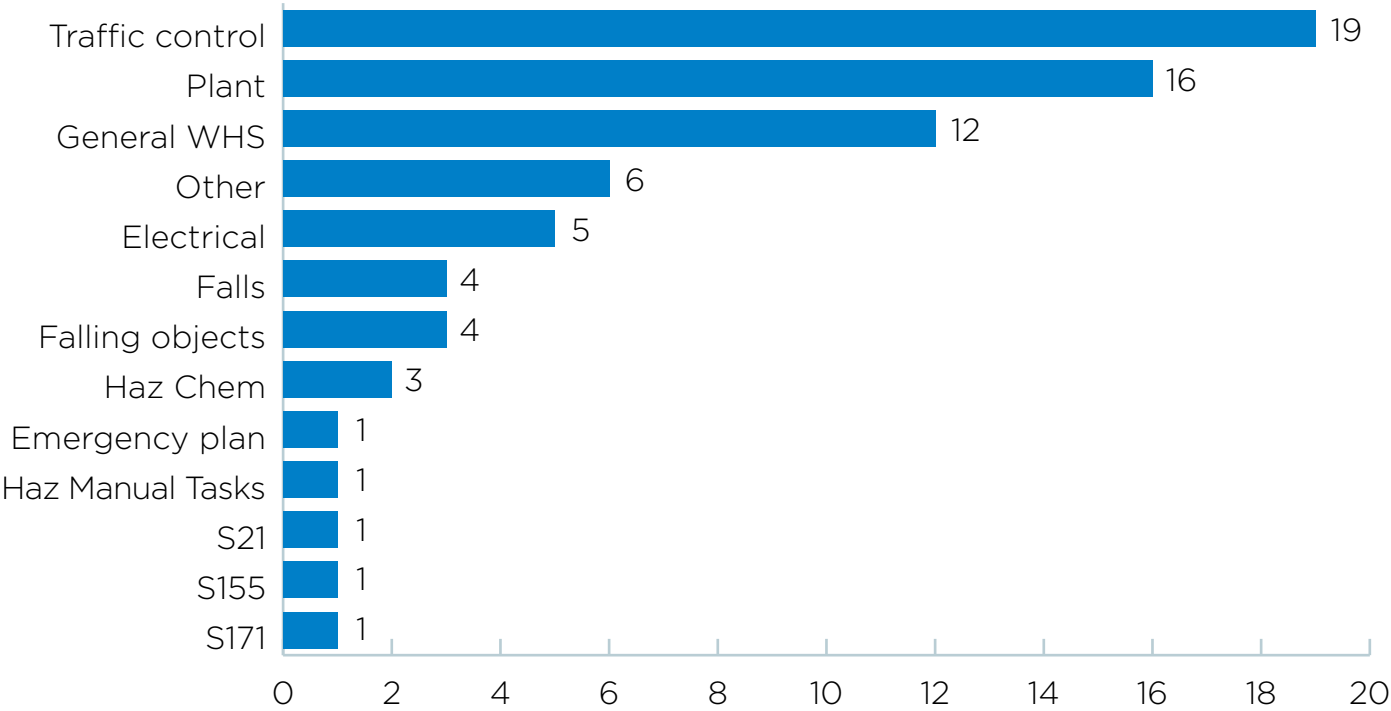
Reason for Issue	Notice issued
Must prepare – PCBU	1

Table 10. Hazardous Manual Tasks

Reason for Issue	Notice issued
Manage risks – PCBU	1

CATEGORY OF NOTICES ISSUED

Table 11. Breakdown of the categories of improvement notices issued at workplaces.



SAYV CHECKLIST OBSERVATIONS

Inspectors completed 308 safety around your vehicle checklists and collected responses in four key areas: traffic management, loading and unloading, vehicle immobilisation and the coupling and uncoupling of trailers.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

89% of workplaces have a traffic management plan in place, with 62% specific for the site and 69% include as part of the site induction process. 94% of workplaces have well lit and maintained vehicle movement areas, with separate parking for light and heavy vehicles that is on a flat, hard surface.

37% of workplaces protected pedestrian areas with engineered devices such as bollards, 35% have an onsite communication channel and 18% used traffic calming devices e.g. speed humps.

LOADING AND UNLOADING

85% of workplaces use mobile plant or other plant in the loading/unloading process, and 71% have exclusion zones in place for loading and

unloading. 54% of workplaces had a designated safe area for the driver, if they were not involved in the loading/unloading process.

VEHICLE IMMOBILISATION

90% of vehicles have the park brake applied to immobilise the vehicle and 60% of vehicles were fitted with an audible alarm if the park brake was not applied. 82% of drivers received training and instruction on how to safely immobilise a heavy vehicle.

COUPLING AND UNCOUPLING TRAILERS

65% of workplaces require the driver to perform a visual inspection of the trailer coupling to ensure the truck and trailer are properly connected. 50% of businesses have an exclusion zone or designated area set up for the coupling and uncoupling process.

SUMMARY

The primary messaging for businesses during the project centred around the importance of vehicle immobilisation, effective traffic management plans and the separation of people, product and plant at the workplace. SafeWork NSW has a suite of tools focused on safety around your vehicle, including the SAYV Glove Box Guide and poster and safety alerts to assist workplaces understand their duties and responsibilities in and around heavy vehicles.

Based on the data obtained, it is evident the majority of workplaces visited have some controls in place regarding the management of risks associated with safety around heavy vehicles. Further work, in collaboration with industry stakeholders is required to continue to highlight the importance of vehicle immobilisation, loading and unloading and other ancillary tasks.

The Safety Around Your Vehicle (SAYV) Compliance Program – Stage 2 will commence in late 2021 and will extend to the broader supply chain including manufacturing, retail and wholesale sectors. The Stage 2 checklist has been refreshed to now include forklift safety.

The ongoing SAYV project will continue to provide a focus for operators within the transport industry on the need to ensure the safety of all workers especially those working around vehicles, and furthering the achievement of goals within the Transport Sector Plan.

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