

Chain of Responsibility

The Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) Chain of Responsibility (CoR) recognises that multiple parties may be responsible for offences committed by the drivers and operators of heavy vehicles.

The CoR laws focus on holding people accountable for the systems and processes they have in place to manage risks and prevent driving breaches – not just holding them accountable after a breach has occurred.



The aim of CoR is to change the behaviour of the off-road parties to remove pressure on drivers.

All the parties in the supply chain (listed below) have a duty to ensure the safety of transport activities that they have influence or control over.

- An employer of a driver
- A prime contractor for a vehicle if the vehicles driver is self-employed
- An operator of the vehicle
- A scheduler for the vehicle
- A loading manager for any goods in the vehicle
- A loader and/or un loader of a vehicle
- A consigner of any goods for transport by the vehicle
- A consignee of any goods in the vehicle
- A loader and/or unloader of any goods in the vehicle

Specific responsibilities

Specific responsibilities for some of these roles include:

Loaders must ensure a vehicle's load:

- Does not exceed vehicle mass or dimension limits
- Does not cause the vehicle to exceed mass limits
- Is placed in a way so it does not become unstable, move or fall off the vehicle

A Packer's responsibilities include making sure that:

- Documentation about the vehicle's load is not false or misleading
- Any goods packed in a freight container do not cause the container's gross weight or safety approval rating to be exceeded

A Loading Manager's responsibilities include:

- Working with other off-road parties to make reasonable arrangements to manage loading/unloading time slots
- Ensuring vehicle are loaded/unloaded as quickly and efficiently as possible
- Putting systems in place for unexpected jobs – for example where there have been unexpected road delays

What can you do to make sure that you helping to prevent incidents or breaches of the law?

- Understand the CoR laws
- Know your role/s in transport activities and how this affects you
- Make sure that you are aware of, and understand, the process and measures the business has in place to manage the safety of transport activities and which ones specifically apply to the tasks you will be carrying out.
- Don't put pressure on a driver or any other party in the supply chain to carry out actions that could lead to a breach in the law.

Tell your mate who drives a truck

- Take your time, don't rush for a deadline
- Know your heavy vehicle journey and work and rest requirements
- Do a daily heavy vehicle check
- Check your load is properly restrained
- Don't drive distracted
- Drive to the conditions and don't speed
- Dim or fuzzy vision? Take a break
- Keep your work diary up to date