



# **Vehicle Safety Guidelines**

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# 1 Drive safely and according to the conditions

The Australian pipeline industry has a culture that establishes leadership for safe driving. This requires a commitment from owner, construction operator and engineering organisations to reduce the risks.

A safe driving environment will be achieved by a lead by example approach and an open display of preparedness to adopt work practices which aim to eliminate vehicle accidents.

There must be a consistent, planned and considered approach to vehicle safety on all projects and operational activities. The following guidelines should be considered in both the project planning and operational phase.

## 2 Distance travelled

The distance travelled by construction workers and operations teams, including supervisors and managers, should be minimised.

Methods to reduce or control distances travelled safely should include:

- Optimum use and location of camps or multiple camps.
- Restricting supervisor responsibility to compact work areas.
- Use of alternative long-distance travel methods such as helicopter.
- Planning and scheduling of work to minimise excessive travel.
- Use of journey management systems uniform to each project.
- Use of in-vehicle monitoring systems (IVMS) for all vehicles / driver identification.

## 3 Speed control

Methods to limit vehicle speed to a safe level need to be implemented such as:

- Reduction in distances to be travelled to eliminate desire to speed.
- Planning to eliminate need to exceed the speed limit to meet deadlines.
- Establishing, displaying and enforcing speed limits.
- Use of speed control measures such as speed alert or automated speed limiting devices.
- Uniform disciplinary action for speed violations.

## 4 Time of travel

Travel at critical times such as dawn and dusk needs to be minimised by:

- Planning of activities to minimise distance travelled during these periods.

Minimise risk during these periods by implementing methods which:

- Reduce speed at these times.
- Improve vehicle and road visibility and minimise use of vehicles at sunset, after dusk / before dawn, sunrise.
- Reduce instances of "two way" traffic during these times.

## 5 Work cycle

The work cycle adopted needs to be based on considerations such as:

- Optimum travel distance.
- Allowing optimum use of work hours.
- Preventing fatigue.

## 6 Method of transport

Methods of transport of the workforce to site need to be evaluated including:

- Mass transport of part or all of workforce.
- Selection of appropriate designated drivers.
- Minimising the number of vehicles and hence drivers.
- Drive in, drive out workforce.

## 7 Driver skills

The driver competency requirements need to be based on the prevailing conditions for:

- Off-road skills such as track assessment/suitability/current and forecast weather. Recovery priorities and ability to use correct equipment for such instances.
- Identify specific training requirements to include recognition of the dirt road (not necessarily off road) hazards, such as cambers, corrugations, uneven surfaces, bull dust, dust etc.
- Supervisors need to be trained to promote and establish the best driver attitudes.
- Strict enforcement of drug and alcohol policy is essential to safe driving.
- The wearing of seatbelts is mandatory.

## 8 Vehicle type

The design of the vehicles and conditions should be evaluated considering:

- Right of way design.
- Signage.
- Access road design.
- Ingress and egress points from major roads.
- Use of robust, low centre of gravity vehicles.
- Effective vehicle maintenance programs.

Use of vehicle technology and safety equipment such as:

- Electronic stability control, roll-over protectors, airbags, cargo barriers, exterior roll bars and tyre pressure monitoring systems.
- Prestart checklists completed each day with particular attention to tyre condition, fluid levels, windscreen cleanliness/condition and overall cleanliness.
- Open tray utility type vehicles/trailers to be supplied with cargo netting over the tray to keep with legal requirements in some states.

## 9 Awareness of fatal five

- Speeding.
- Drink and drug driving.
- Failure to wear a seatbelt.
- Driving while fatigued.
- Distraction and inattention.