

Chain of Responsibility is now a reality in all jurisdictions throughout Australia excepting Western Australia and The Northern Territory in relation to Road Transport. But it should be noted that these jurisdictions are set to follow the model law, this will more than likely correspond with the National Regulator's introduction. This holds everyone in the road transport chain responsible for their role in the overall operation of heavy vehicles. The summary is as follows:

- All those who actually bear responsibility for conduct which affects compliance with road transport laws should be made accountable for failure to discharge that responsibility;
- The law will as far as practicable define the point or points in the transport chain where responsibility for particular conduct should lie; and
- Chain of responsibility to be followed-up more frequently.

A summary of responsibilities for each party is as follows:

### ***Chain Responsibilities of the Driver***

- Your vehicle does not exceed mass limits;
- Your vehicle and load do not exceed dimension limits;
- Your load is appropriately restrained;
- You do not exceed the speed limit;
- You do not tamper with any equipment required to be fitted to the vehicle;
- Driving hours regulations are adhered to;
- Required rest breaks are taken; and
- Records of your driving hours are kept.

### ***Chain Responsibilities of the Operator / Manager / Scheduler***

- Rosters and schedules do not require drivers to exceed driving hours regulations or speed limits;
- Vehicle speed limiters are functioning;
- Vehicles do not exceed mass or dimension limits;
- Appropriate restraint equipment is provided and loads are appropriately restrained; and
- You keep records of drivers' activities, including driving, work and rest times.

### ***Chain Responsibilities of Consignor / Receiver***

You must not require a truck driver to:

- Exceed permitted driving hours;
- Fail to have minimum rest periods;
- Exceed the speed limit;
- Carry goods that exceed vehicle dimension limits;
- Carry goods that cause vehicle mass limit to be exceeded; and
- Inappropriately carry any goods on your behalf that are not appropriately secured.

### ***Chain Responsibilities of Loader / Packer for ensuring the vehicle load***

- Does not exceed dimension limits;
- Does not cause vehicle mass to be exceeded; and
- Is placed in a way that it does not become unstable, unsafe, move or fall off the vehicle.

In addition, Loaders / Packers have a responsibility to ensure:

- Documentation about the vehicles load is not false or misleading; and
- Goods in a freight container do not exceed the gross weight or safety approval rating.