

Introduction

At National Highways, safety is our first imperative. Our Commercial Vehicle Incident Prevention (CVIP) programme is responsible for identifying key causes of commercial vehicle incidents and designing and implementing interventions to reduce commercial vehicle related incidents.

We are continuously seeking support and looking to engage with the industry as well as establishing collaborative partnerships with other organisations, such as the police and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) to reduce these types of incidents and improve safety.

Commercial Vehicle Incident Prevention programme objectives

Our CVIP programme consists of two tranches: Safer Vehicles which is focused on better designed and maintained vehicles; and Safer People which is focused on improving driver behaviour to reduce the risk of incidents occurring. The CVIP programme supports National Highways' approach to road safety, which is based on the Safe System - moving away from reactive safety and moving towards pre-emptive safety with incident prevention through improved partnership working. The current interventions in each of the tranches are summarised below.

Key projects in the Safer Vehicles tranche

- **Operation Tramline** is the use of three unmarked HGV tractor units loaned to police forces in England & Wales. The elevated position of the cabs allows police officers to drive alongside all types of vehicles to identify and take action against unsafe driving behaviour.
- We have also pioneered an unmanned drive through **mobile tyre safety station**. This is an automated tyre inspection and diagnostic service that scans and records tyre pressure, tread depth and axle weight, and captures images of loads for vehicles up to 7.5t.
- **North-west commercial vehicle unit research pilot** – working with North West Motorway Police group and DVSA to deliver a regional based approach to commercial vehicle compliance checks.
- **DVSA joint working initiatives**. Working collaboratively with DVSA to reduce the number of dangerous and poorly maintained commercial vehicles on our roads.
- An initiative to reduce the frequency and severity of **diesel spillages** from commercial vehicles.
- **Driving on England's motorways** is a campaign to reduce collisions involving overseas commercial vehicle drivers. This campaign includes blind spot awareness, smart motorways, speed limits, illegal parking etc.
- **Facilitating compliance events** – working with police and DVSA to identify key locations and dates for targeting events.
- Trial the use of **dashcams** in operators' vehicles for possible reporting to Operation SNAP.
- Working collaboratively with Driving for Better Business in the promotion of the **Van Driver Toolkit** consisting of best practice guides, toolbox talks and other resources including the creation of a monthly landing page.
- **Fatigue** – working with subject matter experts to better understand how fatigue impacts commercial vehicle drivers.

Key projects in the Safer People tranche

- Continue to promote **blind spot** awareness through the virtual reality app, safety cards, animations and Fresnel lenses.
- Improving the current **knowledge levels and attitudes** of all drivers towards commercial vehicles.
- Collaborate with partners to **promote enhanced driver training** for drivers of goods vehicles.
- Promoting greater use of **in-vehicle systems/solutions** to improve driver behaviour.
- **CALM Driver** - raise awareness of driver wellbeing resources by working with CALM charity and Driving for Better Business.
- Identify the root causes of **frontal shunt** incidents on our network and implement countermeasures to reduce them.
- Research to understand any safety implications on the strategic road network as a result of **driver shortages**.
- Develop a **incident investigation toolkit** aimed at fleet managers and operators to improve incident and near miss reporting and investigation.

Notes

- In addition to these interventions, further research is taking place into tyre management, vehicle weights, fires, incident types and incident locations (to enable us to target our initiatives where necessary).
- More information on all these interventions, along with case studies, can be found at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/road-safety/commercial-vehicles/>

How the programme fits together

The CVIP programmes, Safer Vehicles (tranche 1) and Safer People (tranche 2), will continue through the second road investment period. Individual projects may conclude and others expand. There is considerable resonance between the two parts of the programme and it is anticipated that each will contribute added value to the other.

Commercial Vehicle Incident Prevention programme

Safer vehicles

Encourage deployment of improved vehicle safety technologies for both advice and passive safety.

- Police use of HGV tractor units
- Drivers' hours
- Tyre, brake and axle incident detection - roadside detection
- Load security and straps
- DVSA joint working initiatives
- Prevention of diesel spillages
- North-west commercial vehicle unit research pilot
- Prevention of HGV fires
- Facilitating compliance events
- Van Driver Toolkit
- Dashcams trial
- Driving on England's motorways
- Portable weigh pads

Communications enablers

- Understanding the Goods Vehicle Industry
- Multi stakeholder communication plan
- National Highways promotion within the Goods Vehicle sector

Research

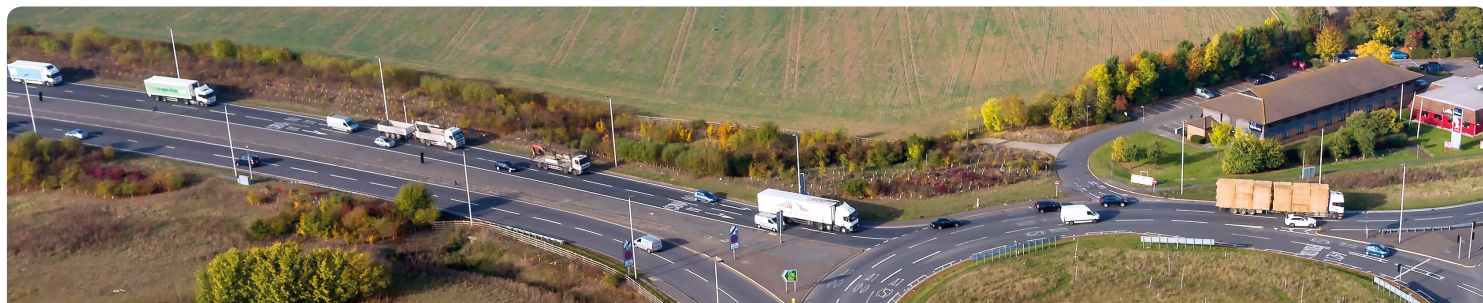
- Tyre management/tyre debris
- Vehicle weights
- Vehicle fires
- Frontal shunts
- Safety implications for the strategic road network as a result of driver shortages
- Fatigue

Safer people

Develop intelligence led innovation programmes to improve road user behaviour with measurable outcomes.

- Blind spots
- Road user knowledge and attitudes
- Driver training for all commercial vehicles
- In-vehicle systems/solutions
- CALM Driver
- Frontal shunts
- Monitoring goods vehicle driver behaviours
- Collision investigation toolkit

Key: ■ Complete and nationally implemented ■ Ongoing / In development ■ Not started



More information

If you would like more information or have ideas for how to improve commercial vehicle safety on the strategic road network please contact National Highways' Commercial Vehicle Incident Prevention team (Road Safety group) by emailing: IncidentPrevention@nationalhighways.co.uk