

Temporary changes to the NHVAS medical requirements

Dear Members

In response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and social distancing requirements, the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) has announced the implementation of temporary changes to the NHVAS medical requirements and face-to-face audit requirements.

The following arrangements will take effect from **13 August 2021** until **31 January 2022**.

The changes include:

- auditors can undertake audits remotely by validating documents and records in electronic form or otherwise and conducting conversations over the phone or in another form where applicable
- heavy vehicle drivers operating under Advanced Fatigue Management (AFM) or Basic Fatigue Management (BFM) accreditations may continue to drive with an expired driver medical, that expired on or after 31 July 2021, until they can practicably obtain a new driver medical.

Remote Auditing

To enable the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) processes to continue, a temporary change has been made to the **Business Rules and Standards** that will allow remote 'off-site' auditing.

Your auditor may now:

- request that documents and records are sent electronically or in another form
- conduct interviews with operator representatives via telephone or other multimedia means

The change has been approved on the basis that suitable controls are used to ensure that the auditor's conclusion can be substantiated with reliable and credible evidence.

You must still:

- Ensure policies, procedures and records are made available for analysis
- Ensure parties are available for interview where necessary
- Follow the normal process for audits to be approved as outlined in the NHVAS Audit Framework

Expired BFM and AFM Driver Medicals

The amended NHVAS Business Rules and Standards allow a driver to continue to drive, even if their medical has expired on or after 31 July 2021, until such time as they are able to reasonably practicably secure an examination and medical confirmation.

It continues to remain the responsibility of all NHVAS accredited operators to ensure drivers under AFM or BFM are fit for duty, including the need to undertake related risk assessments and have in place suitable risk controls.

Accredited operators must also ensure their Register of Drivers is kept up to date, noting any expired medicals to be obtained as soon as reasonably practicable.

General

If you are experiencing any issues associated with meeting your accreditation requirements due to the current coronavirus situation, or require further advice regarding these changes, please contact the NHVAS Team on 13 64 87 as soon as possible.

If you believe there may be issues in having an audit completed please contact the NHVR as soon as possible and **before** your accreditation expires.

Dr Imogen Reid
Lead, Strategy and Policy
Industry Divisions, Business and Consumer Affairs and Research