

Chain of Responsibility

These three words will soon change the way we do business in the near future, and we need to be aware of the consequences of sticking our heads in the sand and pretending it will go away, it won't. The bigger companies and your clients will be trying to shift the focus off themselves and back onto the trucking industry, this will be to avoid the possible consequences of an investigation into a breach of Chain of Responsibility laws, they will be asking for you to prove your operation has addressed the requirements of the law, that way they can create a case for 'reasonable defence'. Landmark Operations Limited have started sending out letters requiring their transport service providers to produce evidence of their compliance with the new fatigue laws, failure to supply the relevant documentation will see those operators struck off their service providers list. It would be safe to bet that all the freight forwarders and large companies will be sending out similar notices in the near future, and if you're not prepared for it you may well be sitting on the fence while someone else does your work, it has now gotten to the point where every truck operator will have to enter into an accreditation scheme to meet the new requirements. NRFA will be promoting the implementation of the National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) (ahead of all other accreditation programs) by providing its members with details of a highly regarded service provider who will advise you on the relevant scheme for your state and carry out the necessary task of getting you accredited, to ignore doing this will place you in a very fragile position if you or your drivers are involved in an accident. All too often we fail to stay up to date with changes to the laws and it's easy to become trapped by the system, that is why the NRFA wants to keep you up to date on the changes happening all the time.

If you become aware of changes to transport regulation in your State that are unfair let us know so we can address the issues on your behalf, if we keep knocking on doors the NRFA will contribute to improving the industry.

Remember you may think accreditation is for the birds, and it probably is, but it may also turn out to be a great marketing tool as well as saving your business from prosecution in a 'Chain of Responsibility' case.

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