

12 September 1996

REF:MECHENG/TECHNI/TECHTALK/0024

**Tech Talk No: T024**

**Product: On Board Vehicle Monitors**

Vehicle monitors are also known as trip recorders or tachographs. It is a device which can be fitted to any vehicle which will automatically record data and can produce reports which can be later made available for inspection should the need arise.

***Why are monitors required?***

Initially vehicle monitors were fitted to heavy vehicles and coaches because of government regulations.

These regulations differ from state to state however I have briefly outlined the New South Wales regulations which state the following:

- a) All NSW registered Primemovers and articulated vehicles with a GVM (Gross Vehicle Mass) greater than 13.9 tonnes, manufactured on or after 1 January 1991.
- b) All NSW registered tanks with a GVM of more than 13.9 tonnes carrying dangerous goods and which are required to display Hazchem warning signs and:
- c) All coaches operated in NSW. Coaches are defined as a motor vehicle which is:
  - \* Constructed to principally carry persons and:
  - \* Equipped to carry more than 8 persons and:
  - \* Used to convey passengers for hire or reward or in the course of trade or business.

***Some vehicles are exempt from the above regulations and are NOT required to have vehicle monitors.***

Exempt are listed below, they are:

- 1) Vehicles being used within a radius of 80 km from their usual depot, unless carrying dangerous goods, evidence of the address of the depot must be carried on the vehicle.

- 2) Primary producers vehicles, provided evidence of the registration is carried in the vehicle.
- 3) Vehicles being driven for the purposes of original registration.
- 4) Vehicles being driven for the purposes of sale provided goods are not carried in bulk quantity.
- 5) Vehicle being driven under the direction of Police or an Officer authorised by the Authority.

***Type of Data which must be recorded automatically to meet requirements.***

- 1) The length of time for which the vehicle driven and for which is stationary during a journey tolerance  $\pm$  two minutes per day.
- 2) The speeds at which the vehicle is driven recorded either continuously or at intervals not exceeding one minute or 100 metres.
- 3) If the speed is not recorded continuously the monitor must retain a high resolution record of the speed of the vehicle during the one minute (or 100 metres) prior to the vehicle coming to a halt used for incident analysis/accident reports.
- 4) The distance travelled by the vehicle between stops (a continuous distance record is not necessary)

***The following is data that must be recorded either automatically or manually (ie log book)***

- 1) The date, time, and place of commencement of the journey.
- 2) The date, time and place of completion of the journey.
- 3) The items at which the vehicle is driven and at which it is standing during the journey.
- 4) The names of each driver and the times during which each driver was in charge of the vehicle during the journey.
- 5) The registration of the vehicle.
- 6) The name of the person making the manual recordings.