

Title	Demonstrate advanced driving techniques and a professional attitude as a heavy combination vehicle driver		
Level	4	Credits	15

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: explain the operating principles, characteristics and limitations of heavy combination vehicle systems; demonstrate a professional attitude as a heavy combination vehicle driver; and demonstrate operating techniques that produce safe and fuel-efficient driving.
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Classification	Commercial Road Transport > Goods Service
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Available grade	Achieved
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Prerequisites	Unit 18079, <i>Demonstrate knowledge of heavy combination vehicle dynamics and handling for safe driving</i> , or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills. Candidates must hold a Full Class 5 driver licence.
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Guidance Information

- 1 Evidence presented for assessment against this unit standard must be consistent with safe working practices and be in accordance with applicable company requirements and legislative requirements. This includes the knowledge and use of suitable tools and equipment.
- 2 Legislation, regulations and/or industry standards relevant to this unit standard include but are not limited to the:
 - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015;
 - Land Transport Act 1998;
 - Heavy Motor Vehicle Regulations 1974;
 - Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999;
 - Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Amendment Rule 2006;
 - Land Transport Rule: Heavy Vehicles 2004;
 - Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004;
 - Land Transport Rule: Vehicle Dimensions and Mass 2016; and any subsequent amendments and replacements.
- 3 Definitions
ABS means anti-lock braking system.
automated transmissions are transmissions fitted with a clutch assembly that are shifted electronically and have both 'manual' and 'auto' gear selection modes.

Company requirements refer to instructions to staff on policy and procedures that are available in the workplace. These requirements may include – company policies and procedures, industry standards, codes of practice, work instructions, product quality specifications and legislative requirements.

Exhaust brake means a compression brake operated through a butterfly valve in the exhaust system.

EBS means electronic braking system.

Emission control measures relate to technology that meets standards for the control of different pollutants produced by engine combustion.

Engine brake means a compression brake operated electrically and/or hydraulically through the interruption of the valve operation in the engine cylinder head.

Hazard is anything that is, or has the potential to be, dangerous to the operation of the vehicle, its load, or other road users and which arises from any of the six driving conditions (vehicle, driver, weather, road, light, traffic).

Hazard action plan means identifying a potential hazard, predicting what might happen, deciding what to do and then acting upon that decision.

HMV means heavy motor vehicle.

Off-highway, for the purposes of this unit standard, refers to driving on privately owned forest roads. On such roads vehicles must be driven in accordance with road traffic law, but are not restricted in terms of weights and dimensions, except as determined by the road owner and manufacturer's ratings;

Retarder means a device mounted between the engine flywheel and the differential that, when operated, retards the driveline speed either hydraulically, electronically or magnetically.

Safe driving relates to managing hazards and minimising risk. This requires a standard of driving that reflects consideration for people, property and the environment in a manner that is courteous to other road users, is in compliance with the law and within the limits of the vehicle and road dimensions.

Stability control relates to the ability of an electronic braking system to sense excessive lateral acceleration and automatically apply brakes to counter that acceleration.

Stability control check braking events are electronically initiated trailer brake applications that occur when vehicles equipped with EBS exceed programmed dynamic cornering parameters.

SRT means static roll threshold which is the measure of the likelihood of the vehicle rolling over sideways. Vehicles with a low SRT are more likely to roll over when going around sharp bends and in sudden emergency manoeuvres.

System of vehicle control means placing the vehicle in the correct place on the road, at the right speed and in the right gear in all driving situations but particularly when approaching and negotiating hazards.

Vehicle empathy means driving in a way that reflects an appreciation of the effects the driver can have on vehicle performance and the longevity of the vehicle's systems and components.

4 References

Professional Skills for Driving Trucks, Wellington, MITO New Zealand Incorporated, 2009. Available from public libraries.

The Official New Zealand Truck Loading Code – Code of Practice for the Safety of Loads on Heavy Vehicles (Wellington: New Zealand Transport Agency, current edition), available at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/roadcode/truck-loading-code/docs/tlc.pdf>.

LTSC Industry Standards is a set of best practice guidelines and minimum legal requirements produced by the Log Transport Safety Council. Available at <https://logtruck.co.nz/industry-standards/>.

Code of Practice Traffic Control at Bridges Being Crossed By Overweight Vehicles, Wellington, New Zealand Heavy Haulage Association. Available from the New Zealand Heavy Haulage Association.

5 Conditions for practical assessment

Assessment against outcomes 2 and 3 must be conducted under practical conditions. Employer verification is required to confirm consistency of performance, with no 'at fault' crashes or incidents, over the six-month period immediately prior to the assessment being conducted.

Practical driving assessments are to be conducted in a heavy combination goods service vehicle that requires a Class 5 licence and is loaded to at least 50% of its maximum payload for at least 50% of the assessment. The combination must be driven in open road and restricted speed zones that have the terrain, traffic and road characteristics required to meet the performance criteria of outcomes 2 and 3.

The practical driving assessment must be conducted over two periods of at least two hours each, one with a minimum of one hour during the hours of darkness.

Where the vehicle is fitted with an automated (electronically controlled) transmission, the candidate must demonstrate the efficient use of both 'auto' and 'manual' modes to meet the relevant performance criteria of outcome 3.

If the vehicle is fitted with a non-synchromesh manual (stick-shift) transmission, it is recommended that the candidate is also assessed against, or has successfully completed previously Unit 15166, *Operate a manual constant mesh non-synchromesh transmission*.

Where performance criterion 3.5 cannot be assessed during the drive, it must be assessed in a controlled off-highway environment.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Explain the operating principles, characteristics and limitations of heavy combination vehicle systems.

Performance criteria

1.1 Ways to maximise engine efficiency are explained.

Range engine fuel management systems, turbocharger, intercooler, engine performance chart, emission control measures.

1.2 Transmission types are explained in terms of operation, vehicle control and efficiency.

Range synchromesh, non-synchromesh, automated, automatic.

- 1.3 Traction control systems are explained in terms of operation, benefits, limitations, and vehicle control.
- Range cross locks, power divider locks, electronic traction control; may include – central tyre inflation (CTI).
- 1.4 Brake and braking system types are explained in terms of operation, vehicle performance, limitations, and safe driving.
- Range disc, drum, ABS, EBS, load sensing, stability control.
- 1.5 Auxiliary braking systems are explained in terms of operation, performance, limitations, and safe driving.
- Range exhaust brakes, engine brakes, driveline retarders.
- 1.6 Information presented on the vehicle certifications of a prime mover and heavy trailer is explained and related to the vehicles.
- Range may include – tare, gross and axle weights, axle spacings, heavy vehicle brake code/rule compliance, drawbar or fifth wheel/king pin rating, load anchorage point ratings, SRTs; evidence of three is required.
- 1.7 The basic load restraint criteria are explained in accordance with the Truck Loading Code or industry standards.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate a professional attitude as a heavy combination vehicle driver.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 A responsible and professional attitude is demonstrated.
- Range fatigue and health management strategies, personal communication skills, personal and vehicle presentation, HMV legislative compliance, vehicle empathy, interpretation of general driving rules.
- 2.2 A professional, courteous and safe driving style is demonstrated.
- Range hazard detection, system of vehicle control, hazard action plan, interaction with other road users.
- 2.3 Distractions are avoided or managed to ensure safe and efficient driving.
- Range distractions may include– passengers, fitted equipment, radios and cell phones, temperature control, seating position, vehicle housekeeping, smoking, eating and drinking, external factors.

2.4 Work time hours, rest breaks, and logbook entries for preceding cumulative work period comply with the Work Time and Logbooks Rule or, if appropriate, any Alternative Fatigue Management Plan.

2.5 Safe work practices are applied.

Range may include – use of personal protective equipment, use of materials handling equipment, manual lifting techniques, three points of contact, use of ladders and walkways, handling of dangerous goods.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate operating techniques that produce safe and fuel-efficient driving.

Range prime mover with one of – full trailer, B-train, semi-trailer.

Performance criteria

3.1 Pre-trip vehicle inspection is carried out following a logical sequence.

Range certificates and documentation, vehicle systems and components, trailer couplings.

3.2 The load is checked before the drive to ensure compliance with legal requirements and delivery documentation.

Range compliance with Certificate of Loading and Road User Licence information, basic load restraint criteria met, appropriate selection and use of restraint equipment and load anchorage points, load distribution.

3.3 The vehicle is driven in accordance with legal requirements.

Range road user rules, heavy motor vehicle compliance rules; may include – HPMV permit obligations.

3.4 Engine and transmission management techniques are applied to achieve fuel efficient driving.

Range may include – gear selection, progressive shifting, skip/block shifting; auxiliary brake use, correct use of operating ranges and torque, avoidance of excessive idling periods, avoidance of excessive speed, cruise control, automated gear selection.

3.5 Traction control devices are used as and when appropriate to ensure safe driving practice and in a manner that minimises risk of damage to property, vehicle or components.

- 3.6 Safe, efficient operating techniques when negotiating ascents and descents are demonstrated.
- Range appropriate gear selection, auxiliary brake use, service brake use, engine speed, road position, courtesy.
- 3.7 Safe and efficient cornering techniques are demonstrated.
- Range intersections, reactions to recommended cornering speeds, appropriate cornering line and cornering technique, lane position; may include – without stability control check braking events.
- 3.8 Safe, effective night driving techniques are applied during the hours of darkness.
- Range use of vehicle lighting, responses to other motorists, use of marker posts, vehicle speed for conditions.
- 3.9 Trailer coupling and uncoupling are demonstrated without potential for injury or damage.
- Range must include one of – full trailer, semi-trailer.

Replacement information	This unit standard replaced unit standard 22215.
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Planned review date	31 December 2023
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	22 October 2010	31 December 2020
Review	2	28 March 2019	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0014
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact MITO New Zealand Incorporated info@mito.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.