Load Security

Loading heavy vehicles safely is vital in preventing injury to people and damage to property, as well as providing economic benefits by ensuring that the load arrives at its destination intact.

Loads carried on or in a heavy vehicle must be properly restrained so that they will not fall or be dislodged. Loads must be properly positioned in such a manner that they do not make the vehicle unstable or unsafe.

New Load Restraint Guide

The Load Restraint Guide 2018 provides transport drivers, operators, and other participants in the transport chain of responsibility with basic safety principles which should be followed for the safe carriage of loads on road vehicles. The NTC has recently completed the review and update of the Load Restraint Guide in close consultation with stakeholders. It is a recommendation that HVCBA Assessors access the latest version of this document and are familiar with the contents.

Criteria 13

Performance

Criteria 13 requires the applicant to demonstrate the common methods of securing a load to confirm ability to check and, if necessary, adjust load restraints

- Ropes
- Chains and dogs
- Winches and straps/ratchets and straps.

Conditions

- Vehicle parked and secured without the engine running
- Non-traffic area selected
- Safe pedestrian access to all sides of the vehicle
- Vehicle with a load (minimum height one metre) in place but not secure
- Tray configuration with any type of rail
- Sufficient rope, chains and dogs, winches/ratchets and straps
- A simulated vehicle tray, equipped as above.

An assessor who fails to correctly assess an applicant (e.g. demonstration only) is in breach of the HVCBA Accreditation Agreement which may result in suspension or cancellation of an assessor’s approval.

No exemption from Criteria 13

All licence applicants completing HVCBA are required to complete Criteria 13 - Load Secure. Assessors utilising buses for training and assessment are required to have available a suitable vehicle or simulated vehicle tray to correctly complete assessment.

Conclusion

Load security is a vital component of the logistics industry and a major road safety issue. Licence applicants are required to demonstrate competence in load restraint as part of the HVCBA training and assessment process. Assessors are reminded that they must ensure all applicants demonstrate competence to the required standard during the assessment process.