Driver Fatigue
Road Safety Forum (WP.1)
Roundtable

Geneva, 27 September 2011

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Evolution of IRU Membership

Created in 1948

National Associations from 8 founding countries

2011
180 Members
74 Countries
The Commitment
Road Safety – Highest Priority

Road Safety Charter

25 000 LIVES TO SAVE

European Road Safety Charter

IRU Resolution

IRU Resolution on the "UN Decade of Action for Road Safety"

The International Road Transport Union (IRU), representing freight, bus, coach and taxi operators through its members in 14 countries on 5 continents,

Consulting that:

- The IRU Road Safety Charter was unanimously adopted and signed by all IRU Member Associations during the 25th IRU World Congress on 22-24 April 2004 in Genoa (Italy).
- Road safety has always been, is and will remain a top priority issue for the road transport industry and that for its professionals every accident is one accident too many.
- The road transport sector is committed to avoiding human suffering caused by accidents and, therefore, considers accident prevention as a key priority.
- The road safety record of commercial vehicles has significantly improved over recent years, both in accident rates and severity.
- Buses and coaches are the safest passenger transport mode.
- The involvement of a commercial vehicle in an accident does not mean that the commercial vehicle is the cause of the accident and that only limited, dedicated actions are needed regarding measures affecting commercial vehicles and even considering that commercial vehicles now represent less than 5% of the road traffic.
- The findings of scientific studies such as the European Truck Accident Correlation Study (ETACS) highlighted the main cause of road accidents being a "human error" (56.5%). Other factors such as weather conditions (4.4%), infrastructure (3.4%) or mechanical faults of the vehicle (2.6%), play only a minor role.
- The recommendations of the ETACS Study stress the need to transfer and teaching, as provided in the IRU Academy, is key to change the main cause of all accidents and thus significantly decreases the number of road accidents.

A real tool to improve road safety is driver support through innovative active and passive safety systems.
The IRU supports all measures that improve road safety if they effectively target the main causes of accidents involving trucks.
Accidents due to fatigue?
A few critical questions

- Is it possible for police officers to properly evaluate the level of vigilance?
  - Time pressure
  - Lack of information

- What is the statistical basis of accidents due to fatigue?
  - Accidents on motorways only?
  - Accidents on all roads?
It is difficult to link an accident to fatigue

- Fatigue is a complex system in which one finds different vigilance states varying from slightly fatigued to sleeping

- Fatigue is often linked to being inattentive

Therefore

- Only an in depth accident investigation can identify if fatigue is the main cause of the accident
Accident Analysis
ETAC – A Scientific Study

Results confirmed by US Study
Main Causes of Accidents

The top main causes of accidents between a truck and other road users are:

1. Non-adapted speed
2. Failure to observe intersection rules
3. Improper manœuvre when changing lanes

Despite common belief, fatigue was the main cause in only 6% of the accidents
- 58% of all accidents happen on motorways
- 29% of accidents are single truck accidents
  (average rate of all single truck accidents is 7.5%)
Time of accidents

Most accidents happen between 02:00 and 02:59 (biorhythm low point) and between 15:00 and 15:59 (end of the working day)
Addressing the human element in road safety
IRU Driver’s Safety Cards
Recommendations for Drivers

- Plan your trip
- Adjust your seat
- Don’t drink and drive
- Take a break
UNECE WP.1 Action: Develop a RE 3 on accident causation!
Side effect of combating fatigue and UNECE action

UNECE WP.1 Action:
IRU supports proposal by Belgium for safe and secure parking

RISQUE DE MORT PAR MANQUE DE PLACES

La pénurie de parkings poids lourds sur les aires de repos des autoroutes menace gravement la sécurité des automobilistes.

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Save the date!

7th Euro-Asian Road Transport Conference & Ministerial Meeting

Amman, 13-14 June 2013
Working together for a better future

since 1948