

POINT A

1:05 PM

POINT B

1:35 PM

AVERAGE

105 KM/H



Transport  
for NSW

# Average Speed Enforcement for Heavy Vehicles

## FACT SHEET

### How does average speed enforcement work?

Average speed enforcement works by measuring the amount of time it takes a heavy vehicle to drive between two points and then calculates the average speed of the vehicle. If the vehicle's average speed is higher than the speed limit for the length of road, the driver will be booked for speeding.

All average speed enforcement lengths are certified by a registered land surveyor to ensure the accuracy of average speed calculations. The distance used when calculating a vehicle's average speed across an average speed enforcement length will be the shortest practicable distance, which ensures that there is no possibility that a driver's speed can be overestimated.

Average speed enforcement promotes area-wide suppression of speeding, with speed enforcement sustained over a length of road rather than just a single spot. Overseas research has shown a 50 per cent reduction in fatal and serious crashes after average speed enforcement was installed.

### Can this technology be used for detecting speeding cars?

Average speed enforcement is only used to enforce heavy vehicle speeding.

### Why are heavy vehicles targeted?

Average speed enforcement targets heavy vehicles because they are often involved in serious road crashes. Heavy vehicles make up only 2.4 per cent of vehicle registrations, and 8.3 per cent of kilometres travelled by NSW vehicles, however, are involved in about 17 per cent of road fatalities. Average speed enforcement is also more suited to the long distances heavy vehicles travel.

Research from the National Transport Council has suggested that if all heavy vehicles complied with speed limits there would be a 29 per cent reduction in heavy vehicle crashes.

### What vehicles are affected by average speed enforcement?

Heavy vehicles and trailers with a Gross Vehicle Mass greater than 4.5 tonnes.

### How have sites for average speed enforcement been selected?

Average speed enforcement lengths have been selected using criteria developed by the NSW Centre for Road Safety. Site selection is based upon several factors including the frequency of heavy vehicle crashes, heavy vehicle speeds and road conditions.

### Where are average speed enforcement lengths installed?

Average speed enforcement lengths are on routes that have an over representation of heavy vehicle crashes. Average speed enforcement lengths are installed on known heavy vehicle routes, including the Pacific Highway, the New England Highway, the Hume Highway, the Newell Highway, Mount Ousley Road and Picton Road.

The locations of average speed enforcement lengths can be found on the Centre for Road Safety website.

### Are there new offences?

Average speed enforcement is used to enforce existing speeding laws, however, an additional demerit point will be incurred by heavy vehicle drivers detected speeding using average speed enforcement. This is because offences detected by average speed enforcement demonstrate a continued intention to speed.

### Is there any warning approaching these enforcement lengths?

Yes, average speed enforcement lengths are signposted with one advance warning sign on each approach that display a camera image and the text "AVERAGE SPEED SAFETY CAMERA AHEAD".

### Can police enforce speeding or other offences in average speed enforcement lengths?

It is not intended that average speed enforcement replaces police enforcement on heavy vehicle routes. Police enforce a wide range of offences, including speeding, and for the safety of road users it is necessary that this enforcement continues in average speed enforcement lengths.

Speeding infringements and suspensions issued by police will continue to apply regardless of whether the driver also receives a speeding infringement from the average speed enforcement camera.

### **How do we know average speed enforcement technology is accurate?**

Average speed cameras are subject to rigorous testing, certification and calibration in accordance with legislated requirements.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has developed strict operational guidelines for average speed cameras to ensure that they are robust and accurate.

The distance used when calculating a vehicle's average speed across an average speed enforcement length is the shortest practicable distance, which ensures that there is no possibility that a driver's speed can be overestimated.

### **Can average speed technology enforce speeding where there are multiple speed limits on an average speed enforcement length?**

Average speed enforcement lengths enforce the sign-posted speed limit along that length. Where there are multiple posted speed limits, the 'average speed limit' will be calculated.

The 'average speed limit' is calculated by measuring the part of an average speed enforcement length that each of the different speed limits applies to. The distance of each part and their respective speed limits are used in a legislated formula that will calculate the 'average speed limit' allowed for by the average speed enforcement length.

### **What does the camera record?**

Average speed cameras record photographs of vehicles as they pass the start and end points of an enforcement length. The cameras also record the licence plate of the vehicle and the exact time the camera took the photograph.

### **Can average speed enforcement be used to detect speed limiter non compliance?**

Yes, average speed enforcement can be used to prove speed limiter non compliance.

### **What if I wasn't the driver at the time of the offence?**

If you were not driving the vehicle at the time of the offence, you should provide the name and details of the driver by completing the statutory declaration form provided with the penalty notice and forward it to Revenue NSW for processing.

If you wish to view the photographs of your offence you can view these online on the Revenue NSW website free of charge.

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This information is intended as a guide only and is subject to change at any time without notice. It does not replace the relevant legislation.

**For further enquiries: [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au) | 13 22 13**