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Chain of Responsibility - Compliance Notice

Tuesday 24 November 2026

The Port of Brisbane is committed to maintaining the highest standards of safety throughout all landside and port-related freight activities.

Recent observations within the port precinct have identified a concerning increase in shipping containers arriving and departing with visible structural bulging, load shift indicators, and twist locks not engaged.

Under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) administered by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), parties that perform a Chain of Responsibility (CoR) function in relation to a heavy vehicle transport activity have specific safety obligations. The CoR extends beyond the driver and encompasses consignors, consignees, packers, loaders, loading managers, operators and schedulers. Each party must understand and comply with the obligations that apply to its role.

The Port of Brisbane adopts a zero-tolerance approach to unsafe or non-compliant heavy vehicle and container transport practices that place people, infrastructure or the broader supply chain at risk.

Accordingly, all parties involved in relevant transport activities are expected, to the extent applicable to their role, to:

1. ensure containers are packed in accordance with recognised industry standards and safe load restraint principles;
2. verify container weights are accurately declared and compliant with applicable legal requirements;
3. ensure loads remain within lawful mass and dimension limits at all stages of the transport task;
4. implement effective CoR management systems and controls;
5. immediately rectify any identified safety or compliance issues before a container enters or departs the port precinct; and
6. cooperate fully with any compliance, audit or investigation activities undertaken by regulators or port stakeholders.

Where an unsafe or potentially non-compliant condition is identified, the Port of Brisbane and/or its tenants may:

- restrict or refuse access where necessary to address a safety risk;
- require an identified safety issue to be addressed before access or onward movement through a Port-controlled area; and
- notify or refer unsafe conditions or incidents to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) or another relevant authority.

All parties are reminded that compliance with the HVNL is critical and that each CoR party remains responsible for complying with the duties that apply to its own role and should not rely on another party to manage those obligations on its behalf. Every participant in the supply chain must actively identify, eliminate or minimise risks that may affect heavy vehicle safety.

The Port of Brisbane expects every organisation operating within the precinct to review its packing, loading, load restraint and compliance management

practices to ensure they meet both legal requirements and industry best practice.

Safety will always take precedence over operational convenience.

For any questions regarding this notice, please contact: Nicola Murray, Logistics & Project Cargo Manager, on Nicola.Murray@portbris.com.au.

Kind regards,

PBPL team

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