Do I need ISO 45001 for my trucking business?

Accreditation - checked 7 Nov 2026

No - ISO 45001 isn't required by law or for Heavy Vehicle Accreditation. HVA audits are done by NHVR-approved auditors against the NHVR's SMS Standard 2026. Some customers ask their suppliers for ISO certification, so check your contracts. If you already have an ISO system, you can build your heavy vehicle SMS into it.

What ISO 45001 is

ISO 45001 is an international standard for occupational health and safety management systems. It is voluntary. If you want a certificate, an independent certification body audits your system against the standard.

ISO 45001 vs the SMS Standard 2026

What ISO 45001 NHVR SMS Standard 2026

What it covers Health and safety of workers Safety of your transport activities, including risks to the public on the road

Required? No - voluntary, but some customers ask for it Only if you want Heavy Vehicle Accreditation

Who audits A certification body An NHVR-approved HVA auditor

What you get An ISO certificate HVA accreditation and its concessions

An ISO certificate doesn't replace an HVA audit, and HVA accreditation doesn't give you an ISO certificate.

Already have an ISO system?

- Use it as your starting point. The NHVR says many businesses combine their SMS with WHS or quality systems.
- Add the heavy vehicle parts: fatigue, mass and load restraint, vehicle maintenance, and chain of responsibility duties.
- Make sure your records show the heavy vehicle controls are working - that is what an HVA auditor will look for.

Check your contracts

Large customers, mining sites and government tenders sometimes ask transport suppliers for ISO certification, or for ISO 39001 (road traffic safety management). If a contract needs it, it's a business decision - not a legal one.

General information, not legal advice.

Sources

NHVR - About the HVA scheme - https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/heavy-vehicle-accreditation-scheme/about-the-hva-scheme

NHVR - Safety management FAQs - https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/safety-management/faqs

NHVR - HVA scheme operator guideline 2026 - https://wws.nhvr.gov.au/files/media/document/925/202607-1778-hva-scheme-operator-guidelines.pdf