What's changed in the 2026 work diary?

Fatigue and work diary - checked 7 Nov 2026

From 1 August 2026, some written work diary entries are optional - the day of the week, your work and rest totals, and the Standard hours box. There's a new ACH tick box for drivers on ACA-Fatigue hours. You don't need to buy a new diary - you can keep using your old one until it's full.

What's now optional

- The day of the week.
- Your work and rest hour totals.
- The Standard (or Standard Bus) hours box.

You can still fill these in if they help you keep track - you just don't have to.

Not on standard hours?

If you work BFM, AFM, ACH or exemption hours, you must still mark your hours option on every daily sheet.

New for ACA-Fatigue (ACH) drivers

- The updated diary has a new ACH tick box in the driver hours options. Tick it if you work alternative compliance hours.
- Using an older diary? Tick the AFM box, cross out "AFM" and write "ACH" next to it.
- Write your operator's ACA-Fatigue accreditation number in the table on page 29 - where BFM or AFM details used to go.

Do I need a new diary?

No. You can keep using your current diary until it's full - the new rules apply to it too. The updated diary is sold in the same places as before, and older stock may still be sold while it lasts.

Lost, stolen or found diaries

- Tell the NHVR within two business days if your diary is full, destroyed, lost or stolen - same as before.
- If you get a replacement and the old diary turns up, cancel its unused daily sheets straight away.

- If it turns up within 28 days, tell the NHVR using the approved form.
- You no longer need to send the old diary back to the NHVR.

To cancel an unused sheet, draw two parallel lines across the middle of the page and write "CANCELLED" in large letters.

What hasn't changed

- You still need a work diary for standard hours more than 100 km from base, and every shift under BFM, AFM, ACH or exemption hours.
- Keep the last 28 days of your diary with you, and show it to an officer when asked.
- Follow your work and rest hours, and don't drive while fatigued.
- Record keepers still keep all their records.

Using an EWD?

These changes are to the written work diary. If you use an NHVR-approved electronic work diary, follow your EWD provider's instructions.

General information, not legal advice.

Sources

NHVR - HVNL changes to recording information in the Written Work Diary (June 2026) - https://www.nhvr.gov.au/files/media/document/883/202606-1760-hvnl-changes-to-recording-information-in-written-work-diary.pdf

NHVR - Work diary - https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/fatigue-management/work-diary

NHVR - Alternative Compliance Accreditation - Fatigue - https://www.nhvr.gov.au/safety-accreditation-compliance/fatigue-management/alternative-compliance-accreditation-aca-fatigue