



SELF-REGULATION IN THE SA TIMBER TRANSPORT INDUSTRY

CASE STUDY

WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM:

Overloading of heavy motor vehicles (HMV) was causing accelerated damage to the road network in South Africa. It was estimated that around 8% of the overloaded vehicles caused 60% of the total damage to the roads. The timber transport industry was identified as a specific area of concern.

HOW WAS IT SOLVED:

A project was initiated in partnership with numerous organizations and was funded through the sector partnership fund to implement the Load Accreditation Program (LAP) to control overloading of timber transport vehicles. Control was partially achieved by the use of load cells on trucks which were strategically placed to measure the weight of the timber on trucks accurately. In addition, workshops and working groups were established that identified other aspects such as vehicle maintenance and driver wellness that needed attention.

1. The consignors and consignees admitted their contribution to the issue by permitting overloaded vehicles to depart from their premises and accepting overloaded vehicles into their facilities, which established the working environment in which these transporters operated timber and committed to reversing this
2. The consignors and consignees implemented a compulsory requirement for their transporters to take part in the Load Accreditation Program (LAP).
3. The consignors and consignees evaluated the outcomes of overloading and closely monitored it after the LAP was put into effect. Contingency measures were established in case any vehicles arrived with improper loading.

WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME:

The self-regulation program was successful in controlling overloading of timber transport vehicles, which resulted in reduced damage to the road network. The LAP drove increased productivity resulting in an almost 87% productivity improvement, increasing vehicle throughput, and reduced operational costs. The program has achieved accreditation status, which is essential to sustaining their business. The productivity gains have also contributed to the country's economy, demonstrating how self-regulation delivers benefits to every citizen. Finally, the program provided a framework of parameters that all operators within the sector must adhere to, thereby creating a professional system for the sector.

- LAP linked to 100% of chip and pulp mills
- Frequency of overloading reduced by 30% in 11 months
- The extent of overloads reduced by 16%
- Extensive savings in road damage