Sugar RTMS in South Africa

Driving Safer, Smarter, and Compliant Sugarcane Transport

Overview

Sugar RTMS refers to the application of the Road Transport Management System (RTMS) within the sugarcane transport value chain - from field to mill. Across South Africa's sugar industry, RTMS is widely adopted as a self-regulation framework to control overloading, improve road safety, protect infrastructure, and strengthen industry governance.

What RTMS Means in the Sugar Context

RTMS is a voluntary, independently audited standard focusing on

- vehicle mass control
- fleet maintenance,
- driver wellness and training,
- and compliance with road traffic legislation.

In the sugar industry, RTMS is tailored to cane haulage operations where payload variability and seasonal pressure increase overload risk.

Why Sugar RTMS Is Critically Important

Sugarcane transport is high-risk due to variable cane density, side-tipper and interlink configurations, and high daily trip volumes. RTMS provides proactive control to manage these risks.

Key Risks Addressed by Sugar RTMS

RTMS addresses overloading, road damage, mill congestion, and governance risk through structured controls and transparent reporting.

How Sugar RTMS Works in Practice

Vehicles are coded based on configuration. Legal limits are calculated using axle configuration, type, manufacturer ratings, and weighbridge data. Overloading is monitored at 2%, 5%, and 7.1% tolerance levels.

Governance and Industry Oversight

Key stakeholders include sugar mills, haulage contractors, grower associations, SASA, DOT and the RTMS Steering Committee. RTMS operates as industry self-regulation.

Logos used in our reports and presentations

transport
Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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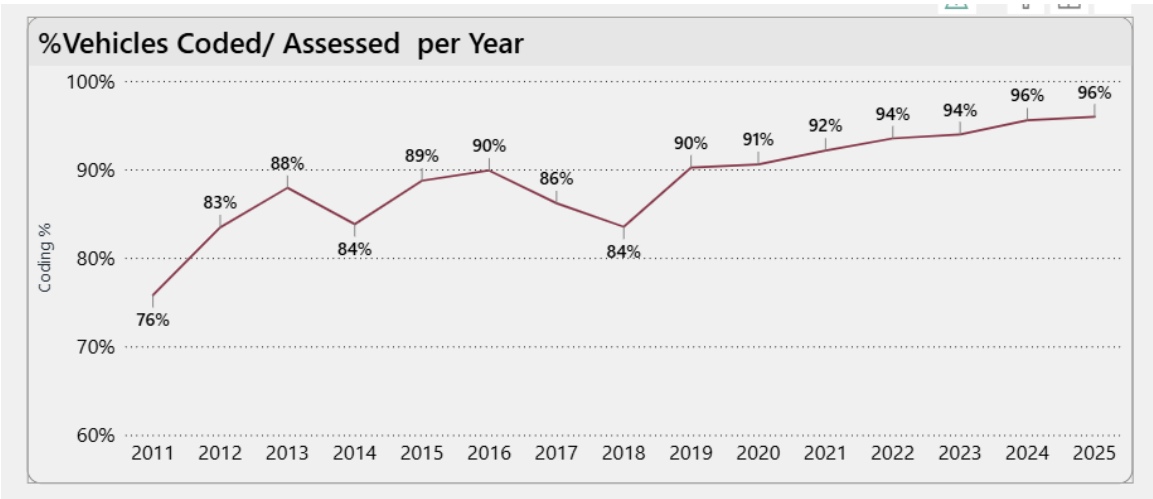
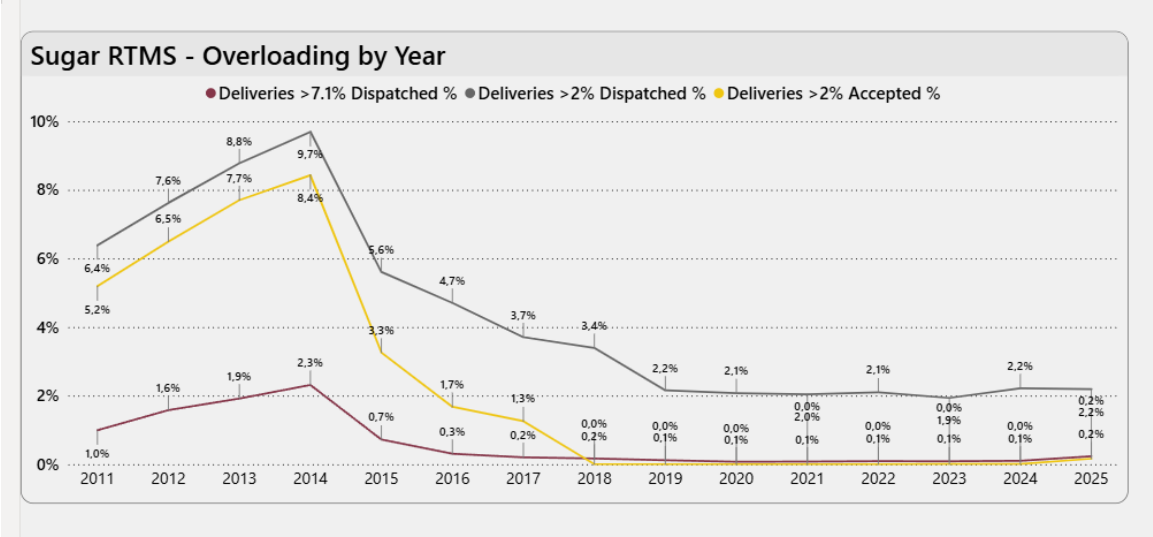
CANEGROWERS

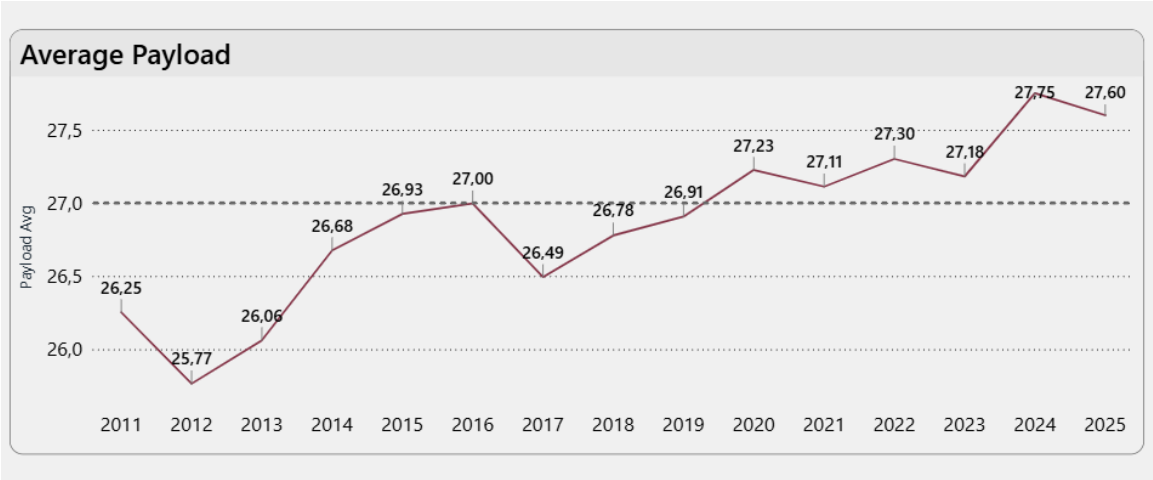
With 96% of 2,880 cane-delivering vehicles in year 2025 coded, the industry demonstrates strong data integrity and effective RTMS implementation.



Since 2014, **overloading** has shown a sustained downward trend and is now effectively controlled at levels close to the 2%
target.



Payload performance exceeds the 27-ton target without increasing overload risk



Reporting and Transparency

Reporting includes live SMS notifications, weekly, monthly, and annual reports supporting operational and governance oversight.

Data Sources

Weighbridge data is collected from 12 South African sugarcane mill sites, providing a consistent and auditable data foundation.

Conclusion

Sugar RTMS has matured into a robust, data-driven self-regulation framework that supports safe, efficient, and sustainable sugarcane transport across South Africa.