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Minutes of the COVID 19 CPVV Industry Update Meeting

Date: 16 December 2020

Time: 2:00pm – 2:45pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Video Conference

Attendees

Al Martin (AM) (CPVV), Siena Rossi (CPVV), Ian Matthews (IM), (CPVV), Michelle Thomas (CPVV), Val McFarlane (CPVV), Alice Nguyen, Anita Jensen, Andre Baruch, Ashleigh Cormack, Catherine McKenzie, Colin Wells, Crown Cabs, Double Black Alpine, Greg Hardeman, John Lobwein, Peter Valentine, Maria Silos, Ray Kelsey, Toni Peters.

Discussion

- Al Martin (AM) welcomed all attendees and displayed presentation for discussion.
- AM made the following comments:

Note: all comments made are true and correct as at this point in time.

- Advised that all sources and references for information/contact on COVID 19 advice remain the same.
- Noted the Government's COVIDSafe Summer 'how we work in Victoria' overview; noting there still remains minimal changes to the operation of CPVs including cleaning and hygiene and record keeping processes to ensure the provision of safe and clean services.

Ports of Entry Surveillance Testing (Air and Sea)

- Advised DHHS are yet to introduce the requirement for surveillance testing at ports of entry for commercial passenger vehicle drivers. CPVV will provide details of the specific requirements for the commercial passenger vehicle industry once DHHS confirm the arrangements. CPVV continues to support DHHS and will provide updates as soon as further information is received.
- Advised the CPV industry should expect and prepare for an announcement as testing at ports of entry has already commenced for specific industries, with CPVs and bus drivers the potential next industries. CPVV will be communicating with drivers, BSPs and vehicle owners today to provide an update to keep industry informed with changes.
- Advised CPVV's understanding is that testing will capture commercial passenger vehicles providing services to international arrivals that are exempt from the hotel quarantine requirements (this group contains several categories) at the ports of entry. CPVV is communicating directly with relevant stakeholders to identify exempt categories and their travel arrangements including engaging with airlines who may have CPVs transporting exempt passengers to ensure they are aware and following the requirements.
- Advised the majority of international arrivals will be going into the hotel quarantine program in which there are separate arrangements for those passengers that does not include commercial passenger vehicles.
- Discussed the importance of the testing and how it forms part of DHHS's broader program to ensure transmission risks are minimised with the re-opening of the international borders.

Questions from industry:

1. Attendee asked if exempt international arrivals are using CPVs and if testing was overzealous.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised that it is believed the number of exempt international arrivals using CPVs is relatively low at this stage however as people are able to travel more freely CPVV expects this to change. Advised the strict controls that DHHS have in place are to protect the industry as we return to COVID normal. Also added that other airports such as Essendon and regional airports are expected to be included in the ports of entry. CPVV will provide details on approved pick-up locations when this information is available.

2. Attendee asked further questions on how the surveillance testing program for CPVs will be operationalised .
 - CPVV reply – AM advised CPVV will communicate the operational arrangements with industry once this information is available from DHHS and advised CPVV will continue to brief industry on program requirements to ensure those that are providing services to exempt international arrivals are fully aware of the requirements that are in place to protect themselves, the industry and our community. Advised BSPs do not play a major role in the testing of these drivers under the health direction; the onus lies with the drivers to go and get tested due to a number of reasons including medical in confidence.

3. Attendee asked for further clarity on the recommended amount of passengers permitted in maxi/WAV vehicles when picking up exempt passengers from the ports of entry.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised the guidelines that are currently in place about social distancing and the recommended number of passengers per vehicle remains the same. Advised drivers should also continue to follow hygiene and cleaning requirements.

Direct Driver Communications

- Advised CPVV have adopted a new strategy to engage with directly drivers in the form of increased communications (emails, bulletins, social media, videos, etc).
- CPVV will be working with DHHS to survey drivers and BSPs to gain more information about the diversity of driver backgrounds to assist with providing better communications and support to ensure drivers are aware of their obligations.

Face Masks

- Discussed the importance of face masks noting they are still required in CPVs. More information can be found via the below link:
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-masks-vic-covid-19>
- Discussed feedback CPVV has received on the growing trend of drivers not complying with wearing masks. Advised CPVV understands restrictions have eased in other areas, however it is critical that drivers are continuing to wear face masks especially as we being to open our international borders.
- Encouraged BSPs to remind drivers to wear masks and adhere to obligations to ensure the industry is clean and safe.

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- Downloadable posters can be found via the below link to display in CPVs to remind and thank passengers for wearing a mask:
<https://cpv.vic.gov.au/drivers/coronavirus-covid-19>

Questions from industry:

4. Attendee asked if CPVV would be able to support camera downloads for disputes regarding masks.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised CPVV will take this on notice and check with the team whether the legislation will allow us to support this.

5. Attendee provided feedback on enforcing drivers to wear masks and comply with other health regulations and directions.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised CPVV continues to work with industry to educate and enforce the workplace directions following the recently established safety and enforcement program. Advised CPVV's intent is to have a greater presence with drivers as the safety regulator.

- Advised as soon as CPVV understands how surveillance testing will be operationalised it will be communicated via the usual channels.
- Any further queries or feedback to be directed to Safety Mailbox safety@cpv.vic.gov.au.
- Advised the next COVID-19 CPVV Industry Update is scheduled for 23 December 2020 as further changes are expected.
- AM advised if there are any significant changes they will be communicated via email, social media or text message.
- Feedback on the industry brief or suggestions on how to improve the industry brief are welcome at any time.
- Meeting closed.