

## Concrete Agitator Stability System

Presenters: Adam Tointon, Frank Dumay

### ABSTRACT:

A fleet operator has co-opted a truck maker to broaden its use of on road safety technology. Mack Trucks are rolling out electronic stability control (ESC), which is mandatory in cars, at the prompting of Boral Concrete.

Mack's parent brand Volvo has had the potentially lifesaving tech available on its trucks for several years. Mack had not fitted ESC until now but that all changed thanks to Boral Concrete's request to improve the safety of its concrete agitators.

These rigs are more likely to tip over than regular trucks because they have a high centre of gravity when loaded. "There was a need in the market and we rose to the challenge," says Mack Trucks Australia sales Chief Dean Bestwick.

His company came up with a system called Road Stability Advantage, which uses a range of sensors to detect whether the truck makes a sudden movement, sharp turn or rapid lane change. In such a case, the computer brakes individual wheels to stop the truck from sliding, spinning and tipping over.

Mack's RSA was one of three finalists in the WorkCover NSW Safe Work Awards in the category of "Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue".

"Initially, we tested the RSA on two Boral concrete trucks and it was a resounding success," Bestwick says. "Boral was so impressed it has since made it mandatory for all of its agitators to come fitted with RSA."

Recently, Boral ordered 43 Mack agitator trucks and all had the stability system. Now Mack Trucks has made the commitment that, by the end of the year, RSA will be available across its entire range.

Boral fleet manager Adam Tointon suggests all operators should consider the RSA option. "Our drivers feel safer," he says. "This technology is a major step in preventing rollovers and is helping us to achieve our goal of zero harm to all road users."

