



For a Better Result.....

TRUCKIN' HELL

We all know that trucks are large and difficult to manoeuvre. They take up a lot of space, and should be treated with respect on the road.

What you may not be aware of is that the Road Rules provide for a number of rules that relate only to trucks, but which should be taken heed of.

For example, rule 143 states:

“a driver must not drive past, or overtake, to the left of a vehicle displaying a do not overtake turning vehicle sign if the vehicle is turning left and is giving a left change of direction signal, unless it is safe to do so”

Another example is rule 180:

“a driver must not stop in a truck zone, unless the driver is driving a truck that is dropping off, or picking up, passengers or goods”

Under rule 200, a truck must not stop on road that is not in a built up area except on the shoulder.

There is an interesting position regarding rule 28. Where a truck displaying a no overtaking sign approaches a T intersection, it can actually occupy 2 lanes in performing its turn. The onus will therefore be on other drivers approaching that intersection to take extra care not to be involved in a collision with that truck.

Of course, rules can be open to interpretation. Often, the facts giving rise to the use of the relevant rule can be in dispute, making a determination of fault difficult.

However, it seems our legislators have taken into account the inherent difficulties associated with trucks and designed rules around them. The fact remains they still need to be treated with respect. So, beware.

For more information on road rules and other matters, contact *Robert Bakker*

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