

Doing The Right Thing Because It's The Right Thing To Do Is Very Often Easier Said Than Done

There are times when a mistaken course of action gets a green light from well intended individuals, who have been influenced by the preponderance of misleading information on the subject matter in question.

This paper has been carefully edited for accuracy in shedding new light on highway safety issues that are widely misunderstood throughout the heavy vehicle industry. For example, the critical lack of inherent heavy vehicle directional stability that is primarily responsible for excessive heavy vehicle driving fatigue and related highway accidents.

Advancing the state of the art in heavy vehicle drivability and related highway safety is vital to our nations economy. There will always be business reasons to increase the payload of the heavy vehicles on the nations highways. This nation can no longer ignore the need to advance the state of the art in heavy vehicle safe drivability with much needed new technology. Presently there are only two high-technology heavy vehicle systems that have to do with stability that have an excellent potential for preventing catastrophic highway accidents. One system referred to as an Electronic-Stability Control System, to prevent roll-overs. It functions in a standby mode and is electronically activated when the truck driver inadvertently over-steers a heavy vehicle into an unsafe maneuver that would likely cause the vehicle to roll over. In such an event the electronic stabilizer

automatically applies one of the front steer wheel brakes to steer the vehicle out of the oversteer mode, thereby preventing a roll-over accident.

The second system is the Precision Steer Wheel Power Center Steering System that advances the state of the art in heavy vehicle directional stability to an all new level of perfection that greatly reduces the tedious never-ending driver steering corrections required to keep an unstable heavy vehicle tracking straight and under control, thereby dramatically reducing heavy vehicle driving fatigue that is responsible for numerous catastrophic heavy vehicle accidents.

In an effort to reduce the heavy vehicle driving fatigue, the hours of service rule makers have worked diligently to arrange for adequate rest time hoping the drivers would be less fatigued. What was unknown to the rule makers was the fact that regardless of how rested a heavy vehicle driver happens to be at beginning of the work shift, the lack of heavy vehicle directional stability is so demanding on the driver that after a few hours behind the steering wheel, driving fatigue begins to be a serious factor. **The answer to the driving fatigue problem is that there should be a rule that all heavy vehicles on the highway must be directionally stable and far less fatiguing to drive. The proven Precision Steer Wheel Control System is presently in service on thousands of heavy trucks and buses.**

Precision Power Center Steering

The New Technology That Dramatically Reduces Driving Fatigue Is The Most Important Next Step In Heavy Vehicle Highway Safety

The phenomenal new technology that dramatically reduces heavy vehicle driving fatigue and related high safety issues, has been tested by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The new technology passed the test with flying colors. The cost is small and the payoff in reducing heavy vehicle driver fatigue and related highway safety issues is great.

There are still those in the heavy vehicle industry who live by the old cast-iron rule that says “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” Present day conventional heavy vehicle steering is not broken, even when it is

delivered new, it does not have the technology to achieve the direly needed heavy vehicle directional stability. Therefore, the so called unbroken system’s serious drivability problem is the inherent lack of directional stability that requires never ending driver steering corrections to maintain directional control of the vehicle, resulting in the major cause of driving fatigue and resultant highway safety problems. The unstable behavior of the steer wheels of the so called unbroken heavy vehicle steering systems are famous for rapidly wearing out both the front steer wheel tires as well as the drivers that drive the vehicles.

- The Howard Power Center Steering System is more than paid for by completely solving the long-standing costly steer wheel tire wear problem. Heavy vehicle operators using the system verify a 75,000 mile increase in steer wheel tire life.
- The Howard Power Center Steering System achieves an amazing level of steer wheel tire blowout controllability, verified by an impressive number of documented steer wheel blowouts where drivers report effortless vehicle controllability.
- The Howard Power Center Steering System does away with the tedious driver steering corrections required to control the unstable behavior of the steer wheels that conventional steering geometry does not control or prevent.
- The Howard Power Center Steering System makes a considerable improvement in crosswind drivability, by preventing the steer wheels from castering downwind in response to the wind gusts, thereby making a major reduction in crosswind driving fatigue.
- Greatly reducing driving fatigue and improving highway safety, may very well help significantly in keeping many thousands of qualified drivers from changing their profession.

Now that the Precision Steer Wheel Control System has been tested by millions of in-service miles of heavy buses, trucks and large recreational vehicles, as well as the test conducted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, a mandatory rule for advancing the state of the art in heavy vehicle directional stability is the most important next step to be taken in heavy vehicle highway safety.

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