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Smoking Policy Opicorp (PTY) Limited T/A Auto Carriers

Smoking inside a truck, the workplace for a driver, is often prohibited by company regulations to ensure safety and cleanliness, particularly in share or company-owned vehicles. Driver's need to abide by the company training, rules and regulations to avoid disciplinary action.

Safety Risk: Given the nature of transporting goods, many companies implement total bans to prevent fire hazards.

Vaping: Whilst vaping may not be hazardous as a cigarette, the common distraction of smoking is what forbids the act in a cab.

Employer Discretion: Employers may, but are not required to, provide smoke breaks. However, rest breaks are currently implemented, and this time maybe used by the driver to smoke.

Safety and Operational Hazards

Smoking while driving presents immediate safety risks that can lead to accidents.

Driver Distraction: The act of lighting a cigarette, handling ash, or managing a lit cigarette takes a driver's hands off the wheel and eyes off the road, significantly increasing the risk of a crash.

Physiological Effects on Driving: Nicotine temporarily increases stress, and the smoke irritates the lungs, which can lead to coughing fits that distract attention from the road. Over time, smoking-related damage to blood vessels can slow the eyes' recovery from being temporarily blinded by oncoming headlights at night.

Fire Hazard: Smoking near flammable materials, including the truck's own fuel or hazardous cargo (hazmat), creates a risk of fire or explosion.