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EVIDENCE OF COVID-19 TESTING FOR FREIGHT VEHICLES CROSSING THE BORDER

As of 11.59pm last night people crossing the Alert Level 4 boundary have been required to carry evidence of testing for Covid-19 in the previous seven days.

Ia Ara Aotearoa Transporting New Zealand (Transporting New Zealand) has received information that over the first 10 hours, the compliance level of freight drivers is much lower than expected, with approximately 20 percent not complying and being turned around. We acknowledge these transporters may not be members of the associations we represent.

However, bearing in mind the recent media story about an Auckland truck driver that recently tested positive for COVID-19, this raises the risk that the current check rate of stopping approximately one in 10 vehicles may need to be increased to manage the risk of COVID-19 transmission into areas out of Auckland. Such a change will significantly increase the likelihood of delays and congestion to freight movement.

In addition, the risk of damage to the reputation of the freight sector is at a heightened level.

Clearly, the vast majority of operators, 80 percent, are doing the right thing however, the 20 percent that are not, are a real threat. We urge you to do all you can to ensure all freight companies are complying with the requirements for testing. Over the past few days, we have provided a significant amount of information on testing however, if there is anything else Transporting New Zealand can do to promote testing, I would appreciate that feedback as soon as possible.

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