

# The accident risk of heavy vehicles in Norway

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The risk of personal injury accidents involving heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) has been reduced by 73 % from 2007 to 2020. The corresponding reduction in the risk of fatal accidents is 61 %. The risk of personal injury accidents with HGVs was 0.17 HGVs in personal injury accidents per million kilometres in the period 2014-2020. The risk of fatal accidents with HGVs in the same period was 0.015 HGVs in fatal accidents per million kilometres. The majority of fatal accidents with HGVs (7 out of 10) were triggered by vehicles other than the heavy goods vehicles. The most important reasons for the reduction in the risk of personal injury accidents seem to be electronic stability control, a decrease in speed and the inspections of the Norwegian Public Roads Administration's and the police. The decrease in the risk of fatal accidents also appears to be related to lower speeds and increased car body safety of the smaller counterpart vehicles in accidents. Foreign HGVs have about twice the risk of being involved in personal injury accidents and fatal accidents as the Norwegian, but the actual number of accidents they are involved in is relatively low. The foreign HGVs are also more often defined as triggers in fatal accidents. Analyses of contributing factors in accidents with foreign HGV show that they more often have contributing factors related to problems with crossfall, wheel/tyre and vehicle body safety. Based on accident analyses and qualitative data it seems that demanding roads and conditions in Western, Central and Northern Norway and the foreign drivers' lack of experience comprise an important challenge. When we look at the decline in risk for Norwegian and foreign HGVs the foreign HGVs have had a greater reduction in the risk in some respects. This may be due to the fact that the factors that have led to a reduction in risk have had a stronger effect on foreign HGVs than Norwegian HGVs. It may also be due to increased experience with and adaptation to Norwegian conditions.