

Truck driven from Go-line with turbo timer activated

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What happened?

An off-highway truck was in shutdown mode with the turbo timer activated. During this time another operator got into the truck and drove it from the Go-line onto the haul road.

A short time later the truck engine shutdown when the turbo timer timed out. The park brakes applied and the truck skidded for over 50 metres, coming to a stop with a front wheel on top of a bund.

There was no secondary steering because the ignition switch was in the OFF position.



How did it happen?

This incident occurred because the aftermarket turbo timer lacked the functionality to be linked to the application of the park brake, to shut down the engine if the park brake was released.

Comments

This event has highlighted the serious consequences that could occur if trucks can be driven whilst the turbo timer is activated and subsequently cannot be controlled.

Recommendations:

Trucks that are fitted with aftermarket turbo timers should be checked to determine whether the vehicles can be driven while the turbo timer is activated.

Risk management practices including change management should be used when considering whether the following hazard controls should be installed:

- Fitting a visual alarm to display when the truck is in turbo timer mode
- Arranging for the engine to be immediately shut down if the park brake is released when the turbo timer is activated.