



Seven Things to Look For in an Oil & Gas IVMS

The right In-Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) can do much more than facilitate ELD/HOS compliance. It can also dramatically reduce crashes, Serious Injury and Fatality rates and their associated costs. But with so many on the market, how can you select the best IVMS? Here's what to look for.

1. Third-party ELD certification

The ELD mandate has prompted more than 500 new telematics devices to enter the market, but the vast majority of them aren't independently certified to ensure compliance with the new regulations. Currently, the U.S. government is allowing manufacturers to self-declare that devices are compliant, but without authorized inspection, it's anyone's guess which devices can be counted on. Look for reputable manufacturers who take the extra step to earn credible third-party certification.

2. Better safety through driver accountability

An IVMS should offer more than mere compliance with HOS rules. The fatality rate for oil and gas workers is seven times higher than the national average for all industries, and vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of these deaths. Improving driver behavior is the key to reducing crashes. The key to improving driver behavior is monitoring for aggressive driving and holding the drivers accountable. Look for an IVMS that can detect not only harsh acceleration, harsh

deceleration and seatbelt misuse, but turns and hard bumps as well.

3. Real-time driver feedback

Monitoring aggressive driving allows supervisors to detect and deal with problem drivers after the fact, but giving drivers instant feedback has been shown to be highly effective in reducing aggressive driving while it's happening. For feedback to be actionable and meaningful in the cab, it has to be accurate and it has to happen immediately. Devices that rely on a connection to the cloud to deliver driver feedback, with the latency typical of cloud-based solutions, are much less effective in modifying behavior. Look for devices that are capable of handling detection and feedback at the edge — right in the vehicle, where it matters.

4. The power of voice

Real-time feedback is critical, but it's not as effective if it consists only of beeping alarms. Look for devices that can deliver true voice mentoring to drivers. Data shows



that companies using voice feedback see up to 70 percent improvement in the first three months following implementation. Drivers tend to perceive feedback as fair and valid if it's delivered immediately in clear and concise voice prompts, rather than beeps.

5. Speed by street

Monitoring and giving feedback on speed violations is obviously a critical component in maintaining safe driving behavior and reducing fatal crashes. But accurate detection and feedback is absolutely necessary to maintain driver trust and confidence in the system, and not all speed zone detection methods are equal. Look for an IVMS that goes beyond standard algorithmic practices with a methodology to verify speed zones by street.

6. Tailored to the Oil & Gas industry

Not all industries are the same, and not all IVMS devices take into consideration the requirements that are unique to

the Oil & Gas industry. With crew vans and drivers switching vehicles up to five times a day, it's important to look for an IVMS that can track HOS at the driver level to monitor hours accurately, independent of the vehicles they drive.

7. Reliable connectivity

The industry operates in some of the most remote areas of the world. Often, cellular service isn't available, and even when it is, it can be weak, intermittent or compromised by the elements. But many IVMS devices offer only cellular connectivity. To ensure consistent connectivity with least-cost routing, look for dual-mode devices that are capable of communicating with the cell network when it's available, but switch to satellite backup when it's not.

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