

A Breakthrough In Advancing The State Of The Art In Heavy Truck Steering And Control Technology Makes A Dramatic Reduction In Driving Fatigue And Related Heavy Truck Accident Potential

The new technology greatly improves heavy truck directional controllability by advancing the state of the art in directional stability to a level of perfection that is new to the heavy vehicle industry worldwide. You will find the following comparison between the present day heavy truck drivability problems and the new state of the art technology very interesting.

Everyone remembers that when learning to drive an automobile, they were told to hold the steering wheel straight to keep the vehicle going straight. When learning to drive present day heavy trucks, one of the first things the new drivers learn is that holding the steering wheel straight will not keep a heavy truck going straight, therefore every driver must learn how to make almost constant tedious small right and left steering corrections to keep the vehicle going straight mile after mile, resulting in a major cause of heavy truck driving fatigue and related highway accidents.

Conversely, when driving heavy trucks that are equipped with the new technology Howard Precision Power Center Steering System, keeping a heavy truck going straight with great precision is accomplished with the steering wheel in the on-center straight position. Not only are the tedious almost constant steering corrections no longer required, the new Power Center Steering Technology makes driving straight the easiest and least fatiguing part of keeping a heavy truck safely under directional control.

The following excerpt regarding the reduction in driving fatigue was taken from the test conducted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

“The technology that best fulfilled this requirement and was tested in the pilot study was The Howard Power Center Steering System” (TRB Paper #05-1234)



- The Howard Power Center Steering System is more than paid for by completely solving the long-standing costly steer wheel tire wear problem that is caused by unstable behavior of the steer wheels. Heavy vehicle operators using the system verify a 75,000 mile increase in steer wheel tire life.
- The Howard Power Center Steering System achieves an amazing level of steer wheel tire blowout controllability, verified by an impressive number of documented steer wheel blowouts where drivers report excellent straight line heavy vehicle controllability.
- The Howard Power Center Steering System does away with the tedious driver steering corrections required to control the unstable behavior of the steer wheels that conventional steering geometry does not control or prevent.
- The Howard Power Center Steering System makes a considerable improvement in crosswind drivability, by preventing the steer wheels from caster steering downwind in response to the wind gusts, thereby making a major reduction in crosswind driving fatigue.
- Greatly reducing driving fatigue and improving highway safety, may very well help significantly in keeping many thousands of qualified drivers from changing their profession or taking early retirement.

Now that the Precision Steer Wheel Control System has been very successfully tested by millions of in-service miles of heavy busses, trucks and large recreational vehicles, as well as the test conducted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, enacting a rule for advancing the state of the art in heavy vehicle directional stability will be the most important next step to be taken in achieving greater heavy vehicle highway safety.

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