



**RTBU**

# **AURIZON NEWSFLASH**

## **INWARD FACING CAMERAS UPDATE**

5 November 2015

**Aurizon's plans to introduce In-cab Video and Audio Recordings (Inward facing Cameras) were front and centre in our discussions at the recent RTBU National Council. The National Locomotive Divisional Committee has serious concerns about Aurizon's plans, including:**

- The invasion of driver's privacy at work;
- The level of anxiety that constant video and audio supervision will cause for drivers;
- The concerns of the use of the devices as a disciplinary tool
- Whether the knowledge of ongoing monitoring will create an unacceptable safety risk as the driver tries to concentrate on their primary task... driving a train/locomotive safely and to operational requirements as well as using complex equipment and systems required during train driving activities.
- Whether the safety benefits of In-Cab Video and Audio recordings have been overstated; and
- Whether regulators have failed their 'Duty of Care' in relation to co-ordinating a national approach to provide a safeworking environment.

**The RTBU believes that safety would be better served by investing in safety devices that prevent accidents from happening, and in mitigations for known safety issues (such as vigilance or fatigue), rather than CCTV that would only provide input after an accident has already occurred. An important illustration of this argument is the fact that the Chatsworth Crash of 2008 would have been prevented by the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC), which had been on the NTSB's most-wanted safety improvements list since 2001.**

**The Divisional Committee meeting discussed a national response. Issues we considered included:**

- Whether we can realistically stop the installation of in cab cameras and audio devices;
- Whether we should be seeking placement of pre-engineering devices rather than post incident recording devices (given that most Locomotives/EMU/DMU are equipped with Data/Event recorders that supply a more robust record of events);
- Or whether we should be seeking to place stringent controls over the data collected from in-cab recording devices, such as the current data logger protocols.

Nominated National Locomotive delegates met with Aurizon in Sydney during National Council to discuss our strong concerns. We also put a series of questions to Aurizon around issues, such as those outlined above, the monitoring of driving cab during the meal break, and the management of privacy issues. Aurizon has agreed to get back to us with more information about their Safety Change management system and their existing procedures and policies in the next two weeks.

**We will continue to keep you informed about this important issue.**