

**APPENDIX G**

**EXAMPLE SUBJECT INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

## SUBJECT CONSENT FORM

Title of Study: Heavy Vehicle Driver Workload Assessment Project

Study Description: Many high technology in-cab devices are being proposed for use in heavy trucks (e.g., route guidance systems, trip recorders, text displays, communications systems, etc.). These devices sometimes introduce additional tasks which might compete with the driver's primary job of safely controlling the vehicle at all times. Battelle is conducting a research project for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to measure the effects on drivers of introducing high technology in-cab devices. We believe that this work will contribute significantly toward enhancing safety and promoting a driver-centered approach to the development of high technology in-cab devices.

As part of our work, Battelle (through our subcontractor R&R Research, Inc.) must collect data from drivers under various normal driving conditions. The purpose of this data collection is to better understand the various driving tasks drivers must perform today, the driving conditions under which they work, and the driver behaviors, performance, and attitudes which may reflect driver workload.

As a voluntary participant, you will drive a US Government tractor-semitrailer through public roadways selected for the study. During testing, a ride-along observer will be in the vehicle with you on your assigned route. This observer will operate measurement equipment, give instructions to you about where to drive, and ask you to operate equipment commonly found in modern heavy vehicles. On-the-road data collection will involve observation of driving behaviors and tasks performed, video taping of the road scene and the driver's visual scanning patterns, and various measures of driving performance such as lane keeping, speed control, headway maintenance, and so forth. The ride-along observer will ask you to visually scan the west coast mirrors and selected gauges on the instrument panel or to manipulate knobs or switches when driving permits. The ride-along observer will ask you to answer questions about heavy vehicle driving.

**You, the driver, are in control and will be the final judge on whether you will respond to any request. Do not blindly follow any request. Follow our requests and answer our questions only when it is safe and convenient to do so.**

Risks: While driving for this study, you will be subject to all risks normally present during heavy truck driving. There are no known physical or psychological risks associated with participation in this study beyond those normally found in heavy truck driving. However, you must be aware that accidents can happen any time while driving.

You remain legally liable for your actions during this testing. You will not intentionally be asked to drive illegally. Should an action requested of you by the ride-along observer seem illegal, YOU are not to do it. Should you receive a speeding ticket or some other legal penalty for your driving during this testing, you understand that neither Battelle, R&R Research, Inc, nor the U.S. Government will compensate you for any fines or otherwise assist you in resolving legal problems arising out of any illegal action.

Benefits: Results of this study will provide valuable guidance for the development of an evaluation method to determine the safety of high technology in cab devices offered for use in heavy trucks.

By participation in this study, you will get some exposure to transportation research methods and will be lending your expertise and experience to support highway safety research regarding future use of in-cab devices.

Confidentiality: We are gathering information on heavy vehicle driving. We are not testing you. If you agree to participate in this study, your name will not be released to anyone other than the principal investigator. Individual performance will not have the subject's name associated with it in any interim or final reports. This confidentiality will be maintained.

Principal Investigator: If you have any questions or comments in relation to this study please contact the following person:

Louis Tijerina, Ph.D.  
Battelle  
505 King Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43201  
Ph: (614) 424-5406

Right to withdraw: YOU HAVE THE OPTION OF WITHDRAWING AT ANY TIME DURING THE COURSE OF THE STUDY WITHOUT PENALTY.

Compensation You will be paid a sum of \$XXX.XX to participate in this study for an estimated one full day of your time. You are entitled to this pay even if you elect to withdraw at any time during the course of the study.

Cautions: As mentioned earlier, there are no known risks associated with participation in this study beyond those normally found in heavy truck driving. You will be the final judge of when or whether to respond to a question or request by the ride-along observer. You will be informed of new information which becomes available which might reasonably be expected to affect your willingness to continue to participate in the study.

Approximately six (6) to eight (8) drivers are expected to participate in this study.

It is not anticipated that you will be informed of the results of this study.

Disposition of Informed consent: The Principal Investigator will retain a copy of this Informed Consent Form. A copy of this form will also be provided to you upon completion of participation in this study.

INFORMED CONSENT:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, UNDERSTAND THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT  
(Print your name)  
AND CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

DATE:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF \$ XXX.XX FOR PARTICIPATING  
(Print your name)  
IN THIS STUDY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

DATE: