

AUTOMATION & INHERENT RISKS

Automation within the trucking industry is now following automation found within Aviation. The operational areas are, of course, very different, but what has arisen with automation in the skies is that basic airmanship, has tended to deteriorate – primarily due too much reliance on the features of automation. Furthermore, while a vehicle is doing what it has been directed to do by the driver, but then does not respond properly to outside situations, realization by the driver precedes intervention. Don't overlook the fact that the vehicle is still moving but that then requires the correct input by the driver to either eliminate or reduce the potential for a bad outcome. Even at, 60 mph, and with the nearness of other vehicle traffic, the time frame for intervention can be very, very short. In closing, the adaption of automation is not a panacea, but can be, within limits, a useful aid.