TRUCKS & TRAILERS
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TR GROUP LTD

Making heavy vehicle fleet management easy for you

REAL Torque

June 2025

Contact maintenance for any questions on 0800 80 80 69

Upgrading our EROAD units from 3G to 4G.

As you may have heard, both Spark and One NZ announced that they will be switching off their 3G cellular networks by the end of 2025. This is part of a broader move across the industry to phase out older technology in favour of faster, more capable networks like 4G and 5G.

In anticipation of this change, we began upgrading our EROAD units from 3G to 4G last year. With over 1,000 units across our fleet, this was no small task. So far we have already completed nearly 90% of the replacements, with the final 10% scheduled to be completed over the next few months.

Did you know that EROAD launched the first generation of its in-vehicle hardware, the Ehubo1, all the way back in 2007? The Ehubo 2.0 followed in 2016, introducing improved connectivity and new features. Since then, telematics has continued to evolve rapidly, and our move to 4G ensures we stay ahead of the curve.

EROAD devices that operate on the 3G network are limited in what they can do. For example, they cannot receive over-the-air (OTA) updates, meaning any software or performance improvements require a technician to physically access and replace the unit. By contrast, the newer 4G-capable units allow us to perform many updates and fixes remotely, significantly reducing downtime. This means fewer disruptions, faster resolution of issues, and less time waiting for a technician.

What is the difference between 3G and 4G?

In short, 3G and 4G refer to the generations of mobile network technology used to send and receive data.

- 3G is capable of handling essential telematics functions such as GPS tracking and basic data transfers, but it's slower and less reliable when dealing with large data volumes or multiple connections.
- 4G offers much faster data speeds and better reliability, which enables real-time monitoring of vehicle performance, quicker updates, and the ability to handle more complex data, including live diagnostics.
- Additionally, 4G networks can support more devices simultaneously, which is increasingly important as we become more connected and data-driven.

What do the new 4G units look like?

While the new units may look like previous models from the outside, they are packed with upgraded technology under the hood. They're faster, more efficient, and more capable of handling real-time data and remote diagnostics.

In Cab Ehubo2.2 for Trucks

CoreHub for Trailers

How can you help?

If you are contacted by EROAD to arrange a unit upgrade, please help us by:

- ✔ Work with EROAD to arrange the swap-out to take place ASAP.
- ✔ Ensuring the vehicle is available and accessible for the technician.
- ✔ Reporting any issues early so they can be addressed as part of the upgrade.

TR Tips

- The 3G cellular network is shutting down at the end of 2025
- 4G allows for more information to be transferred and at a faster rate.
- With 4G you can update the software and even repair some faults over the air, meaning if there is an issue instead of replacing the hardware it may be fixed remotely.
- We have replaced 80% of our units already with just the last 20% remaining.
- All our telematics devices that currently use 3G will also need to be updated. This includes some fridges which have telematics and other brands of in cab devices. As these are low in number they are being handled on a case by case basis.

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