E-Enforcement: Lessons Learned from Two Case Studies in the Netherlands

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ABSTRACT. E-enforcement is the use of electronic tools in law enforcement. The introduction of e-enforcement allows for the solution of many enforcement problems. Based on two case studies within the Dutch Transport and Water Management Inspectorate, this article contends that e-enforcement can increase the inspection capacity and provide a better insight into offenders and offences. However, e-enforcement assuredly does not solve all enforcement problems. Inspectees may continue to undermine enforcement by their strategic behavior (‘game playing’) and instances of compliance do not automatically increase. The findings are derived from two case studies involving the digital tachograph and Weigh in Motion with Video. The article concludes with recommendations to enforcers on avoiding the adverse effects of e-enforcement.

KEYWORDS. E-enforcement, e-government, enforcement, strategic behavior, public sector, Netherlands, traffic