

Water Well Drilling Rig Exemption Permit

In partnership with industry, Alberta Transportation has developed a program that allows specific exemptions for the water well drilling rig industry. Water well drilling rig contractors wishing to apply and maintain the permit must meet strict performance standards. The permit may allow for:

- Extending the life of a Commercial Vehicle Inspection Certificate to 5 years;
- Exempting drivers of water well drilling rigs from the requirement of completing a logbook under the Driver's Hours of Service Regulations, AR317/2002; and
- Allowing for rigs with fixed equipment to be registered for a 50% reduction in vehicle registration fees.

Attached are the performance standards that must be met and maintained to be eligible for the permit.

Alberta Transportation will monitor your on-road performance. If you fail to meet permit conditions, or otherwise incur an unacceptable level of violations, your permit will be subject to review and you could lose your permit privileges.

To verify your compliance to regulatory requirements, Alberta Transportation staff or a contracted consultant, may conduct a National Safety Code (NSC) Audit at any time.

**If there are questions regarding this permit, please contact this office at
403 755-6111 (Toll free in Alberta by first dialing 310-0000).**

Water Well Drilling Rig

Alberta Transportation and the Alberta Water Well Drilling Association (AWWDA) have entered into discussions in an effort to maximize the productive efficiency for water well drilling operations, while still ensuring a high level of safe operations on the highway.

Throughout these negotiations, it was recognized this industry presented a unique situation with respect to highway transportation safety. Water well drilling rigs in the past typically operated within a limited radius. As such, they usually only traveled short distances on highways and spent a high percentage of their total operating time stationary or “rigged up” on a site. Given this unique operating nature, the department had (in the past) granted Commercial Vehicle Inspection Program (CVIP) yearly inspection extensions to one inspection every three years.

The AWWDA has raised concerns regarding hours of service regulations. AWWDA agrees to comply with regulatory restrictions regarding the amount of hours a person may drive within a work shift; however, the production of daily logs at roadside has proven to be problematic to its members.

The CVIP exemption from provincial motor carrier regulations has been a benefit to the industry as a whole, and there is a common desire to continue to allow water well drilling contractors to retain this exemption plus an additional exemption regarding producing a log book at road side. However, in order to meet the obligations of our department and industry to ensure maximum public safety on the provincial highway network, it was determined that the following program would be implemented:

1. Exemptions would be available to the water well drilling industry, but they would be given to individual drilling rig operators by means of a permit issued to the carrier by Alberta Transportation rather than as a general exemption to all operators through regulation or policy. Permits could be granted to water well drilling contractors whether or not they are members of AWWDA.
2. To ensure highway enforcement recognition, the permit number issued by Alberta Transportation will be affixed to the driver and passenger side doors on all vehicles utilized under the terms of the permit (the permit letters on the vehicle shall be black letters on a white background and measure 50mm high).
3. Conditions would be required to ensure participating water well rig contractors develop, implement and follow a sound safety and maintenance program. Specific performance standards and measures are identified to allow for a verification of maintenance and hours of service compliance by an agreed upon private sector auditor. Payment for the audit would be the responsibility of the water well drilling contractor permit holder.
4. Our department, through the carrier profile system, will monitor the water well drilling contractors who accumulate highway safety violations.
5. Should a water well drilling contractor fail to meet permit conditions or otherwise incur an unacceptable level of violations, the contractor could lose all or parts of its permit exemption privileges, and thereby be required to meet normal commercial vehicle regulatory requirements. Such disciplinary measures, if required, would be conducted within the terms of the department’s progressive discipline process. In addition, should an application for an

exemption permit be received from a contractor with a history of very poor safety performance, the department may require the contractor to meet additional conditions prior to issuing, or may deny the permit.

6. The permit shall be issued for a maximum 5-year term at a cost of \$100 per application.
7. For purposes of this agreement a “water well drilling rig” is defined as:

A motor vehicle with a permanently mounted rig comprised of a derrick and drawworks and is capable of drilling and setting casing for the purpose of construction or servicing of water well. This includes any associated motor vehicles or trailers directly required for that purpose. In both cases, trailers may be towed.

8. A water well drilling rig is eligible for a 50% reduction in vehicle registration fees pursuant to section 106(3) *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation (AR320/2002)*.

This registration fee reduction applies only to the motor vehicle with a permanently mounted drilling rig and does not apply to associated vehicles, or to those trailers towed by the drilling rig or associated vehicles. The motor vehicle eligible for the fee reduction may carry materials and equipment on the vehicle (pursuant to the Section 62, TSA permit) providing load securement, vehicle weight and dimension requirements are complied with.

9. Industry and government agree to conduct a regular review of the permit process.

The permit performance standards and performance measures are attached.

Given the rapid pace of change in technology, regulatory environment and operational demands, it is recognized that this agreement may be reopened at the request of the department or the AWWDA, and that the principle of joint responsibility for safety be recognized in any future negotiations.

Performance Standards & Measures

Performance Standard	Performance Measure
<p>1. Ensure that all of the drilling rigs and associated vehicles operating in the province are in compliance with a 5-year exemption permit.</p> <p>Drilling rig contractors shall obtain copies of applicable legislation, and familiarize themselves with the legislation. All rig contractors shall develop and adhere to a defined maintenance program and specific record keeping requirements.</p>	<p>1. The service rig contractors shall maintain, and produce upon request, records which address the elements noted in these standards</p>
<p>2. Drilling rig contractors shall set out in writing and maintain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 year CVIP program; • 6 month inspection program (fill out and maintain AWWDA semi-annual inspection form, this may be completed by a staff member designated by the carrier). 	<p>2. Maintained in the office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 year CVIP, fully certified, inspection record, maintained by rig number; • 6 month inspection reports, maintained by rig number; • a record of follow up action on deficiencies noted on the inspection form – maintained in the cab of the drilling rig; • most recent 6 month inspection report applicable to that rig; • a trip record of any deficiencies noted following an inspection; and • a AWWDA trip inspection form comprising of 11 elements is to be used as a guide and the defect or deficiencies shall be noted.

Performance Standard	Performance Measure
<p>3. Drilling contractors undertake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily trip inspections and ensure that deficiencies are brought to the attention of management • Internal audit procedure is to be established, to ensure follow-up action. 	<p>3. The trip inspection form will include the following (this is a report of defects as noted in AR121/2009):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting devices and reflectors • Tires • Coupling devices • Wheels and rims • Service brake, including trailer brake connections • Parking brake • Steering mechanism • Horn • Windshield wipers • Rear vision mirrors • Emergency equipment
<p>4. Ensure that all drivers of water well drilling rigs and associated vehicles operating within the province of Alberta are in compliance with regulatory hours of service driving restrictions. These drivers shall be exempt from the requirement of maintaining or producing a driver's daily log while in transit.</p>	<p>4. Contractors shall have a policy for compliance with the hours of service and produce a copy of the policy upon request.</p> <p>Contractors will produce records documenting drivers work times for the previous 6 months, the record shall note shift start and end times for each day worked.</p>
<p>5. Drilling rig contractors will obtain copies of the <i>Drivers' Hours of Service Regulation</i>, AR317/2002 and familiarize themselves and drivers with the requirements.</p>	<p>5. A copy of regulation AR317/2002, will be available in the carrier's Head Office</p>
<p>6. All water well drilling contractors shall develop an internal policy to address the issue of driver fatigue and the effective management of this condition. All water well drilling contractors must ensure that each driver is provided with fatigue management training.</p>	<p>6. Water well drilling contractors will deliver fatigue management and hours of service training programs to management and staff.</p>
<p>7. Contractors will maintain records identifying which drivers have been given training relating to fatigue management training and drivers hours of service.</p>	<p>7. Contractors will maintain employee training records on the individual personnel files. Verification of the fatigue management and hours of service training shall be noted.</p>