

# Commercial Vehicle Safety Compliance

## In Alberta

Effective: May 2011



## NOTICE TO READERS

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this document is accurate at the time of preparation. However, this document is intended to serve only as a guide and cannot replace first-hand information such as specific legislation.

The material in this document is not intended to constitute a training “course” in any subject area covered. However, it may form part of a larger training program.

Corrections, comments and suggestions can be submitted to Alberta Transportation at any time by using the Feedback Form in Appendix IV.

The electronic version of this document will be periodically updated with current or new information for your convenience and use. The latest version may be reviewed on the internet at: [www.transportation.alberta.ca/671.htm](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/671.htm)

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### Introduction

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## Overview

The Vehicle Safety and Carrier Services Branch of Alberta Transportation has prepared this guide to assist and ensure that commercial carriers operate safely and are compliant with the regulations that govern highway use. The Province of Alberta, other Canadian jurisdictions, the Government of Canada, and the Transportation Industry developed the National Safety Code (NSC) to help reduce the number and severity of collisions. Each jurisdiction has used the NSC standards as guides in drafting their own transportation safety legislation. This approach promotes uniformity across Canada and helps to ensure that the transportation industry remains as viable and sustainable as possible.

Provincial (operates solely in Alberta) and Federal (operates in and outside of Alberta) National Safety Code legislation applies to Alberta carriers who have commercial vehicles that are:

- Trucks, tractors or trailers or a combination of these vehicles that have a registered gross vehicle weight of 11,794 kilograms or more and operated solely in Alberta;
- Buses with a manufactured seating capacity of 11 persons or more, including the driver (provincially and federally regulated); and
- Trucks, tractors or trailers, or a combination of these vehicles operated or that have been operated outside of Alberta that have a registered gross weight greater than 4,500 kilograms.

Provincial and Federal carriers must meet different standards. It is important for carriers to understand the differences prior to deciding if they wish to operate outside of Alberta. For more information visit our Operating Status web page located at [www.transportation.alberta.ca/661.htm](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/661.htm).

The guide contains several modules, each dealing with a specific topic. To get a complete picture of compliance requirements, you should obtain the complete guide. If you intend to use certain parts of this guide only, for example Module 1, “Getting Started”, it is recommended that you also obtain the modules “Introduction” and “Appendices”.

*This is a guide only and is not meant to be a substitute for the actual legislation.*

## Purpose of this Guide

Alberta highways are shared by the public and by commercial vehicles of all descriptions. Motorists have become more and more concerned about safety as a result of increasing numbers of vehicles using the highways. This increase, especially of heavier vehicles, contributes significantly to the wear and tear of the highway infrastructure.

Alberta Transportation is responsible for Alberta highways and is committed to providing a safe, efficient and quality network of highways. In support of that, the Vehicle Safety and Carrier Services Branch of Alberta Transportation has prepared this guide to assist commercial truck and bus carriers to operate safely and to be compliant with the legislation that governs highway use.

The main reason for developing this guide is to help carriers and drivers operate commercial vehicles efficiently and safely by understanding and complying with the Alberta legal requirements. The use of this guide should increase compliance with safety requirements resulting in a more efficient and safe operation.

Specifically, this guide was developed to:

- Help existing and future drivers, managers and owners of commercial vehicles understand applicable legislation and safe operating procedures;
- Encourage carriers to abide by the legislation and safe operating procedures;
- Provide resources and contact information to current and future carriers in Alberta, Canada and the United States;
- Increase trust and understanding between industry and government;
- Help carriers develop, update and implement their safety and maintenance programs;
- Provide direction and information for new drivers in the industry.

This guide will assist you to comply with the legislation found in the documents listed below. A list of the relevant sections of these documents is available in Appendix III of this guide.

- *Traffic Safety Act (Alberta)* and related Regulations.
- *Motor Vehicle Transport Act, 1987 (Canada)* and related Regulations.
- *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (Canada)*.
- *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Clear Language Regulations*.
- *Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act (Alberta)*.
- National Safety Code (NSC).
- Safe operating procedures applicable to the truck and bus industries.

This guide is not meant to be a substitute for this legislation. Copies of the relevant acts and regulations for Alberta are available from the Alberta Queen's Printer. Copies of the federal legislation are available from the federal government.

### **Queen's Printer Bookstore**

To obtain copies of Alberta's Acts and Regulations, contact The Queen's Printer Bookstore at:

Main Floor, Park Plaza  
10611 - 98 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2P7  
Phone: 780-427-4952  
Fax: 780-452-0668  
Web site: [www.qp.gov.ab.ca](http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca)

## Intended Users

This guide is intended to assist:

- New carriers and owner/operators in the highway transportation industry, including but not limited to:
  - Carriers and owner/operators with trucks registered for 11,794 kilograms (26,000 pounds) and greater who travel only in Alberta;
  - Carriers and owner/operators with trucks and cargo vans registered for more than 4,500 kilograms (10,000 pounds) who have traveled or will travel outside Alberta (this includes farmers);
  - Carriers and owner/operators operating vehicles supplying passenger transportation services;
- Existing carriers and owner/operators who are unclear about their responsibilities;
- Existing carriers and owner/operators who wish to ensure they have a clear understanding of relevant acts, regulations and requirements;
- Commercial freight or passenger vehicle operators who transport dangerous goods or need an Operating Authority or have a specific requirement covered in this guide;
- Maintenance staff who repair, maintain and test drive commercial vehicles;
- Safety Officers responsible for ensuring the safe operation of commercial vehicles and driver safety;
- Administrative staff responsible for ensuring that administrative procedures are identified and used;
- Company management seeking to comply with legislative requirements.

## Sources of “Help” for Carriers

Occasionally, a commercial truck or bus carrier may require assistance with establishing or modifying their safety and/or maintenance programs to ensure compliance with Alberta’s transport regulations or with the National Safety Code (NSC). There are several potential sources of this information that the carrier could consult including:

### Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA)

- Options: - Provide consultant contact information  
- Offer various courses in transport safety

Calgary:           Phone #:     800-267-1003           or     403-243-4161  
                      Fax #:         403-243-4610  
                      3660 Blackfoot Trail SE  
                      Calgary, AB T2G 4E6

Edmonton:       Phone #:     780-448-7456  
                      Fax #:         780-448-0744  
                      17010 – 103 Ave., Suite 245  
                      Edmonton, AB T5S 1K7

Web site:         [www.amta.ca](http://www.amta.ca)

### Legislation Sources

Queen’s Printer Bookstore (Alberta)           780-427-4952 (Edmonton)  
Website: [www.qp.gov.ab.ca/index.cfm](http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca/index.cfm)

Canadian Publishing Centre (Federal)       800-635-7943 (Hull)  
(ask for a publication agent near you)

## Transportation Consultants

The names of possible transportation consultants who may be able to assist in developing and implementing safety and maintenance programs can be provided. Please contact Alberta Transportation, Carrier Services Branch, at 403-755-6111.

## Red Deer College

### Transportation Safety Director Program

Red Deer College offers a course that provides the basics of safety and health for the transportation industry. This program focuses on the information and skills you need to become a designated health and safety transportation representative – the Safety Director. This course can be looked at as the starting point in a Safety Director's training. Experience in the transportation field and further specific training will help in your chosen career path.

Further information on this program can be obtained from:

Continuing Education, Red Deer College  
Box 5005  
Red Deer, AB T4N 5H5

Phone: 403-342-3517 or 888-886-2787  
Fax: 403-342-3287  
Web site: <http://www.rdc.ab.ca/continuingeducation>

### Professional Driving Certificate

Red Deer College has partnered with members from the transportation industry and the government to develop a new strategy to meet the high demand for qualified drivers in the trucking industry. Successful candidates will benefit from new skills and knowledge, a better understanding of the transportation industry, individual driving and coaching as well as being eligible for an insurance reduction on completion of the course.

A course has been developed that combines 8 weeks of class room time and in cab training with an additional 4 weeks in a practicum setting. During this time drivers will be paired with trained drivers/mentors from the industry for individual training. This course has been designed to bring together individuals seeking a career and carriers looking to hire qualified drivers.

For more information on this program or to find out how to get involved as a driving mentor call 1-888-732-4630 or visit:

[www.rdc.ab.ca/driving](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/driving)

### **Lethbridge Community College**

#### Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Program

Lethbridge Community College offers a program designed in partnership with Alberta Transportation, Inspection Services that provides training in Transportation Legislation to new Transport Officers and other interested parties. With the implementation of the *Traffic Safety Act* and associated regulations, this multi-course program will provide commercial carriers the opportunity to access education on current transportation legislation such as Weights and Dimensions, Hours of Service, Licensing and Transport Law. An educated industry is a safer industry. Drivers, safety supervisors, and other members of the transportation industry are invited to enroll in individual courses or the entire program. The result will be fewer tickets, a more desirable carrier profile, and a reduction in collisions.

For more information regarding this program please contact:

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Program  
Lethbridge Community College  
Martin Thomsen, Program Leader  
3000 College Drive South  
Lethbridge, AB T1K 1L6

Phone: 403-317-3568  
Fax: 403-317-3521  
Web site: <http://www.lethbridgecollege.ab.ca/>

