Module 2 aims to provide carriers with basic information about the National Safety Code. The contents of this module are as follows.

- **Introduction** 3
- **NSC Standards 1-3** 4
- **NSC Standards 4-7** 5
- **NSC Standards 8-10** 6
- **NSC Standards 11-13** 7
- **NSC Standards 14-16** 8
- **Summary** 9

*This is a guide only and is not meant to be a substitute for the actual legislation*
The National Safety Code (NSC) is a set of 16 minimum safety performance standards. These standards apply to commercial vehicles, drivers and motor carriers in Canada. Although the NSC is not law, the federal, provincial and territorial governments consider the standards when drafting their safety laws. This is to ensure motor carriers are operating safely.

**What Vehicles are Regulated under Alberta’s National Safety Code Program?**

- **Commercial vehicles weighing or registered for more than 4,500 kilograms that operate in multiple provinces, territories or states.**

- **Commercial vehicles that are registered for a weight of 11,794 kilograms or more that operate only within Alberta.**

- **Commercial vehicles with a manufacturer’s seating capacity originally designed for 11 or more persons, including the driver.**

All carriers operating regulated vehicles in Alberta are responsible for following applicable transportation laws.

A description of each NSC Standard follows.

**NOTE**

These are standards only and actual provincial law may differ. These standards are not a substitute for the law.
THE NATIONAL SAFETY CODE STANDARDS

**NSC Standard 1: Single Driver's Licence**
- Forbids a driver from holding more than one licence

Relevant Alberta Laws:
- *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, AR 320/2002* (Section 13); and
- *Traffic Safety Act* (Part 3, Division 1, Section 51).

**NSC Standard 2: Knowledge and Performance Tests**
- Standardizes written and road tests
- Informs drivers of how to safely operate their vehicles
- Informs drivers of road rules and traffic laws

Relevant Alberta Laws:
- *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, AR 320/2002*; and

**NSC Standard 3: Driver Examiner Training Program**
- Upgrades the skills of driver examiners
- Standardizes course material for examiners

Relevant Alberta Laws:
- *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, AR 320/2002*; and
NSC Standard 4: Classified Driver Licensing System

- Defines 7 classes of driver licences
- Allows licences to be recognized in all provinces and territories

Relevant Alberta Laws:


NSC Standard 5: Self-Certification Standards

- Gives requirements driver training schools must meet
- Ensures high quality training for drivers

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation*, AR 320/2002 (Sections 15 and 16).

NSC Standard 6: Medical Standards for Drivers

- Sets the standards for deciding whether drivers are medically fit to drive

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation*, AR 320/2002 (Sections 15 and 16).

NSC Standard 7: Carrier and Driver Profiles

- Allows the goals of the NSC to be achieved
- Assists in the review of a carrier's safety performance
- Provides records on infractions, collisions, on-road inspections and facility audits

Relevant Alberta Laws:

NSC Standard 8: Short Term Suspensions

- Allows a peace officer to suspend a driver's licence for up to 24 hours when the driver's ability to operate a vehicle is impaired by alcohol, drugs or fatigue.

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Traffic Safety Act (Part 4, Division 1).

NSC Standard 9: Hours of Service

- Describes the number of hours a driver can be on duty and operate a commercial vehicle.

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Drivers’ Hours of Service Regulation, AR 317/2002.

If a carrier is operating commercial vehicles both inside and outside of Alberta, they will be subject to the rules under federal law:

- Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulation, SOR/2005-313.

NSC Standard 10: Cargo Securement

- Describes the safest methods for securing loads to commercial vehicles to ensure they do not shift, move or spill onto a roadway.

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation, AR 121/2009 (Section 17).
NSC Standard 11: Commercial Vehicle Maintenance

- Establishes the minimum standards for the periodic inspection, maintenance and repair of commercial vehicles.

  *NOTE: A full copy of this standard may be purchased online at www.ccmta.ca*

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Vehicle Inspection Regulation, AR 211/2006; and

NSC Standard 12: CVSA On-Road Inspections

- Contains Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance on-road inspection information
- Sets the minimum standards for roadside inspections in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

  *NOTE: A full copy of this standard may be purchased online at www.ccmta.ca*

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Traffic Safety Act;
- Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation, AR 121/2009;
- Drivers’ Hours of Service Regulation, AR 317/2002 (only applies to carriers operating solely in Alberta);
- Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, AR 320/2002; and

If a carrier is operating commercial vehicles in more than one province, territory or state, they will be subject to the rules under federal law:

- Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulation, SOR/2005-313.

NSC Standard 13: Trip Inspections

- Contains daily trip inspection requirements
- Ensures that any vehicles with problems or defects are immediately identified so that their operation may be prevented until repairs are made
Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation*, AR 121/2009 (Sections 9-16).

Relevant Alberta Laws:


Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Traffic Safety Act* (Part 7, Division 2);
- *Commercial Vehicle Certificate and Insurance Regulation*, AR 314/2002 (Section 43); and
- *Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation*, AR 121/2009 (Section 37).

**NSC Standard 14: Safety Rating**

- Provides for the issuance of a Safety Fitness Certificate and Safety Fitness Rating

**NSC Standard 15: Facility Audits**

- Describes the auditing process that is used to determine a carrier's level of compliance with safety laws
- Indicates that a carrier must maintain records at their principal place of business for review and assessment by auditors

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Traffic Safety Act* (Part 7, Division 2);
- *Commercial Vehicle Certificate and Insurance Regulation*, AR 314/2002 (Section 43); and
- *Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation*, AR 121/2009 (Section 37).

**NSC Standard 16: First Aid Training**

- Voluntary standard
- Describes the recommended minimum first aid training requirements for drivers

It is recommended that drivers of commercial vehicles complete approved first aid training and/or an Occupational Health and Safety program. For more information, visit: [www.work.alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety.html](http://www.work.alberta.ca/occupational-health-safety.html).
**Summary**

Provincial laws that affect commercial carriers in Alberta are as follows:

- *Traffic Safety Act*;
- *Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act*;
- *Bill of Lading and Conditions of Carriage Regulation, AR 313/2002*;
- *Commercial Vehicle Certificate and Insurance Regulation, AR 314/2002*;
- *Commercial Vehicle Dimension and Weight Regulation, AR 315/2002*;
- *Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation, AR 121/2009*;
- *Drivers’ Hours of Service Regulation, AR 317/2002*;
- *Driver Training and Driver Examination Regulation, AR 316/2002*;
- *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, AR 320/2002*;
- *Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation, AR 304/2002*;
- *Vehicle Equipment Regulation, AR 122/2009*; and
- *Vehicle Inspection Regulation, AR 211/2006*.

Federal laws that affect commercial carriers in Alberta are as follows:

- *Motor Vehicle Safety Act*;
- *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act*; and
- *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations, SOR/2005-313*.

Copies of the *Traffic Safety Act* and related laws are available at the Queen’s Printer Bookstore at:

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10611-98th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2P7
Phone: 780-427-4952
Fax: 780-452-0668
Email: qpecom@gov.ab.ca
Website: [www.qp.alberta.ca](http://www.qp.alberta.ca)

Copies of the complete National Safety Code manual and related documents are available online for a fee at: [www.ccmta.ca](http://www.ccmta.ca)