



February 2019

with Carrier Services

New entry requirements for National Safety Code carriers

Last year, Alberta Transportation consulted with both the transportation industry and members of the public and developed the Pre-Entry Program for New National Safety Code Carriers. This new program will ensure that new carriers have the necessary knowledge to operate safely.

The new program includes:

• **Elimination of the temporary 60-day SFC** – As of January 1, 2019, temporary SFCs are no longer available at registry agencies. New carriers are required to apply for a SFC directly to Alberta Transportation after registration of the vehicle. A SFC must be granted before the carrier is permitted to operate a commercial vehicle.

• **Mandatory Online Safety and Compliance Course** – Effective March 1, 2019, prior to applying for a SFC, an individual affiliated with a new carrier (proprietor or corporate officer) will be required to successfully complete the online Safety and Compliance course. This course will be available at no charge through 511 Alberta. After successfully completing the course, the applicant must print a certificate as proof of completion.

○ The certificate will be provided as part of the application process. Individuals will have to submit their application to Alberta Transportation before they may complete the remaining requirements.

• **Mandatory Knowledge Test** – The same individual that completed the online course will be responsible for achieving a passing mark on the SFC knowledge test, given that he or she is deemed to be the “appropriate individual” as per regulatory requirements.

○ Once these requirements are completed a new carrier will be issued a SFC that will be valid for 3 years.

• **New Carrier Compliance Review** – After receiving the SFC, a carrier will be required to undergo a new carrier compliance review within 12 months of operation by a certified third party auditor. The review includes assessment of the carrier’s on-road performance and compliance with regulatory requirements.

Carriers that fail to complete their new carrier compliance review within 12 months of operation may have their SFC cancelled by Alberta Transportation.

• **Renewal** – Effective March 1, 2019, all SFCs will be issued with an expiry date and must be renewed every three years.
○ Existing carriers will also be impacted and will be required to renew their current SFC every three years. Existing carriers will receive an invitation to renew starting in 2019.

These requirements will strengthen Alberta’s Transportation oversight of commercial vehicles, while enhancing the on road safety performance of carriers. The Pre-Entry program will also be evaluated throughout its deployment and two years after, to ensure that the goals of the program are achieved.

Effective March 1, 2019, the fees will also be changing for Safety Fitness Certificates.

- An application for a safety fitness certificate - \$150
- Application for a renewal of a safety fitness certificate - \$110
- Application for amendment of safety fitness certificate - \$0

If you have any questions regarding the new requirements for Safety Fitness Certificates please contact Carrier Services at 403-340-5444 or carrierservices.info@gov.ab.ca.

DID YOU KNOW?

Distracted Driving Facts from the Office of Traffic Safety:

- Research indicates that driver distraction contributes to 20 to 30 per cent of all collisions; distracted drivers are three times more likely to be involved in a collision than attentive drivers.
- Between September 1, 2011, when distracted driving legislation was introduced, and March 31, 2018, there were 163,125 convictions.
- 97 per cent of these convictions were for using a hand-held electronic device while driving.

For more information or tools on distracted driving, please visit the following sites:

- [Saferoads](#)
- [Alberta Transportation](#)
- [Collision Statistics](#)
- 511.alberta.ca for up-to-date road information including traffic delays and construction

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Commercial vehicle safety in the forest products industry

Transport Officers employed by Alberta Justice and Solicitor General – Commercial Vehicle Enforcement are responsible for monitoring the log haul industry by operating Vehicle Inspection Stations and conducting mobile patrols throughout the province. Transport officers inspect log haul units to ensure they comply with dimension and weight requirements, driver's hours of service and vehicle equipment regulations. The inspections conducted on the drivers and vehicles are Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) - North American Standard Inspections (NASI).

The majority of log haul unit inspections are either level 1 or 2 inspections. A level 1 inspection includes inspection of driver credentials, driver's hours of service, and vehicle equipment, including items such as brakes,

suspension, tires and lighting. (inspects the vehicles undercarriage) and its cargo.

A level 2 inspection includes all items in a level 1 inspection except the officer does not go under the vehicle to inspect the undercarriage.

Although log haul is active throughout the year, there is a marked increase in log haul units on Alberta highways from October to March. Between October 2017 and March 2018, Transport Officers conducted a total of 776 CVSA NAS inspections, 573 of those were level 1 inspections and 185 were level 2 inspections and the rest were level 3 inspections (driver only).

Often inspections come as a result of a violation being observed before the inspection. This allows an officer to concentrate on

removing the unsafe vehicles/drivers that pose a risk to the public from the highway.

Alberta Transportation – Carrier Services uses these inspection results to identify unsafe carriers through the carrier profile system. Alberta Transportation and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General continue to work closely to meet the goal of vision zero.

For further information on the CVSA program please visit: www.CVSA.org

Programs to help carriers reduce their environmental footprint

Natural Resources Canada has developed a suite of programs to help Canadian freight transportation companies reduce their environmental impact while staying competitive. These programs are free of charge, and have been developed with Canadian heavy-duty carriers in mind.

The **SmartDriver for Highway Trucking** program provides free, practical advice to reduce fuel consumption and operating costs. The free online tools are geared towards both drivers, fleet owners, and instructors, and provide fuel-efficient driving best practices and technologies to help reduce fuel consumption.

An associated program, **SmartWay Canada**, provides a well-recognized system for tracing, documenting, and sharing information about fuel use and emissions. **SmartWay** provides tools for companies to benchmark their operations, analyse year-over-year performance, and compare to industry peers. Joining **SmartWay** also demonstrates to customers a company's commitment to sustainable transportation.

More than 3,600 companies have already joined this international program to cut emissions and improve efficiencies, but Alberta participation remains low. Natural Resources Canada estimates that **SmartWay** truck carrier partners saved on average 4,000 litres of fuel per truck in 2017, which totals more than \$170 million in fuel savings for Canadian truck carriers.

The **Green Freight Assessment Program** provides up to \$10,000 to companies who want to increase efficiencies and reduce their environmental footprint.

After undergoing an extensive assessment of their fleet operations, companies get a detailed report that identifies target areas for economic and environmental improvement.

The next call for applications is spring 2019. For more information on each program, please visit <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency/transportation/21050>



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