



January 2016

On the Road

with Carrier Services

Message from the Minister of Transportation



Honourable Brian Mason
Minister of Transportation and
Minister of Infrastructure

Alberta's commercial vehicle industry plays a vital role in our province's economy, by providing Albertans with the goods and services we need every day. As always, it's my pleasure to provide you with an update on the latest developments taking place on Alberta highways.

Winter Highway Safety

With winter bearing down on us, it's important to be prepared. Safety begins before you get on the road. Make sure your maintenance inspections are current and get in the habit of checking road conditions with 511 Alberta.

511 Alberta has the information you need to make informed travel decisions. This fall, 511 Alberta added traffic cameras on Deerfoot Trail to its roster and began reporting road conditions in all three mountain parks (Jasper National Park, Banff National Park and Waterton Lakes National Park). In all, 138 cameras provide Albertans with up-to-date information on highway conditions around the year. Know before you go by visiting www.511.alberta.ca, scanning 511 Alberta's Twitter feed (@511Alberta) or by calling 511.

We know it takes skill to safely operate a big truck, something that many motorists do not understand. The

drivers of smaller passenger vehicles often make decisions that put themselves and the commercial vehicle at risk.

From 2009 to 2013, 2,389 truck tractors were involved in casualty collisions in Alberta. There were 222 people killed and 2,841 people injured in these collisions. The deaths include 25 truck-tractor drivers, 10 of whom were killed in single vehicle rollover crashes.

Alberta Transportation, working with a number of partners across the province, launches monthly traffic safety campaigns including commercial vehicle safety, distracted driving and seatbelt usage. We'll keep working to get the message out to all drivers to make good decisions on the road when maneuvering around heavy vehicles. For more information on our monthly safety campaigns, please visit www.saferoads.com.

Construction Update

2015 marked an especially busy period of highway construction in Alberta as a number of major projects reached important milestones:

TWINNING OF HIGHWAY 63

This year, the Government of Alberta opened 99 per cent (237 kilometres) of twinned highway between Grasslands and Fort McMurray, with the completion of the rest by fall of 2016.

ANTHONY HENDAY DRIVE

This year marks the third of a four year construction period in the construction of the Northeast (and final) leg of

Edmonton's Ring Road, Anthony Henday Drive. It is on track for completion in 2016 and the Alberta government has committed more than \$4 billion toward construction of the ring road, including \$1.81 billion for the northeast section. Once fully open to traffic, the Anthony Henday will be a key driver in economic activity in the Capital Region, allowing the free-flow of both motorists and goods.

SOUTHWEST CALGARY RING ROAD

After reaching a historic agreement with the Tsuu T'ina Nation in 2014, planning continues on the Southwest leg of Calgary's Ring Road. This planning has included consultations with the City of Calgary and other organizations interested in the project. Upon completion, the Calgary Ring Road will have more than 100 kilometres of free-flow freeway, which will reduce local traffic congestion and improve market access.

THANK YOU

Alberta's motor transport industry is vital to Alberta's growth and economic success. Without your services, Albertans would not be able to get the goods and services they need on a daily basis. Thank you, for all of your hard work and dedication. Our partnership is vital in building an efficient and safe transportation network and motor transport industry.

Happy New Year from Carrier Services

Jim Sawitsky

Director of Carrier Services
Alberta Transportation

On behalf of all Carrier Services staff, I'd like to wish Alberta's commercial bus and truck carriers a Happy and Prosperous New Year! Your continued dedication to providing essential services to all Albertans is very much appreciated.

As we leave 2015 behind and take on the joys and challenges of a New Year, we'd like to ask that you make transportation safety a priority for 2016.

All National Safety Code (NSC) carriers, regardless of fleet size or type, have a responsibility to operate safely and in compliance with the NSC standards and relevant laws.

This is to not only ensure the safety of your own staff but also the safety of other

motorists that share Alberta's highways with your commercial vehicles. As you step into the New Year, take some extra time to ensure:

- You understand the transportation safety requirements that apply to your company;
- Your company maintains an acceptable Safety Fitness Rating;
- Company safety and maintenance programs are accessible, up-to-date and implemented effectively;
- You and any other staff are trained in relevant transportation safety requirements (e.g. hours of service, fatigue management, trip inspections, cargo securement, etc.); and
- You monitor your company's on-road safety performance by reviewing your Carrier Profile.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and efficient transportation system for all Albertans!

Upcoming workshop for safety officers



The Alberta government, in partnership with Iron Horse Risk Management Ltd., will be hosting a Transportation Safety Professionals Workshop in March, 2016.

Who should sign up?

This interactive workshop was developed to provide practical guidance to:

- Owners, management, and supervisors of commercial truck and bus companies operating under the National Safety Code program;
- Company safety officers;
- Transportation safety consultants; and
- Other transportation safety professionals seeking to improve their knowledge.

What's involved?

This interactive workshop will include instruction and activities related to:

- Safety Officer responsibilities;
- The application of the National Safety Code standards and related laws;
- The development and successful implementation of safety and maintenance programs; and
- The importance of having a company culture of safety.

Where and when?

- Four days: from March 7 – 10, 2016
- Roland Michener Recreation Center, Red Deer, Alberta
- \$500/participant (lunches provided)
- Maximum of 50 participants

For more information or to register:

Phone 403-755-6111

Email: carrier.services@gov.ab.ca

Website: transportation.alberta.ca

DID YOU KNOW?



Effective January 1, 2016 the penalty for distracted driving in Alberta will increase to \$287.

Upon conviction of an offence that occurred on or after January 1, 2016 drivers will receive 3 demerit points on their Driver Abstract and Commercial Driver Abstract.

Upon conviction of an offence that occurred on or after January 1, 2016 carriers operating commercial vehicles regulated under Alberta's National Safety Code Program will have 3 points applied to distracted driving violations displayed on their Carrier Profile Reports.

For more information, visit transportation.alberta.ca.



Hours of service permit changes

On February 1, 2015, the Oilfield Driver Awareness (ODA) course developed by ENFORM replaced the General Oilfield Driver Improvement (GODI) and Light Duty Vehicle (LDV) courses.

With this replacement, the following changes will be made to the Federal Oilwell Service Vehicle Cycle Exemption Permit:

- Beginning January 1, 2016, the application and conditions associated with the permit will be changed and will require drivers to have received ODA (or equivalent) training prior to operating under the permit.
- Beginning January 1, 2016, permit holders will no longer be required to train drivers in the Oilfield Hauler (OH) (or equivalent) course.

- On April 1, 2016, all drivers operating under the permit will be required to produce proof of training in hours of service requirements, fatigue management requirements, and ODA (or equivalent).
- On June 1, 2016, a new permit application will be introduced that will require submission of fatigue management programs.

For more information about these permit changes or the criteria for equivalent ODA training, please contact Carrier Compliance at 403-755-6111.

Year in review: NSC carriers

As of December 31, 2015, a total of **26,292** National Safety Code (NSC) carriers were operating in the province of Alberta.

This is a two per cent decrease in the number of carriers from 2014.

Of these NSC carriers:

- 1,789 operated buses;
- 24,503 operated trucks;
- 8,696 operated with a Federal Operating Status; and
- 17,596 carriers operated with a Provincial Operating Status.

These carriers were responsible for the operation of over **152,000** commercial vehicles.

Of these commercial vehicles:

- 2,984 were federally regulated buses;
- 16,463 were provincially regulated buses;

- 78,650 were federally regulated trucks; and
- 54,878 were provincially regulated trucks.

24 per cent of all NSC regulated vehicles operating in Alberta were registered to a fleet with fewer than five vehicles.

Between January and December, 2015 Carrier Services issued:

- 2,916 new Safety Fitness Certificates;
- 224 new Operating Authorities; and
- 239 permits (e.g. those related to Hours of Service, Gas and Water Well Service Exemptions, and Divided Record Authorities).

For more information about the National Safety Code program, visit transportation.alberta.ca

DID YOU KNOW?



Hardcopies of the *Commercial Vehicle Safety and Compliance in Alberta* education manual can be purchased from the Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA). Visit amta.ca for more information!

To access the manual online, visit transportation.alberta.ca



Have a question about transportation safety requirements?

Try checking our Frequently Asked Questions document for an answer!

Available online at transportation.alberta.ca

Still can't find what you're looking for? Contact us at 403-340-5444 or email carrier.services@gov.ab.ca