

Updated Rules for ***Vehicles*** in Alberta



Alberta's new *Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation* will come into effect on July 1, 2009, as will changes to the *Vehicle Equipment Regulation*. The majority of the changes are to update Alberta regulations and ensure they are consistent with current Canadian and North American standards.

The changes are the result of a multi-year review of commercial vehicle safety and equipment regulations which involved extensive consultation with commercial vehicle stakeholders including industry, municipal, and safety organizations.

Key Changes

- Modified vehicles (manufactured on or after January 1, 2012) will need a new compliance label or a mechanical fitness certificate issued by a qualified professional engineer.
- All vehicles must be maintained in safe operating condition.
- A commercial vehicle must have brakes on all wheels (including trailers) except where the vehicle is exempted by the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act* or the *Traffic Safety Act*.
- A warning sign must be displayed on the rear of a commercial vehicle that transports flammable liquid or gas, if the tank has a capacity of 5,000 litres or greater.
- A single-axle trailer (other than a semi-trailer) is prohibited from carrying petroleum products on a highway when the tank has a capacity of 3,000 litres or greater for flammable liquids or 450 litres or greater for flammable gas.
- A commercial vehicle will not be allowed to operate on a highway at a speed or with a load greater than the rating of any tire on the vehicle.
- Requirements in the *Driveway and Towaway Regulation* will be substantially simplified and updated to reflect current automotive technology.
- An advance warning triangle will be the only recognized advance warning device (flags and flares will no longer be recognized as they are obsolete).
- The use of "working lights" on commercial vehicles will be permitted as long as it is not in motion on a highway.

- The standards for first aid kits and fire extinguishers will be updated.
- Alberta's power bicycle and moped definitions will be amended to incorporate the federal definitions of "power assisted bicycle" and "limited speed motorcycle".

School Buses

- ◆ A school bus operator or driver will be required to conduct a daily trip inspection on the school bus and complete a written report.
- ◆ A passenger who needs the assistance of a guide dog will be allowed to have the dog accompany him/her on a school bus.
- ◆ A new schedule pertaining to school bus maintenance standards has been developed based primarily on Canadian Standards Association (CSA) D250-2007. A school bus that met the CSA standard when manufactured will not have to be retrofitted, with the exception of a crossing arm. A school bus manufactured on or after February 1, 2000 must meet the crossing arm requirement.
- ◆ In a rural area, a school bus driver must direct a student to cross the highway in front of the school bus arm, with the crossing arm in its open position.
- ◆ Effective September 1, 2010, all school buses must have four amber and four red flashing light systems, a white flashing strobe light, and reflective markings.

Written Trip Inspection Reports

- A daily trip inspection written report will be required for trucks, truck-tractors, trailers and buses. This brings Alberta in line with other Canadian jurisdictions and is in accordance with national safety standards (http://www.ccmta.ca/english/pdf/nsc_standard_13.pdf).
- Motor coaches will be required to comply with the 12,000 kilometres or 30-day inspection requirements for motor coaches under NSC 13.
- The trip inspection reports must be kept by the carrier for a minimum of six months.
- A driver (other than a school bus driver) who is exempted from the daily log requirement will also be exempted from the trip inspection written report requirement.

For more information, contact:

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This document and additional information on updated rules for vehicles in Alberta can be found on Alberta Transportation's web site at: <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/3.htm>