

Air Brake Program Evaluation

Revisions to the Alberta Air Brake Program were implemented on May 15, 2012. Due to the substantive nature of the changes, an evaluation was conducted once the program had been in place for six months to determine how key stakeholders felt about the revised program's content, structure and materials and the impact it has had on them.

Statistics were gathered from Air Brake Participant List forms, the Driver Knowledge Testing System and six different stakeholder surveys. Stakeholders polled were: air brake organizations; air brake instructors; air brake students; class 1 driver examiners; registry agents; and Alberta Transportation employees.

Overall, all stakeholders seem to be very satisfied with the revised Air Brake Program's content, structure, materials and impact. Over 60 per cent of organizations and instructors agreed the program is better because of the changes. Some key themes emerging from the evaluation are:

- The program's content is appropriate for the majority of students.
- The program's structure is appropriate, including student-instructor ratios, testing time limits, and required practical training.
- The program's materials are highly valued by all stakeholders.
- There are enough authorized instructors to meet the training demand.
- The air brake knowledge test client results are consistent with other knowledge tests, with 57 per cent of students passing the air brake knowledge test on their first attempt.
- Registry Agents and Alberta Transportation have received few complaints about any aspect of the program.
- The air brake knowledge test delivery methods are sufficient.
- Industry non-compliance has been negligible.

Many comments were received on how to make the Air Brake Program better. These suggestions are being reviewed by a committee of air brake experts.

With over 80 per cent of air brake training organizations, air brake instructors and students indicating that the revised Air Brake Program is a valuable driver training program, the revisions to the program have been a success.