



June 2014

with Carrier Services

June is Commercial/Passenger Vehicle Safety Month

Alberta's [Traffic Safety Calendar](#) marks June as Commercial and Passenger Vehicle Safety Month.

Between 2008 and 2012, 2,415 truck tractors were involved in casualty collisions in Alberta. 230 people were killed and 2,914 people were injured in these collisions. Of the 230 people killed, 34 were truck drivers.

Nearly 88% of all collisions involved driver error. The most commonly identified errors of truck drivers in casualty collisions are running off the road and following another vehicle too closely.

Truck drivers were more likely than all drivers in casualty collisions to be fatigued or asleep at the time of the collision.

This month, the Government of Alberta is reminding commercial drivers to:

- Pull over when feeling tired;
- Keep your distance – leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front of you;
- Be alert to the actions of other drivers;
- Adjust your mirrors and know your blind spots;
- Signal well in advance when planning to turn or change lanes;
- Complete proper trip inspections and check for load securement; and
- Ensure your vehicle is properly maintained.

For more safety tips and information about Commercial and Passenger Vehicle Safety month, visit www.saferoads.com.



Driving the point home: Roadcheck 2014

A three-day inspection blitz kicks off on June 3 at the Balzac Vehicle Inspection Station. As part of [Roadcheck 2014](#), inspectors from Alberta's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch focus on commercial vehicle safety, driver safety programs and dangerous goods compliance.

Truck and bus safety inspectors will be on the job night and day during the 72-hour period checking commercial vehicles and their drivers at inspection sites along major highways. Roving patrols will also inspect commercial vehicles traveling other highways.

"This type of campaign has an immediate and significant impact on the safety of our provincial highways," says Commercial Vehicle Enforcement's Chief, Steve Callahan. "Encouraging safe behaviours and practices on the part of commercial vehicle drivers is one of the keys to road safety."

The three-day inspection marathon will also be carried out at commercial vehicle inspection stations in Slave Lake, Morrin and Lac La Biche. This is the 27th year the Government of Alberta has conducted these focused roadside inspections.

Along with the safety benefits of an increased enforcement presence, the campaign helps ensure Alberta's economy benefits from a secure, well-organized and safe transportation system.

What makes a good driver?

The definition of a “good driver” might vary from company to company. But one element all companies agree on is that a commercial driver must have a good driving record.

To make it easier to identify safe commercial drivers, the Government of Alberta developed the Commercial Driver Abstract (CDA), which provides companies with accurate driving information on prospective and current drivers.

Previously, the only driving information available was found in the standard driver abstract and any other information the driver was willing to share.

A standard driver abstract contains moving violations and information about licence qualifications (for example: demerits, licence cancellations and suspensions).

For the same price as a standard driver abstract, the CDA offers companies an enhanced abstract that shows National Safety Code (NSC) violations, including those relating to:

- hours of service;
- cargo securement;
- mechanical issues;
- dangerous goods; and
- Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Inspections.

This information provides insight into a commercial driver’s compliance history which, in turn, reveals a driver’s habits and attitudes towards road safety.

For more information about the CDA and commercial vehicle monitoring, visit: www.transportation.alberta.ca/4664.htm.



Dangerous goods compliance, a focal point in 2014

Dangerous goods compliance is a major focal point at commercial roadside vehicle inspections. On-highway Inspectors verify five major inspection items for compliance when dangerous goods are in transport:

- [training certificates](#);
- [shipping documentation](#);
- [safety marks \(placards and labels\)](#);
- [means of containment](#); and
- [any amount or evidence of leaking](#)

Public safety is of paramount concern to the Alberta government’s on-highway inspectors. If a carrier has committed any violations in the five major inspection areas, corrective actions will be taken. These actions may include warnings, prosecutions and/or placing the carrier out of service.

For more information about the transportation of dangerous goods, visit: www.transportation.alberta.ca/519.htm.

Upcoming web changes

The Government of Alberta is in the process of reorganizing content on the Carrier Services website at www.transportation.alberta.ca/499.htm. Watch for improvements this summer!

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DID YOU KNOW?



Carriers can monitor their on-road safety performance by reviewing their Carrier Profile. Taking action to address safety issues identified on the Profile can benefit a carrier in many ways.

For more information about the benefits of using your Carrier Profile, visit: www.transportation.alberta.ca/667.htm



Drivers that qualify for the 160 kilometre radius exemption are not required to keep a daily log. Carriers must, however, keep accurate radius records for those drivers to ensure they are not driving while fatigued.

For more information about hours of service requirements, visit: www.transportation.alberta.ca/671.htm