



Module 2: National Safety Code

Commercial Vehicle Safety Compliance
in Alberta

Module 2: National Safety Code aims to provide carriers with basic information about the National Safety Code. The contents of this module include information about:

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This module serves only as a guide and cannot replace regulatory legislation.

However, every effort has been made to ensure the information in this module is accurate at the time of preparation. The material in these documents are not intended to represent a full training course in any subject area covered, nor is it intended to be reproduced or sold for commercial purposes or financial gain.

THE NATIONAL SAFETY CODE

The National Safety Code (NSC) is a set of 16 minimum safety performance standards. These standards apply to commercial vehicles, drivers and motor carriers in Canada. Although the NSC is not law, the federal, provincial and territorial governments consider the standards when drafting their safety laws. This is to ensure motor carriers are operating safely.

Which Vehicles are Regulated under Alberta’s National Safety Code Program?



Commercial vehicles

registered for more than 4,500 kilograms that operate in multiple provinces, territories or states.



Commercial vehicles

that are registered for a weight of 11,794 kilograms or more that operate only within Alberta.



Commercial vehicles

with a manufacturer’s seating capacity originally designed for 11 or more persons, including the driver.

All carriers operating regulated vehicles in Alberta are responsible for following applicable transportation laws. A description of each NSC Standard follows.

All NSC standards are available at: ccmta.ca/en/national-safety-codes

THE NATIONAL SAFETY CODE STANDARDS

NOTE

These are standards only and actual provincial law may differ.

These standards are not a substitute for the law.

NSC Standard 1: Single Driver's Licence

- Forbids a driver from holding more than one valid licence
- Ensures driving infractions are assigned to a single licence/record

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation](#), AR 320/2002 (Section 13); and
- [Traffic Safety Act](#) (Part 3, Division 1, Section 51).

NSC Standard 2: Knowledge and Performance Tests

- Standardizes written and road tests
- Assess drivers' understanding of how to operate their vehicles
- Assess drivers' understanding of the rules of the road

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation](#), AR 320/2002; and
- [Driver Training and Driver Examination Regulation](#), AR 316/2002 (Part 1).

NSC Standard 3: Driver Examiner Training Program

- Upgrades the skills of driver examiners
- Standardizes course material for examiners
- Ensures driver examiners have and maintain job skills and competencies

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation](#), AR 320/2002; and
- [Driver Training and Driver Examination Regulation](#), AR 316/2002 (Part 3).

NSC Standard 4: Classified Driver Licensing System

- Defines 7 classes of driver licences
- Allows licences to be recognized in all provinces and territories

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation](#), AR 320/2002 (Part 1, Division 3).

NSC Standard 5: Self-Certification Standards

- Establishes driver training schools must meet in order to provide driver training
- Ensures high quality training for drivers

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation](#), AR 320/2002 (Sections 15 and 16).

NSC Standard 6: Medical Standards for Drivers

- Sets the standards for deciding whether drivers are medically fit to drive

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation](#), AR 320/2002 (Sections 15 and 16).

NSC Standard 7: Carrier and Driver Profiles

- Assists in the review of a carrier's safety performance
- Allows the compliance with safety goals of the NSC to be achieved
- Provides records on infractions, collisions, on-road inspections and facility audits

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Commercial Vehicle Certificate and Insurance Regulation](#), AR 314/2002 (Part 4.1).

NSC Standard 8: Short Term Suspensions

- Allows a peace officer to suspend a driver's licence for up to 24 hours when the driver's ability to operate a vehicle is impaired by alcohol, or drugs or fatigue.

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Traffic Safety Act](#) (Part 4, Division 1).

NSC Standard 9: Hours of Service

- Describes the number of hours a driver can be on duty and operate a commercial vehicle.
- Outlines requirements for daily logs and sets out driver and carrier record keeping requirements.

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Drivers' Hours of Service Regulation](#), AR 317/2002.

If a carrier is operating commercial vehicles both inside and outside of Alberta, they will be subject to the rules under federal law:

- [Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulation](#), SOR/2005-313.

NSC Standard 10: Cargo Securement

- Describes the safest methods for securing loads to commercial vehicles to ensure they do not shift, move or spill onto a roadway

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation](#), AR 121/2009 (Section 17).

NSC Standard 11: Commercial Vehicle Maintenance

- Establishes the minimum standards for the periodic inspection, maintenance and repair of commercial vehicles.

NOTE: A full copy of this standard may be purchased online at www.ccmta.ca

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Vehicle Inspection Regulation](#), AR 211/2006; and
- [Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation](#), AR 121/2009.

NSC Standard 12: CVSA On-Road Inspections

- Contains Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance on-road inspection information
- Sets the minimum standards for roadside inspections in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

NOTE: A full copy of this standard may be purchased online at www.cvsa.org

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Traffic Safety Act](#);
- [Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation](#), AR 121/2009;
- [Drivers' Hours of Service Regulation](#), AR 317/2002 (only applies to carriers operating solely in Alberta);
- [Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation](#), AR 320/2002; and
- [Vehicle Equipment Regulation](#), AR 122/2009.

If a carrier is operating commercial vehicles in more than one province, territory or state, they will be subject to the rules under federal law:

- [Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulation](#), SOR/2005-313.

NSC Standard 13: Trip Inspections

- Contains daily trip inspection requirements
- Ensures that any vehicles with problems or defects are immediately identified so that their operation may be prevented until repairs are made

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation](#), AR 121/2009 (Sections 9-16).

NSC Standard 14: Safety Rating

- Provides the carrier safety rating framework

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Commercial Vehicle Certificate and Insurance Regulation](#), AR 314/2002 (Parts 1 and 2).

NSC Standard 15: Facility Audits

- Describes the auditing process that is used to determine a carrier's level of compliance with safety laws
- Indicates that a carrier must maintain records at their principal place of business for review and assessment by auditors

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Traffic Safety Act](#) (Part 7, Division 2);
- [Commercial Vehicle Certificate and Insurance Regulation](#), AR 314/2002 (Section 43); and
- [Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation](#), AR 121/2009 (Section 37).

NSC Standard 16: Commercial Truck Driver Entry Level Training (Class 1)

- Ensures Class 1 commercial drivers are properly and consistently trained before being licenced

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- [Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation](#), AR 320/2002; and
- [Driver Training and Driver Examination Regulation](#), AR 316/2002

SUMMARY

All NSC standards are available for view at: ccmta.ca/en/national-safety-codes

Provincial laws that affect commercial carriers in Alberta are as follows:

- [Traffic Safety Act](#);
- [Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act](#);
- [Bill of Lading and Conditions of Carriage Regulation](#), AR 313/2002;
- [Commercial Vehicle Certificate and Insurance Regulation](#), AR 314/2002;
- [Commercial Vehicle Dimension and Weight Regulation](#), AR 315/2002;
- [Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation](#), AR 121/2009;
- [Drivers' Hours of Service Regulation](#), AR 317/2002;
- [Driver Training and Driver Examination Regulation](#), AR 316/2002;
- [Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation](#), AR 320/2002;
- [Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation](#), AR 304/2002;
- [Vehicle Equipment Regulation](#), AR 122/2009; and
- [Vehicle Inspection Regulation](#), AR 211/2006.

Federal laws that affect commercial carriers in Alberta are as follows:

- [Motor Vehicle Safety Act](#);
- [Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act](#); and
- [Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations](#), SOR/2005-313.

Hard copies of the *Traffic Safety Act* and related laws are available at the Queen's Printer Bookstore at:

5th Floor, Park Plaza Building
10611 - 98th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2P7
Phone: 780-427-4952 Fax: 780-452-0668
Email: qpecom@gov.ab.ca
Website: www.qp.alberta.ca

Hard copies of the complete National Safety Code manual and related documents are available online for a fee at:
www.ccmta.ca/en/national-safety-code