

Alberta

# COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT BRANCH





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## Disclaimer

The contents and information contained within this book are based on Alberta's legislative requirements and are subject to change with changes in policies and legislation.

The majority of provincial legislation pertaining to commercial vehicles or commercial transport can be located in the *Traffic Safety Act* or its regulations.

To locate these documents, please visit:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/2.htm>



# Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch

**Mission:** Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch (CVEB) is responsible for ensuring commercial vehicle compliance with provincial and federal statutes while promoting safety for all highway users, and the development and application of enforcement standards and enforcement policies for motor carriers while overseeing Transport Officers throughout the province.

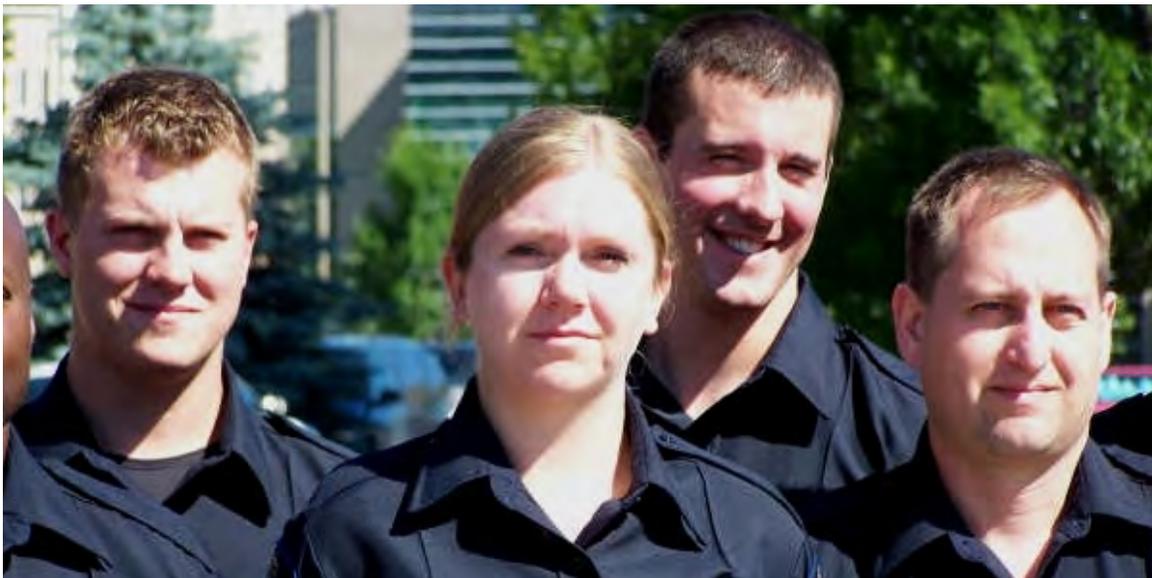
Transport Officers promote highway safety by monitoring commercial vehicles:

- weights
- hours-of-service
- driver qualifications
- permit conditions
- mechanical fitness
- dimensions
- dangerous goods
- moving violations
- cargo securement
- insurance

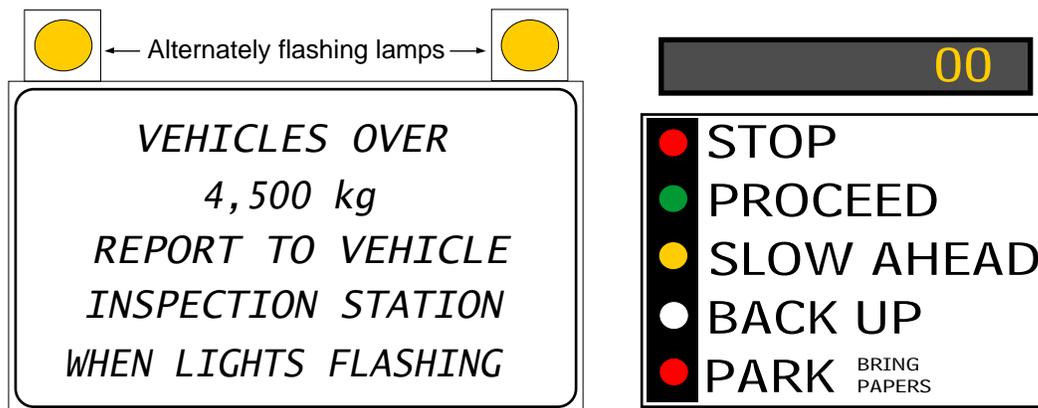
Transport Officers perform their duties on mobile patrol and at the various Vehicle Inspection Station (VIS) and Mobile Inspection Station (MIS) locations across Alberta.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.joincveb.alberta.ca/index.html>



# Procedures When Entering a Vehicle Inspection Station (VIS)



One of the most common misconceptions regarding vehicle inspection stations is that only "BIG" trucks have to report. The law is that all commercial vehicles or combinations weighing over 4,500 kg are required to report to the vehicle inspection stations when the highway lights are flashing. A "commercial vehicle" is defined as a vehicle operated on a highway by or on behalf of a person for the purpose of providing transportation but does not include a private passenger vehicle.

If you are operating a motor vehicle that is required to report, if the vehicle is loaded, drive slowly across the scale lane. If empty, drive slowly in the lane beside the scale lane. Whether loaded or empty watch the light board for instructions. If the "STOP" light is activated, stop the vehicle and wait for further instructions. If the "BACK UP" light is activated slowly and safely back the vehicle up keeping in mind there may be other vehicles behind you. If the "PARK" light is activated park the vehicle in the lot and bring all of the vehicle and driver documents to the scale building.



# Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)



Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVEB) is an internationally accredited law enforcement agency under the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. CVEB is in compliance with an established set of standards for law enforcement and continues to maintain a high quality in every aspect of our operation.

# Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA)



Transport Officers monitor mechanical fitness by performing Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) inspections on commercial vehicles. CVSA is a nonprofit organization consisting of state, provincial, and federal officials responsible for the administration and enforcement of motor carrier safety laws in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Transport Officers conducting a Level 1 CVSA inspection; look at critical inspection items such as:

- driver credentials
- brake adjustments
- coupling devices
- frame
- lighting devices
- steering mechanism
- tires
- wheels, rims and hubs
- emergency exits (buses)
- hours of service
- brake systems
- exhaust system
- fuel system
- securement of cargo
- suspension
- van/open top trailer body
- windshield wipers
- dangerous goods

Defects are designated through the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Out-of-Service Criteria as either “require attention”, meaning it is to be corrected at the conclusion of the current trip, or as “Out-of-Service”, meaning the defect must be corrected before the vehicle and/or driver continues. If a vehicle is placed Out-of-Service, an Out-of-Service vehicle sticker will be applied. Proof of repairs must be reported to a Peace Officer before a vehicle placed Out-of-Service can be operated. Vehicles or drivers placed Out-of-Service will be issued a violation ticket(s) at the discretion of the Peace Officer.

The CVSA Out-of-Service Criteria used by CVSA inspectors can be purchased at: <http://www.cvsa.org>

## Thermal Imaging Technology

The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch has added new technology to assist with detecting unsafe commercial vehicles. This technology is called the Thermal Imaging Unit. This assists with the detection of various offences by measuring heat signatures, which include the following areas:

- brakes
- overheated bearings
- under-inflated tires
- retread separation
- overloaded units
- false compartment identification
- emergency response
- fire source detection
- fluid levels in cargo tanks
- spill zone detection
- search and rescue

The Thermal Imaging Unit assists with the detection of additional unsafe commercial vehicles, which makes the roads safer for everyone. It enables us to concentrate our efforts on commercial vehicles that are in poor mechanical condition, which means fewer delays for those vehicles that are in good mechanical condition.



This Thermal Imaging Unit has proven to be an effective tool to assist us with screening all commercial vehicles.

This unit is being used at compliance checks throughout the province. The trucking industry and general public benefit from the use of this equipment.



For more information on the use of Thermal Imaging technology, please visit:  
<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/3161.htm>

## Commercial Vehicle Inspection Program (CVIP)

Trucks, truck-tractors, light trucks, trailers, and semi-trailers with a combined weight of 11,794 kilograms or greater must have an annual inspection performed by a CVIP mechanic. As well, all registered buses designed to carry more than 10 passengers, including the driver, must be inspected semi-annually.

For more information on the CVIP program, visit:  
<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/509.htm>

# National Safety Code (NSC)

Canada's National Safety Code (NSC) for commercial vehicles consists of 16 individual standards. Any driver of a bus or truck as defined below must comply with NSC standards, and possess a Safety Fitness Certificate:

- A bus designed for carrying 11 or more persons, including the person driving the vehicle, and used or intended to be used for the transportation of persons.
- Alberta carriers designated as "provincial" (operate only in Alberta) operating a commercial vehicle or combination registered for a combined weight of 11,794 kilograms or more.
- Alberta carriers designated as "federal" (operates in other jurisdictions) operating a commercial vehicle or combination registered for a combined weight of more than 4,500 kilograms.

For more information on NSC or Safety Fitness Certificates visit:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/660.htm>

## Vehicle Signage

All commercial vehicles or combination of vehicles with a registered weight of more than 4,500 kilograms shall display the following:

- the name or logotype of its owner
- the weight of the vehicle when it is not carrying a load, and
- the licensed maximum gross weight of the vehicle.

Lettering size must be a minimum of 50 millimetres in height.

For more information on vehicle signage and exemptions, refer to the Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation AR 121/2009.

# Driver's Hours of Service Legislation

Professional drivers must follow the Hours of Service Regulation when driving commercial vehicles. These rules include maximum allowable driving times and the minimum time required off duty.

From 1989 to 1996, Transport Canada and the US Department of Transportation conducted a study on driver fatigue and alertness. The study found that some drivers were driving long hours, day after day, resulting in serious levels of fatigue caused by "sleep deprivation". About five to 10 per cent of all North American collisions involving commercial vehicles are fatigue related, and 30 to 40 per cent of commercial vehicle fatalities are due to operator fatigue.

The provincial Hours of Service Regulation applies to any commercial vehicle or combination which is registered to a motor carrier with a Provincial Operating Status, as indicated on the carrier's Alberta Safety Fitness Certificate, with a total gross weight of 11,794 kilograms or more, or a bus.

For the current Provincial Regulation (Provincial Carriers) Driver's Hours of Service Regulation AR 317/2002:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/525.htm> or  
<http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca>

The federal Hours of Service Regulation applies to any commercial vehicle or combination with a Federal Operating Status, as indicated on the carrier's Alberta Safety Fitness Certificate, with a total gross weight more than 4,500 kilograms or a bus with a seating capacity of 11 persons or more, including the driver.

For the current Federal Regulation (Federal Carriers) Commercial Driver's Hours of Service Regulation SOR/2005-313:

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/SOR-2005-313>

For additional information on Hours of Service or Federal vs. Provincial Operating Status, contact any CVEB Office or Carrier Services.

# Cargo Securement

## Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation AR 121/2009

The Cargo Securement Standard contains information on minimum number of tie downs, and minimum working load limits. There are also provisions for securing specific commodities such as:

- intermodel containers
- short/long logs
- paper roles
- vehicles
- boulders
- dressed lumber
- metal coils
- concrete pipe
- roll-on/roll-off hook lift containers

Available at: <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/525.htm> or  
<http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca>  
NSC Standard 10 (<http://www.ccmta.ca>)

# Operator Licensing

For information on operator licensing refer to:  
Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation AR 320/2002

Available at: <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/525.htm> or  
<http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca>

# Vehicle Licensing

For information on vehicle licensing refer to:  
Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation AR 320/2002

Available at: <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/525.htm> or  
<http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca>

# Registered Weight

In Alberta, all farm and commercially registered registered vehicles (towing vehicles and trailers) will have a weight associated with the exception of Class 4 trailers. This weight will be indicated on the certificate of registration. The registered weight or combined registered weights must be a minimum of the weight of the total vehicle or combination. A vehicle must also be registered for a minimum of 50% of its carrying capacity.

For legislative reference refer to Section 131(1)(g) Traffic Safety Act.

Available at: <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/525.htm> or  
<http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca>

## Weights

Commercial Vehicle Dimension and Weight Regulation AR 315/2002

Available at: <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/525.htm> or  
<http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca>

For more information on maximum allowable weights, refer to Section 9 AR 315/2002

For overweight permit information refer to Schedule 7 AR 315/2002

For bridge restriction information visit:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/522.htm>

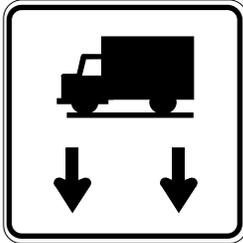
To calculate maximum allowed gross vehicle weights (GVW) visit:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/3173.htm>

# Road Bans

For bridge restriction information visit:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/522.htm>



Banned roads are marked with a sign depicting a two axle truck with two arrows facing downwards. Under the sign will be another sign indicating the amount of road ban in a percentage, usually 75% or 90%.

# Dimensions

Commercial Vehicle Dimension and Weight Regulation AR 315/2002

Available at <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/525.htm> or  
<http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca>

The following is the safety equipment required for over legal dimensions when operating a commercial vehicle on a highway under the authority of an over dimensional permit, greater than:

2.60m   Flags by day, lights by darkness on extremities of load.

3.05m   Flags by day, lights by darkness on extremities of load.  
Plus dimensional sign to front and rear of load.

3.35m   Flags by day, lights by darkness on extremities of load.  
Dimensional sign to front and rear of load. Plus one or more  
flashing amber lamps.

(For more information on flashing lamp requirements refer to  
Sections 24 and 34 of AR 322/2002)

3.85m    Flags by day, lights by darkness on extremities of load. Dimensional sign to front and rear of load. One or more flashing amber lamps. Plus;

When on a two lane highway, if 4.45m or less have one pilot vehicle. vehicle. If greater than 4.45m a pilot vehicle and trail vehicle.

When on a multilane highway, if 5.5m or less have one pilot vehicle. If greater than 5.5m a pilot vehicle and trail vehicle.

For information, refer to the Commercial Vehicle Dimension and Weight Regulation AR 315/2002.



# Appendix A

## Alberta Transportation Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch

### **CVEB HEAD OFFICE**

Phone: 403-340-5225  
Fax: 403-340-5074

### **Jumping Pound VIS**

Phone: 403-932-2344  
Fax: 403-932-7765

### **Lethbridge Region/ District Office**

Phone: 403-382-4135  
Fax: 403-382-4413

### **Strathmore District Office VIS**

Phone: 403-934-3111  
Fax: 403-934-5228

### **Burmis VIS**

Phone: 403-564-5244  
Fax: 403-564-4066

### **Brooks Office**

Phone: 403-793-6525  
Fax: 403-793-6526

### **Medicine Hat (Dunmore) District Office VIS**

Phone: 403-529-3540  
Fax: 403-529-3684

### **Balzac District Office VIS**

Phone: 403-226-0168  
Fax: 403-226-0457

### **Coutts District Office VIS**

Phone: 403-344-3755  
Fax: 403-344-3044

### **Red Deer Region/ District Office**

Phone: 403-340-5213  
Fax: 403-340-4340

### **High River Region/ District Office**

Phone: 403-652-8359  
Fax: 403-652-8382

### **Rocky Mountain House Office**

Phone: 403-845-1890  
Fax: 403-845-1892

**Drayton Valley Office**

Phone: 780-621-4014

Fax: 780-621-4016

**Stettler District Office**

Phone: 403-740-4183

Fax: 403-740-4184

**Camrose Office**

Phone: 780-679-1798

Fax: 780-679-1771

**Hanna District Office**

Phone: 403-854-5549

Fax: 403-854-3086

**Morrin VIS**

Phone: 403-772-3866

Fax: 403-772-3830

**Olds Office**

Phone: 403-556-4313

Fax: 403-556-7313

**Stony Plain Regional Office**

Phone: 780-968-4200

Fax: 780-963-1995

**Edson District Office**

Phone: 780-723-8579

Fax: 780-723-8387

**Hinton**

Phone: 780-866-3775

Fax: 780-866-2238

**Edmonton (Leduc) District Office VIS**

Phone: 780-986-2611

Fax: 780-986-2748

**Whitecourt District Office VIS**

Phone: 780-778-7138

Fax: 780-778-6811

**St. Paul Regional/  
District Office**

Phone: 780-645-6216

Fax: 780-645-6746

**Wainwright Office**

Phone: 780-842-7532

Fax: 780-842-7514

**Vermilion VIS**

Phone: 780-853-4411

Fax: 780-853-5217

**Ardrossan District Office VIS**

Phone: 780-922-4445

Fax: 780-922-4687

**Westlock Office**

Phone: 780-349-8617

Fax: 780-349-8618

**Radway District Office VIS**

Phone: 780-736-3535

Fax: 780-736-2259

**Fort McMurray Office**

Phone: 780-743-7254

Fax: 780-743-7215

**Grande Prairie Region/  
District Office**

Phone: 780-538-6444  
Fax: 780-538-6462

**Demmitt VIS**

Phone: 780-356-3868  
Fax: 780-356-2956

**Slave Lake District Office VIS**

Phone: 780-849-7380  
Fax: 780-849-2921

**Grimshaw District Office VIS**

Phone: 780-332-2243  
Fax: 780-332-1567

**Valleyview Office**

Phone: 780-524-7699  
Fax: 780-524-5125

**High Level Office**

Phone: 780-926-5262  
Fax: 780-926-2664



## Other Contacts:

### Dangerous Goods CIC

Phone: 1-800-272-9600

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/735.htm>

### Alberta Permitting

Phone: 1-800-662-7138

<http://www.travis.gov.ab.ca>

### Road Bans

Phone: 1-877-236-6445

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/2385.htm>

### Saskatchewan Permitting

Phone: 306-775-6969

### British Columbia Permitting

Phone: 1-800-559-1907

### N.W.T. Permitting

Phone: 1-867-984-3341

### Transport Engineering

Phone: 403-340-5189

### Carrier Services

Phone: 403-340-5444

(National Safety Code)

### Pro Rate

Phone: 403-297-2920

### Vehicle Safety

Phone: 780-427-8901

(vehicle modifications)

Transportation Legislation available at:

<http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca>

or

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/2.htm>

## **Think a seat belt traps you in?**

### **Think again.**

75% of people who are ejected from their vehicles **die**.

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## **Think you can handle a low-impact collision? Think again.**

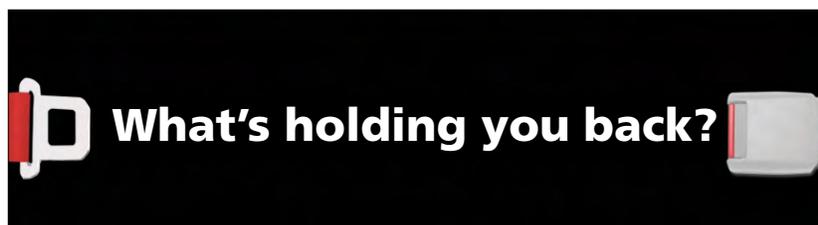
At only 50 km/h, a 176-pound (80kg) person not wearing a seat belt will strike the inside of the vehicle with a force of 6,215 lbs (2,785 kg). Imagine the impact when travelling at greater highway speeds.

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## **If you won't wear your seat belt, think again.**

- Seat belts reduce your risk of **fatal injury** by 45%
- Seat belts reduce moderate to critical injury by 50%

And **if you drive a truck**, a seat belt increases your survival rate even more.



This message has been brought to you by  
Alberta Occupant Restraint Program

**For more information visit:**

<http://www.saferoads.com>

