

February 10, 2005

New cargo rules increase safety on Alberta's roads

Edmonton... New rules for securing commercial loads will make Alberta roads safer and ensure that the province's \$1-billion trucking industry remains competitive in North America.

The new rules, which came into effect on February 1, 2005, require the trucking industry to abide by specific standards when securing commercial loads. The previous rules required that truckers secure their loads, but they did not specify exactly how. Under the new Cargo Securement Regulation, truckers must follow detailed standards as to how certain loads are secured and with what type of securing device.

The intent of the new regulation is to reduce the number of accidents caused by cargo shifting on or within, or falling from, commercial motor vehicles operating in Alberta, and to harmonize Canadian, U.S. and Mexican regulations. While safety has always been a priority, the trucking industry now has detailed information on how to make commercial loads secure.

"Road safety is a priority for this government," said Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg. "The new rules for commercial vehicle load security reinforce this commitment. They will also help Alberta operators maintain their competitive edge within the North American market."

Trucking companies should not have to purchase new cargo securement equipment to comply with the new rules, but companies may have to change how they use existing tools. For example, truckers may have to increase the number of tie-downs used to secure certain types of loads.

Security of vehicle loads is a matter of public safety, and is subject to government regulation and industry practice. Regulations are set and enforced by all Canadian provinces and U.S. states. The new *Cargo Securement Regulation* is based on the North American Cargo Securement Standard Model Regulation. An Alberta-led research project on Canadian and U.S. cargo securement regulations and the trucking industry's best practices has helped create this new regulation.

With consistent requirements and specific rules across the board, commercial trucking operations in this province will continue to be efficient and safe for the benefit of all Albertans.

The North American Cargo Securement Standard Model Regulation can be viewed on the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators website at www.ccmta.ca.

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Media enquiries may be directed to:

Bart Johnson
Director of Communications
Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation
(780) 415-1841

For toll-free calls in Alberta, first dial 310-0000.

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