

July 23, 2010

Vehicle inspection technology wins national award

Thermal imaging spots potential safety risks in commercial vehicles

Red Deer... The Alberta government's use of thermal imaging technology to detect defective commercial vehicle safety equipment has earned a prestigious national award.

The Intelligent Transportation Systems Society of Canada presented its Provincial Program Award to Alberta Transportation's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch during a recent ceremony in Quebec. The award recognizes leadership in using technology to promote safety and/or efficiency in the transportation field.

The thermal imaging system involves a fleet of three units strategically located throughout Alberta that are equipped with colour and thermal cameras, imaging systems and software, and monitors. The equipment observes heat patterns, and the cameras display infrared radiation as visible images on the system's monitors. This allows transport officers to screen moving vehicles for dragging brakes, flat or under-inflated tires, overheated bearings, and other running-gear-related safety issues.

The system started as a pilot project in 2005. The technology has an 88 per cent accuracy rate in spotting vehicles with high-risk safety equipment issues. This allows transport officers to focus inspection and enforcement efforts more effectively and efficiently, enhancing safety on Alberta's highways.

Intelligent Imaging Systems of Edmonton provides technical support for the system and shared in the award.

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