



BCTA's High Road to Truck Safety

The British Columbia Trucking Association (BCTA) takes the high road for safety in trucking by actively promoting more effective regulation, targeted enforcement and innovative safety initiatives for companies operating in BC. Because BCTA is member driven, our safety-related efforts are guided and supported by the trucking company representatives that make up our Board of Directors with input from other members.

We support firm but fair rules and enforcement meant to deter unsafe practices. And, we don't believe in waiting until safety is compromised to act. Instead, we're looking at ways to improve existing regulations and create programs to build the components of a reliable safety foundation for motor carriers that all British Columbians – anyone who ships or receives goods, works in the industry, or travels the road – can rely on every day, in every community across the province.

Effective Regulations: Improving the National Safety Code

The National Safety Code (NSC) and supporting provincial regulations provide a blueprint for the safe operation of commercial vehicles in BC. Safety-conscious carriers don't need rules to do the right thing. But rules are necessary for the non-compliant few.

Even though injury and fatality crash rates are falling, there is no “acceptable” crash rate for the industry. The human and economic cost of truck crashes is far too great, with related damage and service costs in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually in BC.

To further improve the industry's safety record, BCTA recommends enhancing NSC standards and processes to recognize the efforts of safe carriers and provide stricter control and more frequent, targeted interventions for those who consistently refuse to comply. Carriers who meet or exceed NSC standards have nothing to fear from fair but firm enforcement of reasonable standards in support of public safety.

BCTA supports the following framework to guide NSC improvements:

1. Truck safety regulations and programs should recognize and reward responsible, hard-working motor carriers who commit to safety through investments in equipment, maintenance and training and adoption of rigorous safety-related policies and procedures for their businesses.
2. Governments should design truck safety regulations and programs so that only knowledgeable and responsible carriers can enter and stay in the industry.





3. Enforcement practices and policies should be applied consistently for all carriers regardless of their location, fleet size or industrial sector.
4. The penalties for non-compliance with safety regulations and programs should be much greater than the cost of investing in safe practices and equipment.

Safe Companies

Safe companies understand that safety is good business. Breakdowns, damage from collisions or to shipments, employee injuries – all of these cost money that trucking companies can't afford. But best safety practices often come down to individuals making the right decisions. One of BCTA's roles is to give all companies the tools and incentive to help them and their employees make the right decision every time.



One such initiative is the creation of the **Trucking Safety Council of BC (TSCBC)**, which BCTA established early in 2008 but is now managed by its own Board of Directors on behalf of WorkSafeBC's general trucking and moving and storage employers. TSCBC focuses on occupational health and safety needs for trucking by providing services and programs to help reduce injury and death rates.

TSCBC will launch its **safety Certificate of Recognition (COR) program** in 2010 for BC's trucking industry. Participating companies will be rewarded with improved safety performance and reduced WorkSafeBC premiums.

In addition, one of TSCBC's first actions was to commission a report from the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) on truck crash causal factors, so that it can develop and coordinate with its partners relevant **strategies to mitigate and reduce truck crashes** in BC. Based on this report, TSCBC plans to implement additional programs ranging from safety consulting services for companies too small to employ a safety supervisor to training courses and an annual Truck Safety Forum.

WorkSafeBC provided initial funding for TSCBC in 2008 and approved additional five-year funding in November 2009. Visit TSCBC's website, www.safetydriven.ca, for more details.

Another BCTA initiative will give trucking companies without human resources (HR) managers the tools to add good hiring practices to their fleet safety strategies. We're delivering *HR Essentials* workshops throughout BC to teach skills for **recruiting and retaining qualified drivers**.

Safe Drivers



Trucking companies have an obligation to ensure that only competent and qualified drivers operate their vehicles. But finding these drivers today is a challenge. Companies are hampered by two trends: a large proportion of truck drivers across Canada are at retirement age and not enough dedicated people are following them into the profession. BCTA is actively involved in changing this scenario.

One strategy is to improve the training and experience of entry-level drivers through a new voluntary industry-supported driver training standard in BC that incorporates extensive practice operating trucks, safe-driving techniques and compliance with rules and regulations into the curriculum.

This process is well underway now. In April 2010, BCTA is jointly delivering the pilot test of the **BC Professional (Truck) Driver Training Program** with the Transportation Career Development Agency (transCDA). Developed by BCTA with industry input and endorsement, the program has received provisional approval from BC's Industry Training Authority (ITA). Prospective trainees must meet comprehensive prerequisites before applying. Trainees undergo rigorous classroom-based instruction and gain on-the-job experience while supervised by trained professionals on the road.



The BC Professional (Truck) Driver Training Program goes well beyond any other course currently available in the province, and success means ITA certification.

To further support high standards for safe drivers and rewards for excellence, BCTA is:

- encouraging ICBC to **create more challenging exams for commercial driver licensing** and to **set minimum standards for training schools, instructors and curricula**.
- offering **fuel management training** for drivers in concert with Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan's) FleetSmart program. While the focus is on saving fuel, an NRCan study confirms that fuel-conscious driving techniques can also reduce truck crashes.
- advocating a **professional driver endorsement** on the commercial driver's licence of individuals who achieve ITA certification (for new drivers) or pass an ITA challenge exam (for experienced drivers). The endorsement would recognize professional drivers who have attained a high level of achievement and signal their expertise to employers.

Safe Practices

The successful implementation of safe practices requires a three-way partnership. Trucking companies must ensure that all their drivers and owner-operators understand and follow safe practices and regulations. The government must ensure that companies that flout safety regulations face severe sanctions. And, shippers must ensure that they partner with safe trucking companies.

BCTA supports the strengthening of this partnership through numerous initiatives. In addition to developing safety programs for companies and drivers, we participated on a two-person panel sponsored by the provincial government in 2009 to examine **truck out-of-service rates** and propose solutions. The government is implementing the panel's recommendations to:

- create a Premium Carrier Program to recognize and reward safe and compliant carriers.
- expand shipper responsibilities for safe transportation of goods.
- strengthen roadside enforcement by authorizing licence plate seizures for grossly unsafe commercial vehicles.
- enhance the Commercial Vehicle Inspection Program by expediting reviews of non-compliant inspection stations and mechanics and improving inspector training.

BCTA proposes **early intervention and more severe consequences for commercial drivers with poor safety records**, including a sanction program modeled on the administrative justice approach for drunk drivers. Enforcement officials should also be able to immediately send any driver who displays a lack of basic skills, such as how to adjust brakes, for re-testing.

BCTA also recommends that governments improve safety practices through regulatory changes to require the full use of **supportive technologies**, including setting **speed limiters** or governors to a maximum of 105 kph and mandating **electronic on-board recorders** (EOBRs) to enforce truck drivers' hours of service rules. Similarly, BCTA is encouraging North American manufacturers to make **electronic stability systems** (anti-rollover) for tractors and trailers standard equipment.

Finally, BCTA is working to make shippers aware of their responsibility for and the benefits of hiring safe trucking companies. Unbelievably low rates are often a sign of corners being cut in terms of equipment maintenance and driver hours of service. **Shippers who hire a trucking partner without questioning its practices must also take responsibility for exposing their own goods and the driving public to the risk of dangerous mishaps.**

Through outreach and government support, BCTA believes that shippers will look for proof that their chosen partners follow safe practices, from COR certification to Premium Carrier Program endorsement.

identifying a safe trucking company

YOU HAVE A LOT RIDING ON US

It's in your best interest to make sure that you partner with a safe trucking company. But how do you check that they're safe? Before you choose, ask about their safety practices.

Companies that offer vague answers or don't provide any documentation may not be your best bet for a safe delivery. Do your homework, and you won't be disappointed.

- 1. Request a WorkSafeBC clearance letter of the company online.**
A clearance letter lets you know that a responsible company is registered with WorkSafeBC and is in compliance with the law. For more information, visit www.worksafebc.com and look under Insurance for information on Getting a Clearance Letter.
- 2. Ask to see a trucking company's Certificate of Insurance.**
The certificate is usually a one-page document that shows the different types and amount of insurance that a company has. Check to see that the company has general liability, vehicle liability and cargo insurance.
- 3. Ask to see the company's Carrier Safety Plan.**
BC regulations require all trucking companies to develop a Carrier Safety Plan. As a minimum, a Carrier Safety Plan must cover how a trucking company maintains its equipment and the steps it takes to employ safe drivers. Ask about the company's maintenance practices and how it screens and hires new drivers.
- 4. Ask to visit the company's terminal or office.**
You may be a novice about trucking, but visiting a company's place of business can tell you a lot about how it operates. Are the premises neat? Are staff courteous, friendly and knowledgeable?
- 5. Ask about the company's speed enforcement policy.**
Safe carriers will operate reasonable travel times over prescribed distances. In BC, many companies operate maximum speed policies for their drivers or employ technology to physically prevent the truck from traveling faster than a maximum speed.

www.bctrucking.com | 100 - 20111 93A Avenue, Langley, BC V1M 4A9

Effective regulations, safe companies, safe drivers
and safe practices – no other road is good enough
for the trucking industry in BC.

Need more information? Contact BCTA

The BC Trucking Association is the recognised voice of the provincial motor carrier industry, representing over 800 truck and bus fleets and over 250 suppliers to the industry. Some of our members are Canada's largest trucking, courier and bus companies, but most are small to medium size, often family-owned enterprises. Together they operate more than 13,000 vehicles and employ 26,000 people in communities throughout BC and generate over \$2 billion in revenue annually.

BC Trucking Association
100 – 20111 93A Avenue
Langley, BC V1M 4A9

BCTA's mandate is to responsibly represent our industry, work co-operatively with governments of all levels and educate British Columbians about the important and necessary role our industry plays in their daily lives.



T: 604-888-5319 F: 604-888-2941
E-mail: bcta@bctrucking.com
www.bctrucking.com