



SUBJECT: Amendment Inspection Station/Weigh Scale Bypass Policy for Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), Wildfire Management Branch– Initial Attack Fire Suppression Vehicles

Managers, Victoria	Passenger Transportation Board	Commercial Transport Insp.
Regional CVSE Managers	Trucking Industry	(Inspection Stations)
Area Vehicle Inspectors	Carrier Safety Inspectors	ICBC
Deputy Director, CVSE	Government Agents	
ADM, Highways Department	Law Enforcement Agencies	

BACKGROUND:

Section 19.05 (2) of the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations and Section 7.03 (2) of the Commercial Transport Regulations require vehicles to report to a scale when directed by a traffic sign on the highway. The Ministry recognizes the need for vehicles to report to scale facilities so staff can check weights (to minimize potential of vehicles exceeding rated capacity, or risk of overloaded vehicles causing damage to public infrastructure) and to conduct safety-related inspections (vehicle inspections, cargo securement, hours of service). However, under some circumstances the Ministry feels overall public safety is better served if specified vehicles are exempted from reporting to the scales. This policy provides the framework whereby vehicles can be exempted from reporting to inspection stations.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:

Section 123 of the Motor Vehicle Act allows a peace officer to direct traffic according to his or her discretion. For the purposes of this policy, this is interpreted to allow the peace officer to direct traffic to bypass a permanent scale site despite being directed to report to the scale by a sign on the highway or through officer direction.

APPLICATION:

During seasonal events, such as wildfires and in circumstances where vehicles must repeatedly pass an inspection/weigh scale several times over the course of a day, the CVSE shall contact the local fire centre for more information if necessary.

To be eligible for an exemption, the following factors will be considered:

- The vehicle must be responding to a wildfire incident on behalf of the FLNRO, and
- The vehicles must be undertaking fire suppression activities which are a high priority for public safety, and
- The vehicles must be registered with the BC Weigh2Go program and be equipped with transponders.

FLNRO has provided a list of vehicles as well as photos of vehicles to be exempted. Copies of the list and photos shall be sent to CVSE staff provincially. It is important to note that these vehicles are not permitted to utilize section 122 of the Motor Vehicle Act when responding to wildfire suppression activities as they are not marked as emergency vehicles nor equipped with emergency lights/sirens. However they need to respond in a timely manner to a wildfire for reporting out, suppression or request support by land or air.

The list shall identify a regional FLNRO Wildlife Branch contact the following information for each vehicle.

- Vehicle year.
- Make,
- Colour
- Ministry vehicle number, and
- License number

For additional information, please contact Jeff Monty, Manager, Commercial Transport, CVSE, telephone: (250) 953-4017 or email: Jeff.Monty@gov.bc.ca

Yours truly,



Steve Haywood, Director
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