



194-28342-Twp Rd 384  
Red Deer County AB T4S 2B6  
Phone 403-309-4083 Fax: 403-341-6252  
Email: [info@birchconsulting.ca](mailto:info@birchconsulting.ca)

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**Attention: Health & Safety Coordinator**

**Re: Transportation and National Safety Code Compliance Requirements**

Please find enclosed a brochure outlining our Transportation Consulting Services. As a transportation consultant with more than 20 years in the transportation industry and ten years with the Alberta Government, (Alberta Transportation) we have many services to offer to the commercial trucking and commercial busing industry.

Training courses, compliance auditing, log book auditing and training, and maintenance and safety plan development, are just a few of the services we can provide, to enable you to meet or exceed the provincial acts and regulations pertaining to the provincial trucking and busing transportation industry, and National Safety Code requirements. Training courses may be customized to meet your company's requirements.

We also conduct Certificate of Recognition (COR) audits for the transportation industry throughout all of Alberta. We also offer COR program development and implementation for the small and large employer COR programs.

We offer a National Safety Code Bench Mark compliance audit to carriers, which is a one or two day audit geared to measure your compliance level to the National Safety Code, and the new Traffic Safety Act which came into effect May 20, 2003. This is a confidential audit between Birch Transportation Consulting and the Carrier, and is not released to other parties including the Alberta Government. We also conduct this audit through our contract with Alberta Transportation for carriers that have been randomly selected.

This audit is a review of your required written safety and maintenance programs, driver file requirements, vehicle file requirements, hours of service record accuracy and record retention, dangerous goods documentation, and CVIP inspections etc. From this audit and carrier profile review we can develop internal controls, monitor progress, and develop training programs for management, maintenance or driver personnel, related to your company's needs.

Another service we provide is to conduct CVSA type mechanical inspection training at the carrier's facility for safety personnel, maintenance staff and drivers. This training not only ensures that proper pre & post trip inspections are completed, it also mirrors the on-road CVSA inspections, which are conducted by Alberta Transportation.

Alberta Transportation and most insurance companies require all carriers to be in compliance with the National Safety Code requirements, including all provincial, and federal transportation regulations. Numerous changes came into effect in the transportation industry on May 20, 2003, with the implementation of the Traffic Safety Act. All carriers should take a pro-active approach to ensure compliance with these requirements and changes.

Effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, Alberta Transportation announced that the National Safety Code weight threshold dropped from 18,000 kgs to 11,794 kgs. Most carriers operating commercial three-ton vehicles and one-tons with trailers attached, will have to comply with all National Safety Code requirements. The carrier will have to apply for a National Safety Code Safety Fitness Certificate rating from Alberta Transportation and a carrier profile will be developed for that carrier. Vehicles or combinations of vehicles registered for 11,794 kgs or more will also require annual CVIP safety inspections. Drivers operating these commercial vehicles will also have to comply with the hours of service regulations and pre-trip/post-trip requirements. We are presently offering training to cover these changes province wide to bring carriers and drivers up to speed on these issues.

Under the Federal legislation vehicles registered for 4,500 kg or more, and are crossing a provincial boundary, must also comply with the federal hours of service legislation, and the vehicle must have an annual CVIP inspection.

Alberta Transportation has adopted and implemented the North American Cargo Securement Standard effective February 1, 2005.

We offer training courses in various locations throughout the province on topics of interest to the trucking industry.

We are presently scheduling the following training courses for drivers and safety personnel:

- National Safety Code (NSC) and CVSA Industry training
- Air brake Refresher to CVSA standards
- Driver Pre & Post Trip Inspections
- Hours of Service and Log book training – Federal, Provincial & USA
- North American Load Securement Standard
- Customized training courses relating to your carrier profile violations and CVSA inspections

If you are interested in any of the above services or training courses, please contact our office to ensure your e-mail address or fax number is added to our database for easy distribution of information, as it comes available.

Yours truly,

**BIRCH TRANSPORTATION CONSULTING**

*Tracey Birch*