

# **COMPLIANCE CIRCULAR**

No. 9

October 22, 2001

SUBJECT: Changes to Operations of National Safety Code in B.C.

Registrar of Drivers and Vehicles Managers, West Esplanade, ICBC Chair, Motor Carrier Commission Provincial Manager of Compliance Regional Managers of Compliance Managers, Licensing Air Care

Managers, Government St, Victoria Motor Vehicle Inspectors ICBC Appointed Agencies Motor Carrier Department Law Enforcement Agencies Commercial Transport Inspectors (Weigh Scales) Carrier Safety Inspectors Government Agents (Authorized) Driver Examiners Driver Services Centres Regional Vice Presidents NSC Applications Office

### **PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR:**

To advise law enforcement officers and industry that, effective November 26, 2001, amendments to Section 37 of the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* (National Safety Code) will come into effect. The amendments to the *Regulation* were deposited on April 4, 2001. In addition, this circular advises of changes to the monitoring of carriers and the issuance of a new publication, *Carrier Safety Guide* (MV0630).

### **BACKGROUND:**

The National Safety Code (NSC) is a national program that establishes minimum safety standards for commercial vehicles and drivers. These standards are adopted by all Canadian jurisdictions in order to ensure uniform safety standards across Canada. To operate legally in B.C., each carrier must hold a valid Safety Certificate issued under Division 37.

#### **CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL SAFETY CODE:**

In 1997, NSC Standards 14 and 15 were revised, and the government of B.C. has amended the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* to comply with these revised standards. In support of these standards, ICBC will be improving its computer systems to enhance its ability to monitor the safety performance of B.C. carriers more effectively and to make additional safety performance information available to enforcement personnel and carriers. These changes are effective November 26, 2001.

# WHAT ARE THE CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL SAFETY CODE?

Carrier Data Exchange—Data for drivers and vehicles on accidents, violations, and roadside inspections will automatically be exchanged with other Canadian jurisdictions. Both driver-related and vehicle-related information will be placed on Carrier Profiles. Carrier Profile—A profile for each carrier in B.C. will be compiled and maintained. For the first time, both driver-related and vehicle-related accidents, violations, and roadside inspections will be compiled on a single database creating a Carrier Profile. Carriers will receive points for at-fault accidents, violation tickets deemed guilty, and out-of-service inspections. Each carrier will be rated on the basis of its profile, and ICBC will use the Carrier Profile system to monitor the safety performance of carriers in B.C. Carrier Profiles will be available to all recognized law enforcement agencies.

Safety Rating—this is a new rating measure which combines the status from the Carrier Profile and any audits conducted on a carrier. A carrier's Safety Rating will appear on the first page of the Carrier Profile. There are four possible ratings: Satisfactory-unaudited, Satisfactory, Conditional, or Unsatisfactory. If the Safety Rating is Conditional, the carrier must improve its safety performance or ICBC will take steps to remove the carrier's Safety Certificate. A carrier with a Safety Rating that is Unsatisfactory will no longer be able to legally operate.

Carrier Data Exchange, Carrier Profile, and the Safety Rating will greatly improve the ability of jurisdictions to monitor the safety performance of carriers wherever they operate in Canada. These changes provide enforcement and compliance agencies with effective, additional tools to promote safe carrier operation and to remove unsafe carriers from the road.

# **HOW DO THESE CHANGES HELP ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES?**

Enforcement agencies can have a significant impact on road safety because information they enter on accident reports, violation tickets, and roadside inspection reports can now be entered automatically on the Carrier Profile of any Canadian carrier. This will provide the means to identify and respond to unsafe commercial drivers and unsafe commercial vehicles more quickly.

To make sure that all events (**driver-related as well as vehicle-related**) appear on a Carrier Profile, enforcement officers must make sure that the NSC number is entered on violation tickets, accident reports (MV6020), and vehicle inspection reports (MVB 3110). Examples of each form with the NSC data field highlighted are attached for reference.

**ISSUE OF NEW PUBLICATION** 

Effective immediately, ICBC has issued a new publication, Carrier Safety Guide (MV0630), to help carriers to establish record-keeping practices as required by the National Safety Code. A copy of this publication will be sent to each police agency in B.C.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Questions and inquiries in regard to the National Safety Code Program may be directed to Suzanne Watson, Manager, National Safety Code, at (250) 414-7850.

Robert G. Kroeker

Sr. Manager

Compliance Programs and Standards

Attachment

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# **Accident Report**

