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COMPLIANCE CIRCULAR

NO. 02/08

August 6, 2008

**SUBJECT: Additional Axle Weight Allowance for Tridem Hayrack Semi-trailers
Hauling Green Felled or Bucked Logs or Poles**

Effective August 13, 2008

Managers, Victoria	Carrier Safety Inspectors	Driver Services Centres
Motor Vehicle Inspectors	Government Agents	MOT (Director, Chair
Passenger Transportation Board	Appointed Agents	Transportation Policy)
Deputy Director, CVSE	Trucking Industry	Supt of Motor Vehicles
Regional CVSE Managers	Law Enforcement Agencies	
Managers, Licensing	Commercial Transport Insp.	
ADM (Compliance and Consumer	(Inspection Stations)	
Services)	Passenger Transportation Branch	

PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR

To notify owners and operators of logging truck configurations consisting of either a 6- or 7-axle single steer tandem drive or tridem drive truck tractor with tridem hayrack semi-trailer hauling green felled or bucked logs or poles, that an additional axle weight allowance of 1 000 kg - from a maximum limit of 24 000 kg to 25 000 kg - for the tridem semi-trailer is allowed provided that:

- for the tridem drive truck tractor, the "tridem to tridem" interaxle spacing (the distance between the last axle of the tridem drive axle group to the first axle of the tridem hayrack semi-trailer) must be 7 meters or more; and
- the tridem trailer is a factory-built semi-trailer consisting of a bare hayrack chassis (no load deck) and equipped with permanently mounted log bunks.

This allowance will expire after December 31, 2009.

BACKGROUND

The Central Interior Logging Association (CILA) petitioned CVSE regarding a request from the log haul industry for a tridem trailer axle weight increase of 1 000 kg (from the current maximum limit of 24 000 kg to 25 000 kg) specifically for factory-built tridem hayrack semi-trailers. This temporary authorization will eliminate the weight discrepancy between tridem hayrack semi-trailers and tridem pole trailers when hauling green felled and bucked logs or poles. Tridem pole trailers are currently allowed to a maximum tridem axle weight of 25 000 kg.

This authorization will expire after December 31, 2009, and will not be extended. The sunset date coincides with the scheduled reduction in the allowable tridem axle weight for the tridem pole trailer, from 25 000 kg to 24 000 kg, as shown in Note #4 of Appendix H in the current BC Commercial Transport Regulations.

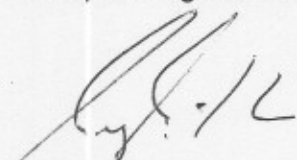
Rationales for the temporary authorization are as follows:

- the factory-built tridem hayrack semi-trailer (bare hayrack chassis with permanently mounted log bunks), is more stable than the tridem pole trailer due to the hayrack semi-trailer's inherently rigid chassis and the roll-coupling characteristic between the truck tractor and the semi-trailer; and
- single steer tandem drive or tridem drive truck tractor and tridem semi-trailer combinations have high theoretical on-highway performance and safety compared to other logging truck combinations, with no adverse characteristics observed or reported by enforcement officials in British Columbia.

The incremental axle weight allowed under Section 7.26 of the Commercial Transport Regulations (seasonal tolerances) will be ***in addition*** to this allowance.

No Commercial Transport Permit is required for operators of vehicles meeting the criteria outlined in this circular.

This allowance is authorized pursuant to the general authority granted to the Director of Commercial Vehicle Safety under Section 7.02 (1) of the British Columbia Commercial Transport Regulations.



Greg Gilks, P. Eng.,
Director, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch
Ministry of Transportation