

COMPLIANCE CIRCULAR

NO. 06/09

July 27, 2009

**SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR TRUCK TRACTORS WITH A WHEELBASE
GREATER THAN 6.2 METRES**

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

This new policy addresses long wheelbase tractors, and is consistent with the growing practice in other Canadian jurisdictions. We are formalizing our approach at this time in anticipation of an increase in traffic as equipment enters BC for the Olympics. Hopefully, this policy will reduce confusion and ease the permit process for carriers coming into BC with long wheelbase tractors.

From an engineering perspective, long wheelbase tractors can comply with commercial vehicle performance thresholds, but only under certain combinations.

BACKGROUND

Wheelbase limits specified by the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) are intended to reduce off-tracking by vehicle combinations. In making a turn, a tractor with a longer wheelbase will take up more space. Jurisdictions in Eastern Canada promote trade with the US by allowing the wheelbase of the truck tractor to exceed 6.2 metres as long as the wheelbase of the semi-trailer is reduced accordingly, such that the performance standards of the vehicle combination, as set out by the Transportation Association of Canada, are maintained. The overall length of the vehicle combination cannot exceed the current maximum length of 23 metres for conventional truck tractor-semi-trailer combinations. All other British Columbia regulations regarding vehicle combinations apply.

The following table presents the different situations that will be available, by permit, in British Columbia depending on the length of the tractor and semi-trailer wheelbases.

Please note the combinations of dimensions. These combinations cannot be violated. Vehicles deviating from the maximum dimensions in the chart will not comply with the performance thresholds which apply to our vehicles and infrastructure.

TRACTOR WHEELBASE (m)	MAX TRAILER WHEELBASE (m)
Standard Configuration - 6.2 m (244 in)	Standard Configuration – 12.5 m
6.3 m (248 in)	12.5 m
6.4 m (252 in)	12.4 m
6.5 m (256 in)	12.3 m
6.6 m (260 in)	12.3 m
6.7 m (264 in)	12.2 m
6.8 m (268 in)	12.1 m
6.9 m (272 in)	12.1 m
7.0 m (276 in)	12.0 m
7.1 m (280 in)	11.9 m
7.2 m (283 in)	11.9 m
7.25 m (285 in)	11.9 m
> 7.25m (285 in)	NOT AUTHORIZED

CONDITIONS

A new T-Form has been created to outline the conditions of operating these long wheelbase truck tractors in BC. The new T-Form is numbered **T-20** and can be found on our website at:

<http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse/ctm/Forms/forms.htm>

Permits are available to be purchased immediately from the Provincial Permit Centre at 1-800-559-9688.



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Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure