

COMPLIANCE CIRCULAR

NO. 08/10

December 30, 2010

SUBJECT: Increase of the maximum allowable axle weight for tridem axle groups in “Heavy Haul” applications

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

PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR

To advise the trucking industry in British Columbia of a change to the permissible weight allowance for tridem axle groups on lowbed trailers and jeeps in “heavy haul” applications. In vehicle configurations that include a tandem or tridem drive truck tractor, a tridem jeep and tridem lowbed semi-trailer (with axle spreads of minimum 2.4 m and maximum 3.1 m), and a tandem booster, the permissible weight allowance is increased from 27,000 to 28,000 kg on each of the jeep and lowbed tridem axle groups. The existing permissible limit of 29,000 kg on the lowbed tridem axle group when connected with a single axle booster will remain unchanged.

Tridem lowbed semi-trailers manufactured before December 31, 2010 with tridem axle spreads of minimum 3.0 m and maximum 3.7 m will be grandfathered and allowed the same increases described above.

BACKGROUND

To correct inconsistency in the existing permit policy and to provide higher productivity for the “heavy haul” fleet, the maximum tridem axle group weight allowed will be increased from 27,000 kg to 28,000 kg for tridem axle spreads of minimum 2.4 m and maximum 3.1 m on jeeps and lowbeds, as shown in “Schedule G” of Bulletin 24, in the British Columbia Commercial Transport Manual found at http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse/ctm/forms/pdf/Permit_Conditions_Overload_Diagram.pdf

When a tridem lowbed is connected with a tandem or single axle jeep, the maximum allowable tridem axle group weight will remain at 28,000 kg or 29,000 kg, respectively. However, the maximum tridem spread allowed in the lowbed will be reduced from 3.7 m to 3.1 m to allow more lowbeds with narrower spread to qualify for the higher 29 000 kg limit. The narrower tridem spread will reduce tire scrubbing and provide more maneuverability for urban road geometry.

All existing tridem lowbed semi-trailers that were manufactured on or before December 31, 2010 with tridem axle group spreads of minimum 3.0 m to maximum 3.7 m will be grandfathered. The effective date for the above permitted changes will be January 1, 2011.

Further inquiries should be directed to Sam Lam, Senior Vehicle Engineer, at (250) 953-4025.



Perry Dennis,
A/Deputy Director, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure