



**SUBJECT: New Weight Allowances for Commercial Trucks, Truck Tractors and Buses Powered by Electricity or Hydrogen/Diesel Bi-Fuel, and Changes to Existing Weight Allowances for Full Size Commercial Vehicles Powered by LNG, CNG or LNG/Diesel**

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

**PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR**

To advise industry, staff and the general public about new weight allowances for commercial trucks, truck tractors and buses, as shown in [Appendices B and C of the Commercial Transport Regulations](#), that are electrically powered or use a hydrogen/diesel bi-fuel. These allowances will be available by Letter of Authorization (LOA) effective immediately.

This Circular also serves to advise industry, staff and the general public that effective August 14, 2021, an LOA will also be required for carriers utilizing weight allowances previously granted under [Circular 02-14](#) and [Circular 01-16](#) for trucks, truck tractors, and buses fueled by liquified natural gas (LNG), LNG/diesel bi-fuel or compressed natural gas (CNG).

**Implementation**

The weight allowances shown in the table below are only permitted on the steering axle and drive axle group. The overall Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) for the vehicle or combination is also increased accordingly, except that the increase may not be used to exceed the GVW shown in the table below:

Alternative Fuel Type	Axle Weight Increase	Maximum GVW	LOA Required By
<b>Electric</b>	1,500 kg	65,000 kg	Immediately
<b>Hydrogen/Diesel Bi-Fuel</b>	1,000 kg	64,500 kg	Immediately
<b>LNG</b>	1,500 kg	65,000 kg	August 14, 2021
<b>LNG/Diesel Bi-Fuel</b>	1,000 kg	64,500 kg	August 14, 2021
<b>CNG</b>	1,500 kg	65,000 kg	August 14, 2021

The increase may not be used to exceed 64,000 kg at the specific locations indicated as having no alternative power weight allowance” on [Form CVSE1011](#).

Qualifying vehicles must not exceed the original equipment manufacturers (OEM's) stated maximum Gross Axle Weight Rating, Gross Vehicle Weight Rating, or 100 kg/cm of tire width.

With the exception of the steering axle weight, seasonal load restrictions continue to apply. The maximum allowable GVW must be reduced accordingly.

Vehicles must be equipped with a fuel type decal that, if it is not already regulated/required, must be a minimum of 5 cm in height and visible as close as possible to the fuel source of the vehicle.

In order to accurately track uptake of the allowances, CVSE will be requiring carriers to obtain a Letter of Authorization to utilize the additional axle weight. Permits will not be required. To apply for this letter, please send the following information to [Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca):

- Company or individual name
- Contact email
- Contact phone number
- Contact address
- Vehicle Information:
  - Power source (electric, LNG, CNG, LNG/diesel or hydrogen/diesel)
  - Year
  - Make
  - Model
  - VIN
  - Registration Number

Please contact [Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca) prior to applying for a letter if your fleet size is greater than 6.

## **BACKGROUND**

These alternative fuels are clean and environmentally friendly fuels that produce fewer emissions than diesel fuel for heavy duty trucks, truck tractors and buses. To encourage broader use of these new fuel types, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is providing additional axle weight allowances to help offset the added weight of the equipment installed on these trucks, truck tractors or buses.

This allowance is authorized by the Director of Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement under Section 7.02(1) of the Commercial Transport Regulations.

For additional information or to apply for an LOA, please call 250-953-4017 or email [Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Commercial.Transport@gov.bc.ca).



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