



**SUBJECT: British Columbia Out of Province Vehicle Inspection Exemption**

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This compliance circular repeals & replaces compliance circular NO. 08-16 issued October 03, 2016.

**BACKGROUND**

Currently, privately owned vehicles that are imported into British Columbia are subject to a mandatory one-time mechanical vehicle inspection to ensure compliance with mechanical safety standards and Motor Vehicle Act Regulations (MVAR). This inspection requirement is defined in MVAR Division 25.24:

*25.24 (1) This Part applies to a motor vehicle that*  
*(a) is registered, titled or licensed, or was previously registered, titled or licensed, at a place outside British Columbia,*  
*(b) is presented to the corporation for registration, and*  
*(c) has a net vehicle weight of not more than 3 500 kg,*  
*but does not include a motor vehicle described in Schedule 2 to this Division.*

**INTENT**

As part of the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA), British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba regulators have agreed to a formal exemption to this requirement for some privately owned vehicles that may be imported from a NWPTA jurisdiction under specific conditions. As a result, vehicle inspection requirements have been relaxed for residents moving between NWPTA jurisdictions.

**APPLICATION**

Effective November 19, 2019, PURSUANT to MVAR Division 25.24 (3) (a) & (b), the Director of Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement HEREBY EXEMPTS vehicles prescribed in division 25.24 (1) from having to undergo a provincial mechanical safety inspection subject to the following conditions;

1. The vehicle was last registered in either Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba to the person making application for the inspection exemption;
2. The vehicle has a "normal" status (not rebuilt, salvaged or written off) reported through the Inter-provincial Records Exchange (IRE) system; and
3. The vehicle is either:

- a. the current model year, the previous 3 model years, or the upcoming model year, based on the manufacturer's assignment of the model year<sup>1</sup>; or
- b. has been inspected as part of an NWPTA jurisdiction's government inspection program and has passed the mechanical safety requirements within the previous 90 days.

**Please note:** For Alberta vehicles seeking registration and licensing in BC, the Out of Province Vehicle Inspection Certificate is the **ONLY** inspection accepted for the purposes of this exemption. A certificate is issued to the vehicle confirming compliance with all applicable safety standards.

**It is recommended that individuals looking to apply the noted exemption contact the respective jurisdictions Vehicle Inspection Program, to ensure the correct safety inspection is administered.**

### **VEHICLES NOT INCLUDED**

The exemption does not extend to:

1. Any vehicle that is not currently registered to that person in the originating NWPTA jurisdiction;
2. Commercial vehicles and business vehicles as defined in the *Motor Vehicle Act*;
3. Salvage vehicles;
4. Non-repairable vehicles;
5. Custom, u-built, replicar, replikit, and any vehicle raised or lowered more than 10 cm. from original manufactured specifications; and
6. Other vehicle types or classes that may require a provincial vehicle inspection as defined by the *Motor Vehicle Act* and Motor Vehicle Act Regulations.

### **BC VEHICLE INSPECTION**

Vehicles that do not meet the noted conditions or that are not included in the exemption remain subject to provincial mechanical safety inspection requirements according to MVAR 25.24 (1) and must be issued a certificate of approval decal prior to provincial registration and licensing.

Should any further information be required, please contact Geoff Ford, Acting Manager, Vehicle Inspections & Standards at (250) 953 4008.

Regards,



Cole Delisle,  
Acting Director  
Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch  
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure

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<sup>1</sup> For example, in 2019, vehicle model years of 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017 and 2016 are eligible for exemption while vehicle model years 2015 and prior are not.