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COMPLIANCE CIRCULAR

NO. 05/09

June 15, 2009

SUBJECT: Travel authorization, by permit, of over-weight fire apparatus for public fire control operations, unless otherwise restricted and/or posted.

Managers, Licensing	Carrier Safety Inspectors	Motor Vehicle Inspectors
Deputy Director, CVSE	Supt of Motor Vehicles	Managers, Victoria
Regional CVSE Managers	Law Enforcement Agencies	BC MoT Bridge Branch
Commercial Transport Insp. (Inspection Stations)	All BC Fire Departments	BC Municipalities

PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR

To advise the Director, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch (CVSE) will, by permit, exempt fire apparatus operated by or on behalf of a municipality or other authority responsible for public fire control operations from axle weights that exceed those listed in the BC Commercial Transport Act and Commercial Transport Regulations.

To receive a permit, authorities with over-weight fire apparatus shall provide the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoT) with the provincial roadway route(s) their vehicles will operate on in their geographical area. This route information will allow structural analysis to be carried out on those MoT structures that may exist along these routes. The structural analysis will require the following information; 1) The gross axle weight rating (GAWR) of the vehicle(s) and 2) the start and end points of the provincial route(s) these vehicles will travel. This information shall be submitted to the MoT Headquarters Engineering Branch - Bridge Engineering section, and the CVSE's Transport Engineering section. A complete listing of the information required by Bridge Engineering section is provided as an attachment **(Table 1)** to this document. After the analysis and approval, MoT will provide a permit and may limit, prohibit or make directions respecting the use of provincial roadway routes by a person, or authority operating or in charge of the fire apparatus.

Permit holder(s), on receiving the permit (or a renewed permit) shall confirm the weights used in the analysis of the fire apparatus by obtaining a weight certificate/slip from a certified weigh scale. This information is to be sent to the Ministry's CVSE Transport Engineering section as part of the fire apparatus's record.

Dealers, and/or manufacturers of fire apparatus when delivering apparatus to municipalities or other authority responsible for public fire operations in the province must submit the same information as listed in Table 1 found as an attachment to this document.

BACKGROUND

Fire apparatus, particularly new fire trucks used as aerial bucket or ladder trucks commonly exceed provincial legal axle weights when fully outfitted for fire operations. Overweight vehicle(s) have a direct impact on the MoT's ability to provide a safe roadway network. Therefore, to meet the MoT obligations while providing fire protection to the public, a permit with conditions will be issued to fire apparatus that exceed legal axle weights. While the fire apparatus may exceed provincial legal axle weights they shall comply with the vehicle and tire manufacturers' operating limits.

Yours truly,

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

Attachments (3)

Attachment 1

The following conditions apply to the permit:

1. The permit(s) are only issued to **Fire Departments, Municipalities, or other Authority** responsible for public fire control operations and only to those vehicle(s) that have been evaluated for use on provincial roadways by MoT bridge engineering staff and CVSE vehicle engineering staff. A temporary permit may be obtained by fire apparatus dealers and/or manufacturers for delivery of their product to those who have purchased their product. Those receiving permits will henceforth be known as the "*Permit Holder*".

2. Permit holder shall obtain the permit before operating the overweight fire apparatus on MoT controlled roadways. A permit (or a temporary permit if it is for product delivery) will be required for each fire apparatus that exceeds *Commercial Transport Act* allowable weights. The permit is issued only upon completion of the MoT bridge engineering evaluation where restrictions will be identified.

3. Permit holder, on receiving the permit (or a renewed permit) shall confirm the weights used in the analysis of the fire apparatus by obtaining a weight certificate/slip from a certified weigh scale. This information is to be sent to the Ministry's CVSE Transport Engineering section as part of the fire apparatus's record.

4. The permit is to be renewed every **three** years. For renewal, the provincially controlled roadway route(s) intended for travel, and GAWR shall be included as part of the re-submission **See condition 11.**

5. The permit is not Transferable to another party or vehicle(s).

6. Unless otherwise specified in the permit, no other exceptions are expressed or implied with respect to the *Commercial Transport Act or Regulations*.

7. Permit holder of the said fire apparatus shall carry the original or a copy of the permit at all times when this vehicle is operated on the roadway and have it available to present to an enforcement official. Included with the permit shall be a copy of the MoT approved route(s) for the fire apparatus vehicle. A copy of the vehicle manufacturer's records of component capabilities shall be carried when the vehicle is operated for inspection by an enforcement official.

8. Permit holder of the said fire apparatus will be subject to random inspections, and if found operating contrary to the terms of the permit, penalties may include suspension, modification, or cancellation of the permit pursuant to the *Commercial Transport Act.*

9. If, in the opinion of the Minister, or any person authorized by the Minister, the operation of the said fire apparatus is found to be causing injury or damage to the roadway, or is in violation or the terms of the permit, or it is found that the operation of the vehicle is not in the interests of the public, the Minister may suspend or cancel this permit. It shall be sufficient if such notice is given verbally or otherwise, to the person owning or to the person driving or operating the vehicle, and no formal notice of suspension shall be required.

10. Permit holder is authorized to travel on the provincially controlled roadway routes listed by the MoT as part of the permit unless otherwise restricted and/or posted. This authorization **does not** apply to municipal roads outside provincial jurisdiction. Permit holder must have municipal approval to operate vehicles in excess of *Commercial Transport Act* allowable weights on roadways within their municipal jurisdiction.

11. Permit holder must have written confirmation from the vehicle and tire manufacturer that the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) and the manufacturer's gross axle weight rating (GAWR) for the fire apparatus vehicle(s) can accommodate the actual operating weight safely. Therefore, the maximum load carried by the vehicle will be a function of the sum of tire load rating, the sum of axle load rating and the vehicles GVWR, and will ultimately be based on whatever is the lesser of these ratings. **For fire apparatus where the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) is no longer in business, authorities responsible for public fire control may provide records found on the actual fire apparatus (i.e. door and tire(s)), or from documentation provided when the apparatus was purchased. This exception would also apply to an OEM who, by formal notice, indicate they no longer have any technical records of the fire apparatus.** The "formal notice" should be included in the analysis information sent to the Ministry's Bridge Engineering Branch and CVSE Branch.

12. Permit holders must comply with any conditions the vehicle and tire manufacturers set in providing their confirmation.

13. Fire apparatus vehicles are exempt by permit from the allowable weights in the *Commercial Transport Act*, providing vehicle or axle weights do not exceed the Manufacturers Rated Capacity of any vehicle and tire component, or as set down in the manufacturer's written confirmation(s). **See Condition #11.**

Attachment 2

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR FIRE APPARATUS

Fire apparatus vehicle is operated by or on behalf of _____

The permit is for the following vehicle

#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	V.I.N.
1				

The following information listed in the Table 1 is required for the vehicle(s) listed so that it/they may be evaluated to determine the conditions of the permit. Information is to be sent to MoT's Bridge Engineering Section located in Victoria, BC, the MoT's CVSE Vehicle Engineer, and to the Commercial Transport Advisors also located in Victoria, BC.

Addresses:

Bridge Engineering
Highways Department
Suite 4B - 940 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC Canada
V8W 9T5

Vehicle Engineer
Commercial Transport, CVSE Branch
Highways Department
3A, 940 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC Canada
V8W 9J2

Commercial Transport Advisor
Commercial Transport, CVSE Branch
Highways Department
3A, 940 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC Canada
V8W 9J2

_____ _____

Vehicle Owner/Representative **Date (mm/dd/yyyy)**

Attachment 3

INFORMATION REQUIRED TO EVALUATE EACH OVER-WEIGHT FIRE APPARATUS FOR THEIR OPERATION ON PROVINCIALLY CONTROLLED ROADWAYS

TABLE 1

1	Name of Municipality, City, Town or Regional District where fire apparatus will operate
2	Address that Fire Apparatus operates from. (Provide location & "radial" route info including diagrams/maps on separate sheet showing the provincial roadways and maximum distance traversed on these roadways the fire apparatus will operate upon
3	Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GWR) of Fire Apparatus (in kg)
4	Total Number of Axles on Vehicle
5	Number of Front Axles (Single or Tandem Axle Steer)
6	Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) for the Front Axles(s) (in kg)
7	Axle Spread on the Front Axle(s) (if applicable) (in mm)
8	Tire Size on the Front Axle(s)
9	Tire Load Rating for Front Tires (only identify lowest rated tire(s) – their sum control load
10	Number of Rear Axle(s) on Vehicle
11	Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) for the Rear Axles(s) (in kg)
12	Axle spread on the Rear Axles (in mm)
13	Tire size on the rear axle(s)
14	Tire Load Rating for Rear Tires (only identify lowest rated tire(s) – their sum control load
15	Overall length of vehicle (in m)
16	Overall length of vehicle excluding aerial apparatus (in m)
17	Distance of Front Overhang (in mm)
18	Distance of Rear Overhang (in mm)
19	Wheelbase of vehicle measured from centre to centre of axle groups (in mm)
20	Front and Rear Track Width of Vehicle (in mm)
21	Diagram of Vehicle(s) Interaxle spacing showing distances (in mm)

Vehicle Owner/Representative **Date (mm/dd/yyyy)**