Module 2:
National Safety Code
Module 2 aims to provide carriers with basic information about the National Safety Code. The contents of this module are as follows.

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(This is a guide only and is not meant to be a substitute for the actual legislation)
The National Safety Code (NSC) is a set of 16 minimum safety performance standards. These standards apply to commercial vehicles, drivers and motor carriers in Canada. Although the NSC is not law, the federal, provincial and territorial governments consider the standards when drafting their safety laws. This is to ensure motor carriers are operating safely.

**What Vehicles are Regulated under Alberta’s National Safety Code Program?**

- **Commercial vehicles weighing or registered for more than 4,500 kilograms that operate in multiple provinces, territories or states.**
- **Commercial vehicles that are registered for a weight of 11,794 kilograms or more that operate only within Alberta.**
- **Commercial vehicles with a manufacturer’s seating capacity originally designed for 11 or more persons, including the driver.**

All carriers operating regulated vehicles in Alberta are responsible for following applicable transportation laws.

A description of each NSC Standard follows.

**NOTE**

These are standards only and actual provincial law may differ. These standards are not a substitute for the law.
THE NATIONAL SAFETY CODE STANDARDS

**NSC Standard 1: Single Driver's Licence**

- Forbids a driver from holding more than one licence

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation*, AR 320/2002 (Section 13); and
- *Traffic Safety Act* (Part 3, Division 1, Section 51).

**NSC Standard 2: Knowledge and Performance Tests**

- Standardizes written and road tests
- Informs drivers of how to safely operate their vehicles
- Informs drivers of road rules and traffic laws

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation*, AR 320/2002; and

**NSC Standard 3: Driver Examiner Training Program**

- Upgrades the skills of driver examiners
- Standardizes course material for examiners

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation*, AR 320/2002; and
- *Driver Training and Driver Examination Regulation*, AR 316/2002 (Part 3).
NSC Standard 4: Classified Driver Licensing System

- Defines 7 classes of driver licences
- Allows licences to be recognized in all provinces and territories

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, AR 320/2002 (Part 1, Division 3).

NSC Standard 5: Self-Certification Standards

- Gives requirements driver training schools must meet
- Ensures high quality training for drivers

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, AR 320/2002 (Sections 15 and 16).

NSC Standard 6: Medical Standards for Drivers

- Sets the standards for deciding whether drivers are medically fit to drive

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, AR 320/2002 (Sections 15 and 16).

NSC Standard 7: Carrier and Driver Profiles

- Allows the goals of the NSC to be achieved
- Assists in the review of a carrier’s safety performance
- Provides records on infractions, collisions, on-road inspections and facility audits

Relevant Alberta Laws:

NSC Standard 8: Short Term Suspensions

- Allows a peace officer to suspend a driver's licence for up to 24 hours when the driver's ability to operate a vehicle is impaired by alcohol, drugs or fatigue.

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Traffic Safety Act (Part 4, Division 1).

NSC Standard 9: Hours of Service

- Describes the number of hours a driver can be on duty and operate a commercial vehicle.

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Drivers’ Hours of Service Regulation, AR 317/2002.

If a carrier is operating commercial vehicles both inside and outside of Alberta, they will be subject to the rules under federal law:

- Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulation, SOR/2005-313.

NSC Standard 10: Cargo Securement

- Describes the safest methods for securing loads to commercial vehicles to ensure they do not shift, move or spill onto a roadway.

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation, AR 121/2009 (Section 17).
Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Vehicle Inspection Regulation*, AR 211/2006; and

If a carrier is operating commercial vehicles in more than one province, territory or state, they will be subject to the rules under federal law:

- *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulation*, SOR/2005-313.
Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation*, AR 121/2009 (Sections 9-16).

**NSC Standard 14: Safety Rating**
- Provides for the issuance of a Safety Fitness Certificate and Safety Fitness Rating

Relevant Alberta Laws:


**NSC Standard 15: Facility Audits**
- Describes the auditing process that is used to determine a carrier's level of compliance with safety laws
- Indicates that a carrier must maintain records at their principal place of business for review and assessment by auditors

Relevant Alberta Laws:

- *Traffic Safety Act* (Part 7, Division 2);
- *Commercial Vehicle Certificate and Insurance Regulation*, AR 314/2002 (Section 43); and
- *Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation*, AR 121/2009 (Section 37).

**NSC Standard 16: First Aid Training**
- Voluntary standard
- Describes the recommended minimum first aid training requirements for drivers

It is recommended that drivers of commercial vehicles complete approved first aid training and/or an Occupational Health and Safety program. For more details contact Alberta Human Services at 310-0000 or visit their website at: [www.humanservices.alberta.ca](http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca).
Summary

Provincial laws that affect commercial carriers in Alberta are as follows:

- Traffic Safety Act;
- Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Act;
- Bill of Lading and Conditions of Carriage Regulation, AR 313/2002;
- Commercial Vehicle Dimension and Weight Regulation, AR 315/2002;
- Commercial Vehicle Safety Regulation, AR 121/2009;
- Drivers’ Hours of Service Regulation, AR 317/2002;
- Driver Training and Driver Examination Regulation, AR 316/2002;
- Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation, AR 320/2002;
- Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation, AR 304/2002;
- Vehicle Equipment Regulation, AR 122/2009; and
- Vehicle Inspection Regulation, AR 211/2006.

Federal laws that affect commercial carriers in Alberta are as follows:

- Motor Vehicle Safety Act;
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act; and
- Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations, SOR/2005-313.

Copies of the Traffic Safety Act and related laws are available at the Queen’s Printer Bookstore at:

5th Floor, Park Plaza Building
10611-98th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2P7
Phone: 780-427-4952
Fax: 780-452-0668
Email: gpecom@gov.ab.ca
Website: www.qp.alberta.ca

Copies of the complete National Safety Code manual and related documents are available online for a fee at: www.ccmta.ca
TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING: MODULE 2

1. The National Safety Code (NSC) is:
   a. A set of 16 minimum safety performance standards
   b. A law that applies to all commercial carriers
   c. A Provincial law found only in Alberta
   d. Regulations for the military and other federal government commercial vehicles

2. The standards set out in the NSC:
   a. Are the law for all commercial vehicle operators in Canada
   b. Are the law for all commercial vehicle operators in Alberta
   c. Are the law for all military and federal government commercial vehicles
   d. Serve as guidelines to the federal, provincial and territorial governments for establishing law

3. What vehicles are regulated by the National Safety Code Program?
   a. Commercial vehicles weighing or registered for more than 4,500 kilograms and that operate inside and outside of Alberta
   b. Commercial vehicles that are registered for a weight of 11,794 kilograms or more that operate only within Alberta
   c. Commercial vehicles with a manufacturer’s seating capacity originally designed for 11 or more persons, including the driver
   d. All of the above

4. It is the provincial laws in each province that direct carrier operations within each province, not the NSC standards.
   a. True
   b. False

5. The Traffic Safety Act is provincial law that must be followed by all commercial motor vehicles that operate within Alberta.
   a. True
   b. False
6. Alberta-plated commercial vehicles operating in other provinces or in the United States must know and follow the law in each area in which they operate.
   a. True
   b. False

7. Which of the following NSC Standards is voluntary and not required by law?
   a. Standard 6: Medical Standards for Drivers
   b. Standard 9: Hours of Service
   c. Standard 13: Trip Inspections
   d. Standard 16: First Aid Training

8. What does CVSA stand for?
   a. Commercial Vehicle Safety Association
   b. Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
   c. Certified Vehicle Safety Association
   d. Certified Vehicle Safety Alliance

9. What is the purpose of Trip Inspections, according to Standard 13?
   a. To ensure that any vehicles with problems or defects are immediately identified
   b. To protect drivers and alert carriers to mechanical problems
   c. To prevent the operation of unsafe vehicles
   d. All of the above

10. According to Standard 7, the Carrier Profile system provides records on infractions, collisions, on-road inspections and facility audits.
    a. True
    b. False
1. A. A set of 16 minimum safety performance standards.

2. D. NSC Standards are not law. They provide guidelines which each province and territory must include in their own laws.

3. D. All of the above.

4. A. It is the provincial laws in each province that direct carrier operations within each province, not the NSC Standards.

5. A. True.

6. A. Alberta-plated commercial vehicles operating in other provinces or in the United States must know and follow the law in each jurisdiction in which they operate.

7. D. Standard 16: First Aid Training is a voluntary standard that does not necessarily need to be met by each province or territory.


9. D. All of the above.

10. A. True. The Carrier Profile system provides records on infractions, collisions, on-road inspections and facility audits.