

Atlantic Provinces Oversize Special Permit Conditions Proposal

Report to the
National Task Force on Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Policy,
November 20, 2006, Montreal, QC

- Officials from the four Atlantic Provinces, with assistance from John Pearson of the Council of Deputy Ministers Secretariat, have developed and circulated a proposal for uniform special permit conditions for the movement of overdimensional vehicles and loads within Atlantic Canada.
- The process to develop uniform special permit conditions for overdimensional vehicles and loads began more than four years with public meetings held across the four Atlantic Provinces. We asked industry what it needed to operate.
- A discussion paper was developed from the public meetings and circulated to industry for comment.
- With those industry comments, and comments from our respective traffic authorities, a proposal for uniform special move conditions was prepared and has been circulated to industry for final comments.
- Besides the proposed uniform special permit conditions, the proposal also includes standards for pilot vehicles, specifications for warning devices, and a pilot vehicle drivers' handbook.
- The uniform special move conditions are to apply to:
 - front overhangs up to 3.05 m (10') for day and night travel;
 - rear overhangs up to 6.10 m (20') for day and night travel;
 - overwidths up to 5.50 m (18') for day travel, and up to 3.66 m (12') for night travel;
 - overheights up to 4.88 m (16') for day and night travel; and
 - overlengths up to 30 m (~100') for day and night travel.
- Permits for overdimensions beyond the Atlantic proposal limits will continue to be at each Province's discretion.
- Pilot vehicle standards are being proposed to ensure some reasonableness and consistency in the types of vehicles being used for pilot vehicles. The proposed standard also includes communication requirements.
- Currently we only have specifications for D signs and reflective tape. The proposal also includes specifications for revolving lights, flags, flashing lights, and the D sign for pilot vehicles.
- A proposed pilot vehicle drivers' handbook is also being circulated for comment.

- It was developed from similar documentation in Canada and the US. It will be a guide, but not legally binding, other than a condition of a permit utilizing a pilot vehicle will require the pilot vehicle driver to have read the handbook.
- Also included for ease of understanding is a implication document that outlines the differences and changes that would occur in each Province if the proposal was adopted.
- We have requested that comments be received by December 1, 2006.
- The proposal can be accessed on the Council of Ministers web site at:

www.comt.ca/english/programs/trucking/atlanticpermit.html

- The ultimate objective is to have Atlantic regional permits for oversize vehicles and loads, but the first step is getting the same rules in all four provinces.