



COMPLIANCE CIRCULAR
NO. 08/09
October 30, 2009

SUBJECT: NEW PERMITS FOR EXTENDED LENGTH SUPER B-TRAINS HAULING WOOD CHIPS AND MILL PROCESSED WOOD RESIDUALS (Correction: Box Length Limit is 23 m not 25 m)

Managers, Victoria	Carrier Safety Inspectors	Driver Services Centres
Motor Vehicle Inspectors	Government Agents	MOT (Director, Chair
Passenger Transportation Board	Appointed Agents	Transportation Policy)
Deputy Director, CVSE	Trucking Industry	Supt of Motor Vehicles
Regional CVSE Managers	Law Enforcement Agencies	
Managers, Licensing	Commercial Transport Insp.	
ADM (Compliance and Consumer Services)	(Inspection Stations)	
	Passenger Transportation Branch	

PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR

This new permit will allow wood chips haulers to use Extended Length Super B-trains with an overall length up to a maximum 27.5 m, a maximum overall box length up to 23 m, and a maximum overall height up to 4.45 m to haul low bulk density wood chips and mill processed wood residuals such as saw dusts and hog fuels. The added volume will compensate for hauling any wood chips and mill processed wood residuals which are extremely dry and light (such as beetle-killed wood chips), and help achieve full legal axle weights.

This initiative will increase trucking productivity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, when compared with hauling the same amount of wood chips using the existing Super B-train configurations.

From a vehicle dynamic and safety perspective, the new configuration exhibits acceptable vehicle dynamic performance and complies with established commercial vehicle performance thresholds. Because the Extended Length Super B-trains require more room to turn compared with normal Super B-Trains, permits will be restricted to Ministry approved routes only.

BACKGROUND

The pulp and paper industry and independent wood chips haulers have approached the Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch (CVSE) to solve their trucking productivity problem. In many instances, the maximum allowable axle weights for their Super B-Trains were not realized when hauling dry and low bulk density wood chips, especially when hauling beetle-killed wood chips.

CVSE has explored many options and decided that the safest and most practical approach would be to lengthen the allowable box length of the trailers, and increase the allowable height of the trailers in the Super B-Trains. The added volume, approximately +15% over the existing B-Train

combinations, would allow the new Extended Length Super B-Trains to reach the full legal axle weight targets.

Operators of the "Extended Length Super B-Trains" are required to obtain the necessary Over-Dimension Permit before they can operate the lengthened combination on approved routes.

Note: Only tandem or tridem drive Super B-Trains are eligible for this permit. This means the first trailer in a B-Train must be equipped with a tridem axle group, and the second fifthwheel must be placed within the suspension spread of the tridem axle group of the first trailer.

Further dimensional restrictions of the permits, which differ from the existing regulations on legal B-Trains as shown in Appendix G of the Commercial Transport Regulations, are:

- The allowable overall length is increased from a maximum of 25 m to 27.5 m;
- The allowable box length is increased from a maximum of 20 m to 23 m; and
- The maximum overall height is increased from 4.3 m to 4.45 m, provided that only the trailer's tarp and wood chips may occupy the space over 4.3 m and the actual trailer sidewall height must be no more than 4.15 m.

Under the current section 7.05 (2) of the Commercial Transport Regulations, tarp roll stops are allowed to be positioned up to a height of 4.3 m, and the sidewall of the trailer cannot exceed 4.15 m. The additional space allowances prescribed in this permit - from 4.3 m to 4.45 m - was intended for the added volume of wood chips and the tarp itself. No physical hardware, other than just wood chips and tarp, should occupy this space.

Also note that the vehicle height clearance for any on-road structure is always the driver's responsibility. Please obey all posted signs, especially those respecting height restrictions.

T-30 Form - Approved Routes

A new T-Form (**T-30**) has been created to outline all the approved routes for the Extended Length Super B-Trains and can be located on our website at:

<http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse/ctm/Forms/forms.htm>

To obtain a Letter of Authorization please contact Jackie Hucal at (250) 953-4061, or jackie.hucal@gov.bc.ca. After receiving the Letter of Authorization, an Over-dimension Permit can be purchased from the Provincial Permit Centre at 1-800-559-9688.



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